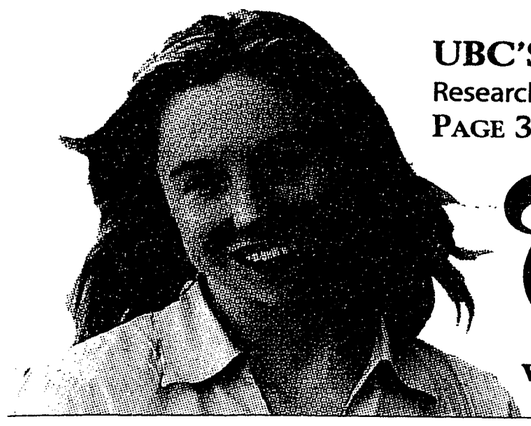

UBC'S NEW VP RESEARCH
Research and education can coexist.
PAGE 3

GENDER CROSSING
A BC student's personal story of transgenderism, transition and survival. PAGE 12

HURRICANE POLITICS
Strong winds weren't the only things sucking. How Bush messed up. PAGE 22

The Ubyssey

www.ubyssey.bc.ca

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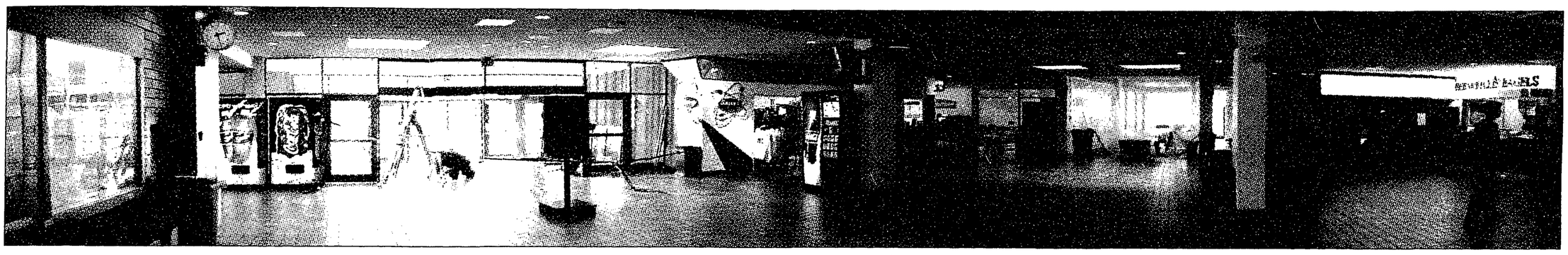
TUESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER, 2005

Beef and corn in Italian contexts since 1918



TIME FOR A FACELIFT: Renovations scheduled to finish in late September will add new couches and a mural to the SUB conversation pit. YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO

"Hub of student life" overhauled

by Claudia Li
NEWS STAFF

Salvation is right around the corner for students suffering on the dilapidated and foul-smelling couches of the SUB conversation pit.

On-going renovations in the area will ensure a clean new social space for students. The renovations are scheduled to be completed by the third week of September at the latest and will cost the Alma Mater Society (AMS) a total of $80,000.

"If anything we're probably going to be under budget," said Manj Sidhu, AMS VP Admin. "Council has seen the budget and approved it but there is always a built-in contingency for any of the unknowns," she added.

Some of the many changes to the conversation pit include ceramic flooring, which replaces the deteriorating and difficult-to-maintain wooden floors. The walls and pillars have already been repainted, and new lighting fixtures will be installed.

"It [will be] a more well lit space, a lot more inviting," said Sidhu.

The area will also feature a mural commissioned by Lyle McMahon, last year's VP Admin.

The major improvement to the area will be new seating to replace the worn-out couches. The existing furniture was reupholstered in 1995, which alone cost the AMS $30,000.

The primary concern for students is the durability of the new furniture.

"I'm happy [about the renovations] but they need to keep it from getting dirty again," said Jennifer Yam, a third-year science student.

To combat this problem, the furniture chosen by the Renovations Planning Group is made with Crypton, a material that is impervious to most liquids, including blood, sweat and urine. "This is something new that we're trying because we wanted to make the furniture 'keepable' without it getting too worn, too dirty...it's the best bang for the buck," Sidhu said.

In addition to ease of maintenance, the new furniture will be more accessible as some of the chairs in the conversation pit will utilise bariatric seating, meaning they will be wider and able to support more weight. "We wanted to keep in mind some recommendations that were submitted to us by Access and Diversity in regards to seating measurements in public spaces," said Sidhu. "While we weren't able to afford all our seats to be like this, we did ensure that some of our seats would be more accommodating," she added.

"This building is the hub of student life," Sidhu said, "we're essentially giving it a facelift."

Defective U-Passes to be used as flashcards by students

by Paul Evans
NEWS EDITOR

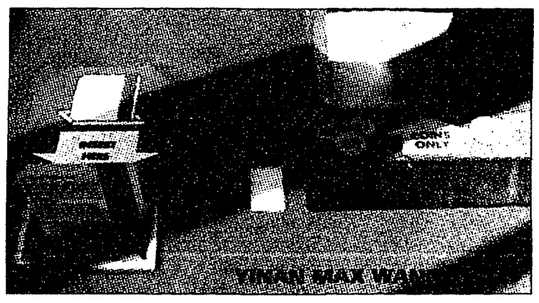
"Invalid card" is the message greeting UBC and SFU students attempting to use their new U-Passes. This, explained Translink Director of Communications Ken Hardie, is because of a coding problem with the cards at the time of manufacturing.

"It simply wasn't done correctly," he said. "It is an annoying problem, both for the customers and Translink."

Magnadata, the England-based company that manufactures the U-Pass, is to blame, said Hardie. "It was a mistake at that end and they are on the hook to fix it," he said. Hardie refused to say whether Translink plans to pursue legal action against Magnadata.

Rather than reprinting and redistributing the cards, Translink is telling U-Pass holders to keep their current cards and use them as flashcards, just as standard monthly bus passes are used.

"For the fall term at least, UBC and SFU will be operating on a flashcard basis, where you just show the cards," explained



Hardie. Because SFU distributes the U-Pass on a term-by-term basis, Hardie said they will be issued replacement cards in the 2006 Winter term. But what course of action Translink will take for UBC is yet to be decided as UBC issues only one U-Pass

See "U-Pass" page 2.

Long weekend basketball action

The T-Birds were playing ball while you were catching the last rays of summer. Check out page 23 for more of the action.
YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO

New location and increased funding to help SASC's services

by Paul Evans
NEWS EDITOR

The Alma Mater Society (AMS) Sexual Assault Support Centre (SASC) reopened its doors to students today following a five-month closure for internal reorganisation.

SASC now boasts many new services and two full-time staff. These improvements are largely due to a successful referendum that increased funding by $2 per student in February.

One of the most significant improvements for students, according to Stephanie Kellington, Program Coordinator for SASC, is the centre's increased hours of operation, which increased from 16 to 40 hours a week.

"That's a huge benefit because it increases our accessibility," she said.

SASC now also offers accompaniments to the hospital, police and courtroom for survivors of sexual assault.

The centre closed March 24 after a human resource management dispute between the AMS and Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW) ended their contractual partnership and led the AMS to suspend SASC

See "SASC" page 2.

BACK TO SCHOOL IN NEW ORLEANS

We don't want no (evacuation) education: students in the aftermath of Katrina, page 5.

Redistribution of cards would likely be a logistical nightmare

"U-Pass" from page 1.

for the whole year.

"For the time being it's going to be a flashcard and subsequently we'll determine what happens in 2006," said Hardie.

While the new flashcard system will make it more difficult for Translink to track ridership numbers, AMS VP External Jessica Klug pointed out that the new system could benefit students. "In one way it's a blessing to me because now it speeds up line-ups when you're boarding," she said.

But Klug also noted the potential security problems the flashcard system has for Translink. Whenever a new U-Pass is issued to a student, their old U-Pass no longer becomes valid in the reader; but with the flashcard system, drivers' only method of authentication will be the 2.5 x 2.5cm photo on the pass.

"There's definitely going to be an increased risk," said Klug. Translink may actually want to reprint the cards come second term on account of fraud, she suggested.

Hardie acknowledged that increased instances of fraud are likely. "It's something that we're going have to live with," he said.

But he was quick to point out that fraud is much less of a concern than redistributing a whole new set of cards. "The risk or the exposure that we're dealing with by going to a flashcard basis is certainly not as great an issue as the problems that would arise if we tried to reissue all of the cards now," said Hardie. "The delays on the system and all of the other complications far outweigh any problems we'll have in the short term with the misuse of the cards."

Jerome Pasion, a second year science student, welcomes the prospect of using the U-Pass as a flashcard. "[Lines] would go faster if you just flashed," he said. If the U-Pass needed to be reissued, Pasion hopes that they can be mailed out again.

Redistribution is something that has Klug worried. "It's a compete nightmare," she said. "I definitely wouldn't want our students to have to get back in line."

But this may be the only option—Klug admitted re-mailing the cards would be an expensive venture for the AMS. "I don't think it's something we could viably pay for ourselves."

SASC accountable to students: Keys

"SASC" from page 1.

services pending reorganisation of the centre.

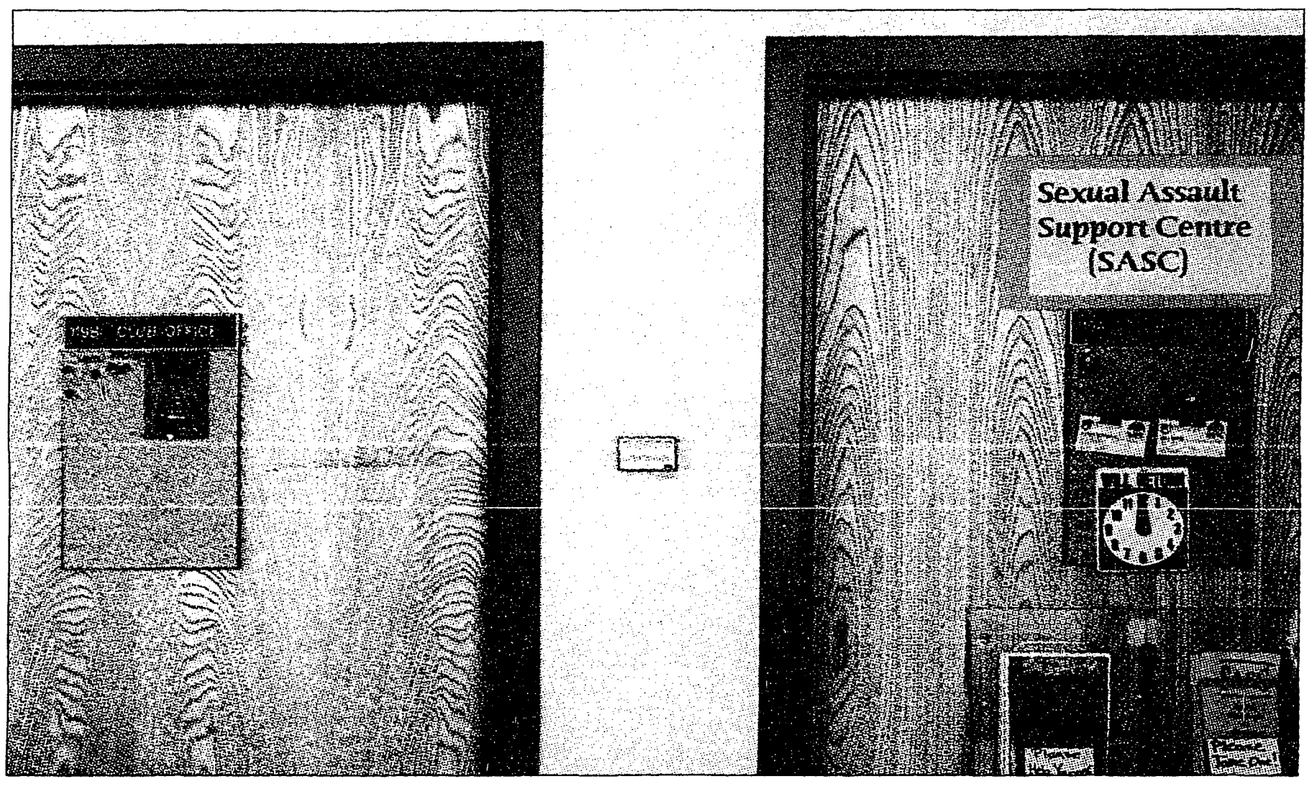
"We disbanded our partnership," said WAVAW Manager Irene Elhaimer. "We made the decision and informed [the AMS] that we would no longer be partnering with them to run the Sexual Assault Support Center... because their failure to bargain in good faith on some issues that were common to both of us."

AMS President Spencer Keys said, however, that the contract was terminated because the AMS felt that WAVAW had been in breach of it.

"We felt there was human resource management that we we're not comfortable with," he said. Keys refused to comment further on the reasons for the contract's termination.

Keys asserted that the SASC being run exclusively by the AMS and no longer through an AMS-WAVAW partnership will have benefits for students.

"The single biggest advantage is that the entirety of the SASC is now accountable to the AMS and by extension UBC students... and that's important for this to be an effective student run service," said Keys.



OPEN SESAME! The SASC is now open for 40 hours per week. **YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO**

'TWEENS

The 21st Annual Vancouver Fringe Festival
Various Venues
September 8-18
Add some extraordinary to the first few weeks back at school, not just in the drunken making out kind of way. Check out page 8 for more detailed information.

Public Open House
Museum of Anthropology
September 7, 12:00-2:00
Feeling ignored and insignificant? Make a difference to the UBC community by sharing your opinions on the proposed extension to the Museum of Anthropology.

Canucks Prospects versus Thunderbird Men's Hockey
Thunderbird Winter Sports Centre
September 8, 6pm
Get your tickets in advance at the UBC Bookstore to witness the future Markus Naslands duke it out on the ice.

Robson Reading Series
UBC Library/ Bookstore, Robson Square
September 8, 7pm
UBC creative writing professor Rhea Tregebov and UBC Grad Elizabeth Bachinsky will host the first reading in the Robson Reading Series—a series of free monthly readings by talented Canadian authors.

Oasis in Concert
General Motors Place
September 8, 7pm
Like whiny Brit-pop? For the mere price of $59.50 you could be seeing the double-trouble Gallagher brothers live in concert.

Our Lady Peace with special guests Jets Overhead
The Commodore Ballroom
September 6, 8pm
Get a taste of two homegrown Canadian talents in the intimate environment of the Commodore Ballroom. Tickets cost $13.50.

Indie Music Video Fest
The Railway
September 7 and 9, 8:45pm
Now in its fourth year, the Indie Music Video Fest brings you the best of obscure entertainment. The show will have everything "from cartoon spacegirl renegades to a randy boy in a bunny suit"—now that's prime entertainment!

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The Ubyssey

TUESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER, 2005
VOL. LXXXVII N°1

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The townspeople had been expecting the tiger attack for days now. Mayor Paul "Basil" Evans, flanked by his councilors Nicolas Stemsdoff and Ritu Kumar, was first to sound the alarm. Trevor Gilks and Liz Green closed down the bakery, while Jackie Wong and Sarah Norman shut the butcher shop, and Michelle Mayne and Max Wang shooed the last customers from the grocery store. The tiger first appeared out of the bush in front of unsuspecting triplets Claudia Li, Colleen Tang, and Emily Sors, and gobbled them up. Ania Mafi screamed. Aaron Carr fainted. Simon Underwood shoved Jesse Marchand and Sean Lee into the ferocious beast's path. Onkarbir Toor and Megan Smyth tried to climb a tree, but the tiger was too quick. It devoured Alex Leslie, Bobby Huang, and Jake Mossup in one gulp. Nic Fenson and Eric Szeto tried to beat it off using Jesse Ferreras as a stick, but it was not to be deterred. Carolynne Burkholder, a particularly inedible person, was the only one left to tell the tale. Outside the town, Ally Vaz asked Yulichia Yulichia if she wanted to go for some corn and meatball pizza.

EDITORIAL GRAPHIC *Alex Leslie*

Canadian University Press

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Research doesn't compromise education

Newly appointed VP of Research discusses the role of research at UBC

by Eric Szeto
NEWS EDITOR

John Hepburn isn't one to turn down a good offer.

"Basically, [the VP of Research position] was just presented to me. I really like being the Dean of science so it wasn't like I was looking for change...I decided it was an interesting challenge...I got excited about it," says Hepburn, whose tenure as VP of Research begins this October.

As the incoming VP of Research, Hepburn will be responsible for representing a university that last year received $364 million in research grants and has faculty that occupy 120 of the 2,000 Canadian Research Chairs.

While tending to his duties as overseer of all research at UBC, Hepburn says he'll still be a devoted researcher to his own projects. Quantum computing, still in its theoretical stages, is an area of work that he has great hope for.

"It's supposed to be the next generation of computers," he said.

Hepburn's appointment may come at a tricky time. In a 2005 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) study, UBC ranked among the lowest in quality of first and second-year education. Other lower ranking schools included the University of Toronto, another large and research intensive university.

The results of the survey have lead to concerns about compromises being made to the quality of education when such a great onus is put on research at universities.

Hepburn was quick to dismiss the notion that research equates into diminished quality of education. According to him, Oxford, Stanford and Columbia offer some of the best undergraduate programs but are all schools that have faculty that do far less undergraduate teaching than UBC.

"I never hear that their undergraduate mission is compromised by their research intensity," said Hepburn.

"I think that one thing that is always in the media is this competition between research and teaching and it's a false dichotomy. The people who are really passionate about what they're doing tend to be really passionate about their teaching too, because they want everyone to be passionate," he said.

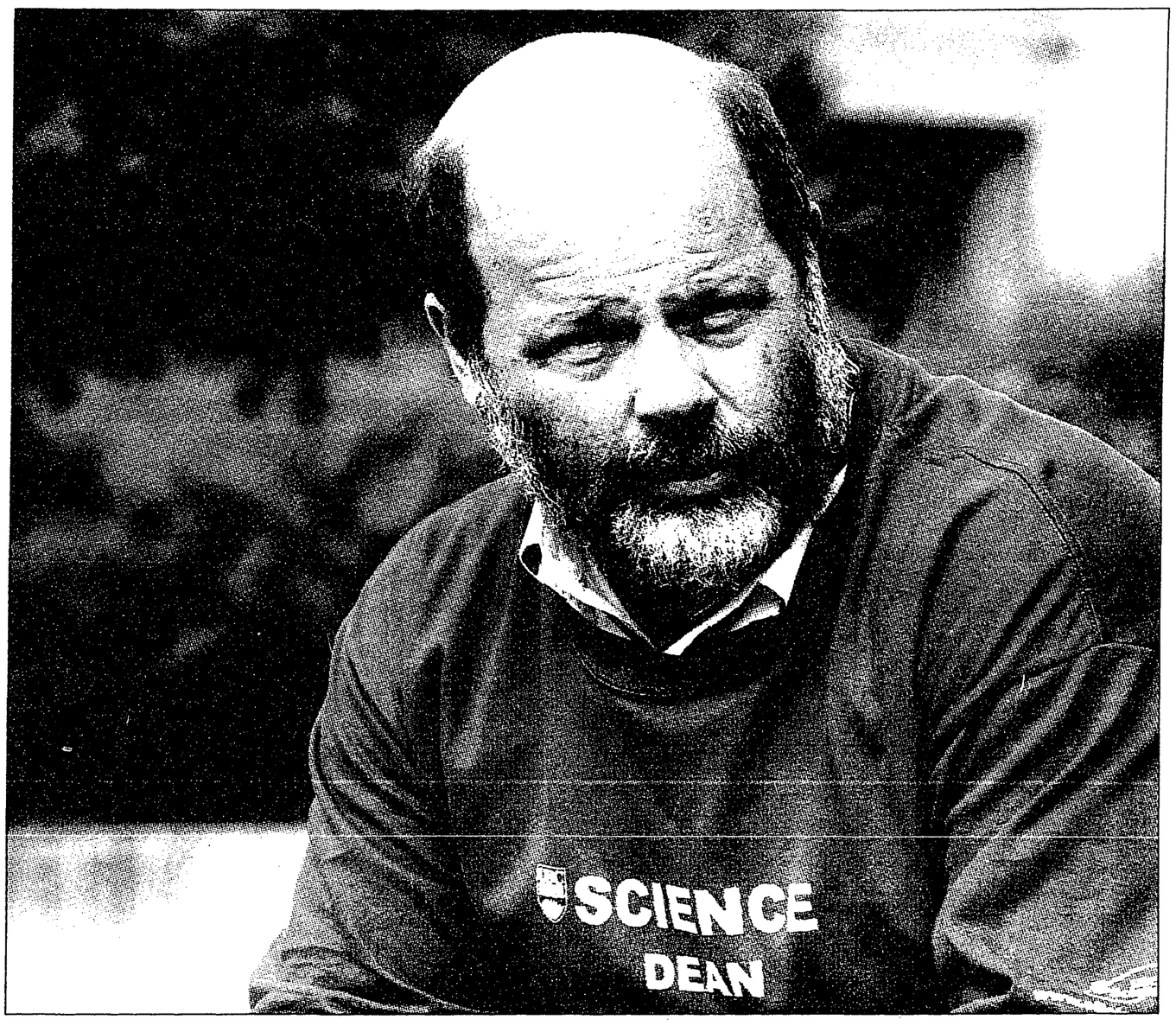
A major difference, according to Hepburn, between UBC and schools like the University of Waterloo, which ranked higher on the survey, is that one is a commuter campus while the other is a small residential campus.

"For most of the students here their community is Greater Vancouver so UBC is something they commute up to, take their courses and go home."

"[In] College towns [it] become their life. UBC and U of T, it's not quite true, we could work harder to make it true but unfortunately for a lot of students there's a commuter mentality. You go to UBC it's like a job and then you have a life somewhere else," explained Hepburn. "So it's an unfair comparison."

However, being recognised as a research university has certain advantages.

"The elite universities are elite because of their researching. That's what attracts the top faculty, that's what attracts the top students," he said.



DEAN'S LIST: John Hepburn believes that being passionate inspires people. YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO

Hepburn also added that because UBC has a reputation based on its research it is an opportunity that is given to students that other schools can't offer.

"When you study at UBC you are studying on the front lines of whatever their field happens to be. So tapping into that can be difficult for undergraduate students but that's a challenge for the university as a whole. Even if they simply hear about the great research as an undergraduate at UBC, that's something that you wouldn't get in a smaller place."

According to Hepburn, unless every facet of a university is addressed a school can never be a success.

"I don't think if you're a great research university you have to give a crappy undergraduate experience," he said. "I would certainly not regard that as success...I never think that you have to do one thing instead of another, you have to do them all."

Word choice really does matter

Study shows that our perceptions are altered by what we say

by Colleen Tang
NEWS WRITER

War of the Worlds may have been short-lived in theatres this summer, but the war of words is occurring every day.

A recent study published by UBC psychology professor Elizabeth Dunn, undergraduate student Moriah Moore, and University of Virginia professor Brian Nosek looked at how differences of word choice in print media affect people's perceptions of issues. The study, *The War of the Words: How Linguistic Differences in Reporting Shape Perceptions of Terrorism*, focused on two words: patriotism and terrorism.

The study began by finding out if American newspapers describing the war in Iraq involving Americans used benign words to describe the U.S. and its allies and words implementing destruction to describe Iraqi and foreign resistance fighters.

This was followed by an investigation on how people view the violence and how it affects their attitudes.

"We wanted to see if we could get the same effects with very small changes and yes, we could," said Dunn.

The sample subjects read three articles: one describing an Oscar party, one describing a bombing and one describing the stock market. The article describing the bombing had two versions, an "us" version—words used in articles describing the U.S. and its allies, and a "them" version—words used in articles describing Iraq and non-U.S. allies. The subjects then filled out a survey and answered questions about the articles they had read.

"WE'RE NOT TRYING TO BLAME THE MEDIA. WE WANT PEOPLE TO THINK OF OUR PERCEPTIONS AND HOW THEY CAN AFFECT US"

DUNN

–Elizabeth Dunn
UBC Psychology Professor

The results of the study came with few surprises for the authors. One thing that did stand out for the researchers was the importance of word choice in the articles. The study concluded that the subject's previous history or biases didn't affect the judgments of the article, nor did personal political ideology. The only thing that altered opinions was choice of words.

"[It] was the most surprising outcome that came from the study, said Nosek.

"Our research demonstrates that subtle differences in the media's word choices can influence the likelihood that people will view an action as a reprehensible act of terrorism versus a noble act of patriotism," said Dunn.

It is important to have studies like these because they prove what political scientists and politicians already know, said Michael Byers, Canada Research Chair in Global Politics and International Law of UBC.

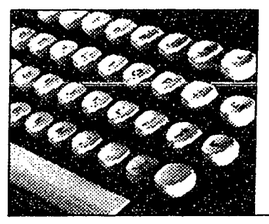
"Word choice matters. It is important to ask questions about what you read...not all journalists are of the same professionalism...and not always good reported news," said Byers.

However, this study is not a critique of journalistic aptitude, claimed Dunn.

"We're not trying to blame the media. We want people to think of our perceptions and how [they] can affect us," said Dunn.

"The naïve reader doesn't think about how the story is being told affecting their interpretation. They think of it the simple way," said Nosek. "I read the story and then I make an interpretation not I get the interpretation from how I read the story. Word choice is everything here."

"The way we perceive the world can be formed by subtle things...we need to be humble about the abilities of our minds," he said.



NEWS BRIEFS

Pee freely

The gender-neutral washroom in the SUB will be reopening today. This represents an important step toward accessibility on campus, said Derek Eidick, male-identified co-chair of Pride UBC.

"It's a safety issue," he said. "If you're MTF [male to female] and you're at the stage where you're wearing a wig and you're wearing a dress and that's it, you're going to go into a washroom in the engineering building and feel safe? Right? That's not going to happen."

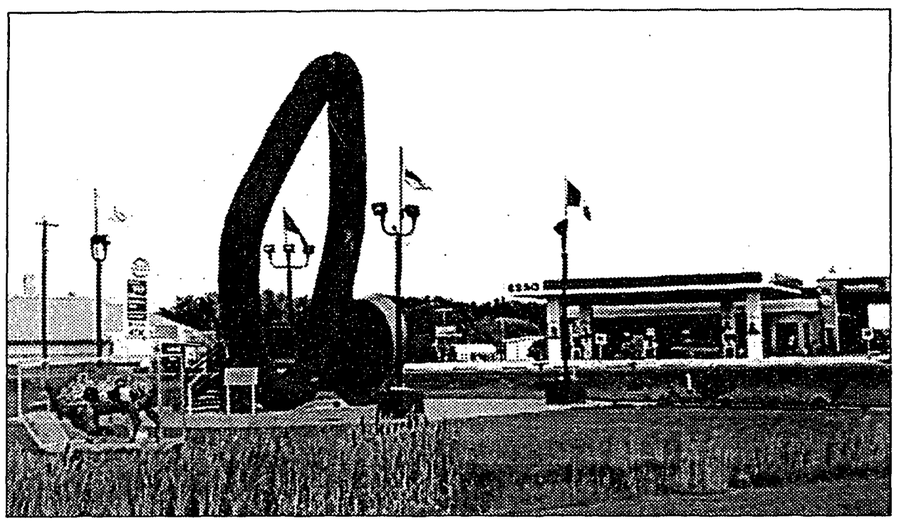
The gender-neutral washroom was originally opened for only a few days last October, but piping problems and delays repairing them forced the washroom to remain closed until today.

The sign on the door to the washroom will read only "Washroom," said Alma Mater Society VP Admin Manj Sidhu. There will also be a symbol denoting that the washroom is wheelchair accessible.

However, Sidhu added that the SUB directory will refer to the washroom as gender-neutral.

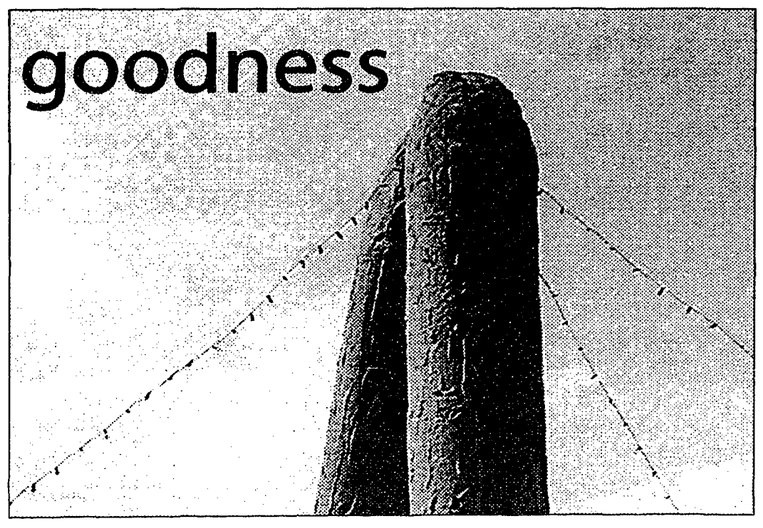
When will they stop?

As new students gear up for class, they will be confronted with what seasoned UBCer's are accustomed to, construction. Along Wesbrook between 16th Avenue and 10th Avenue, students should be prepared to wait for extended periods of time as road work will be delaying all motor-vehicle traffic, especially buses.



Home grown goodness

In honour of Alberta's 100th birthday, we thought it might be nice to take a closer look at one of Alberta's lesser known monuments. The giant sausage statue in Mundare AB. Just one hour East of Edmonton, the sausage is also on the way to the giant pysanka in Vegieville AB. Nothing says happy birthday like snapping a photo of a giant sausage. **SIMON UNDERWOOD PHOTOS**



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(604) 858-0017
COQUITLAM
Coquitlam Centre Mall
(604) 941-6122
#1071-1163
Pinetree Way
(604) 945-6162
Coquitlam Ctr Kiosk
(604) 944-8668
COURTENAY
Driftwood Mall
(250) 703-2008
DELTA
Scottsdale Mall
(604) 590-9011
102-9250-120th St.
(604) 582-9999
110-8067-120th St.
(604) 592-9199
DUNCAN
159 Trunk Rd.
(205) 748-6388
LANGLEY
Fraser Crossing
(604) 532-0440
Willowbrook Mall
(604) 532-9099
MAPLE RIDGE
Valley Fair Mall
(604) 466-1675
Westgate Mall
(604) 460-2888
MISSION
230-32530 Lougheed Hwy.
(604) 820-0811
NANAIMO
2540 Bowen Rd.
(250) 756-0517
Rutherford Mall
(250) 729-0108
Woodgrove Centre
(250) 390-1820
Harbour Park Mall
(250) 741-8288
NORTH VANCOUVER
Lynn Valley Centre
(604) 984-8900
PORT COQUITLAM
24-2755 Lougheed Hwy
(604) 945-6118
RICHMOND
Aberdeen Ctr.
(604) 279-9187
Admirality Centre
(604) 303-0308
Continental S/C
(604) 279-8868
10400 Bridgeport Rd.
(604) 244-0550
Empire Centre
(604) 276-9868
Richmond Centre
(604) 273-2203
Parker Place Mall
(604) 270-8893
Landsdowne Mall
(604) 247-2355
Aberdeen Centre
(604) 303-8811
SURREY
Central City
(604) 583-7000
Guildford Town Centre
(604) 951-9399
Semiahmoo Mall
(604) 536-1010
Strawberry Hill
Shopping Centre
(604) 502-7600
505-7488 King George Hwy
(604) 635-0888
9666 King George Hwy.
(604) 584-5000
7-8430 128th St.
(604) 572-9955
VANCOUVER
Bental Centre Mall
(604) 602-0968
155-139 Keefer St.
(604) 683-8283
6510 Fraser St.
(604) 325-6665
1807 Burrard St
(604) 736-3326
1199 West Pender St.
(604) 662-3931
Oakridge Centre
(604) 267-1011
City Square
(604) 876-0888
208 Keefer St.
(604) 688-3883
5759 West Blvd.
(604) 267-6383
2691 West Broadway
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920 Davie St.
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1022 Mainland
(604) 608-2448
UBC-2160 Western Parkway
(604) 221-5505
1295 Robson St.
(604) 685-8518
VICTORIA
Tillicum Mall
(250) 386-2282
Canwest Mall
(250) 478-3912
401-3989 Quadra St.
(250) 389-2818
1306 Douglas St.
(250) 389-0818
766 Hillside Ave.
(250) 380-1011
3388 Douglas St.
(250) 385-8000
WEST VANCOUVER
Park Royal North
(604) 921-1302
WHISTLER
4338 Main St.
(604) 932-2021
WHITE ROCK
2380-152nd St.
(604) 531-2500

ROGERS plus
BURNABY
Brentwood Mall
(604) 320-0789
NORTH VANCOUVER
Capilano Mall
(604) 983-9744
VANCOUVER
Pacific Centre
(604) 801-5292
VICTORIA
Bay Centre
(250) 385-6151
Hillside Mall
(250) 370-4339
Mayfair Mall
(250) 382-4196

Refugees swell campuses

Thousands seek emergency help after Hurricane Katrina

by The Daily Reveille Staff
SPECIAL TO CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA—Waves of New Orleans evacuees, volunteers and disaster relief workers continued to swarm the Pete Maravich Assembly Center (PMAC) and Carl Maddox Fieldhouse on Lousiana State University's campus, Thursday. Both facilities have become temporary hospitals and a triage area for sorting patients.

"They're getting a lot of patients that have evacuated out of the New Orleans hospitals," said a volunteer with the state Department of Social Services, who has been working throughout the week in the PMAC.

"A lot of patients are recovering from surgery—transplants and things like that," she said.

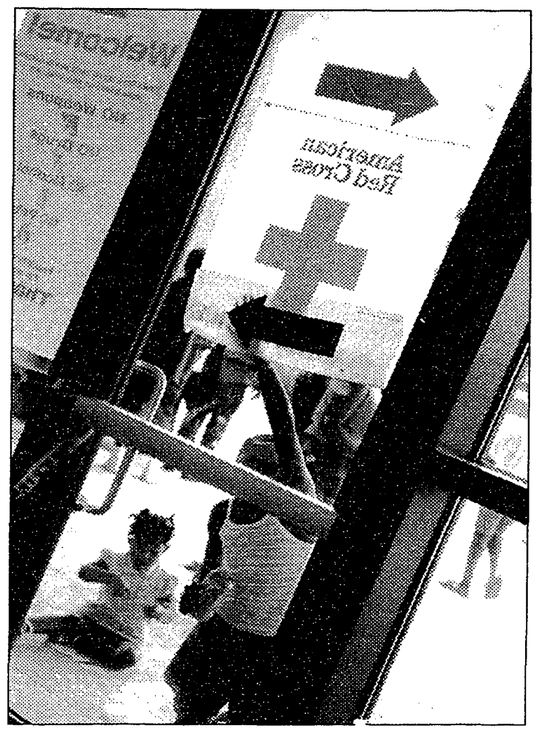
She said about 19,000 people had been processed through the triage by 2am Thursday.

Lakisha Brown, 27, and Shawn Williams, 29, of Metairie, Louisiana, were attempting to find a rental car at 1pm. to get to Lafayette. After fleeing Hurricane Katrina Sunday, they returned Monday to find their homes had only received wind damage. But after the levee broke and the water level began to rise, the National Guard brought them to the PMAC.

"I'm feeling down, depressed and sad," Brown said. "I've been crying as I pray."

Brown said she hasn't spoken to her mother and sister in five days. She and Williams sat on the curb alongside a garbage bag and bookbag carrying all their belongings.

"It's been depressing," she said. "But you gotta do what you gotta do."



"I'M FEELING DOWN, DEPRESSED AND SAD... I'VE BEEN CRYING AS I PRAY."

–Lakisha Brown, 27
Katrina survivor

Williams said he is thinking primarily of those left in New Orleans.

"There's so much death everywhere," he said.

Bob Johanneson, communications coordinator for the state Department of Health and Hospitals, said there were about 1,100 evacuees in both facilities this morning.

"They're bringing buses, ambulances and more people," Johanneson said. "They're being separated according to if they need a special needs shelter, hospitalisation or general shelters. We're trying to triage them in and out so that it's a steady flow."

Meanwhile evacuees outside the PMAC without immediate medical needs waited for transportation elsewhere.

She said relief workers began sending evacuees from the PMAC to the Houston Astrodome after she ended her shift at 2 am.

Tempers did flare at the PMAC Wednesday night. A verbal disturbance, which LSUPD Major Mark Shaw called "minor," occurred among arriving evacuees who expressed frustration and concern about where they would spend the night. LSUPD officers were able to control the situation.

As of 2 pm Thursday, 75 LSUPD officers—most of who are working overtime—are patrolling the campus.

Universities throughout the country have offered to accept the students from Tulane, University of New Orleans, Loyola and other Universities who are not able to return to class because of the storm. Many Universities, including LSU, have offered to not only accept stranded students, but also to waive any tuition from these students.

Universities as far away as Texas, Georgia and New York have offered to let students enroll until they can return to their New Orleans area universities. ■

Universities open doors following "surreal" evacuation

by Rebecca Morrison
SPECIAL TO CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS

Oxford, MISSISSIPPI— It may not be the senior year she had in mind, but 17 year-old Wicker Wicker is about to have a year she will never forget.

Wicker is from Metairie, Louisiana, and evacuated to Oxford, Missouri, where she and her family will stay until at least the end of the fall semester. Wicker has enrolled at Ole Miss University, where she will be taking classes equivalent to Advanced Placement courses at her high school, McGhee High.

"It's sort of surreal," Wicker said Thursday afternoon, on her way in from a Wal-Mart run. "It's fine as long as I get a little bit of a real senior year."

Wicker was part of a 15-person crew that found its way to Oxford. Her parents, uncle, brothers Ben and T.C., grandmother and cousins evacuated along with her.

The group left Saturday morning when a mandatory evacuation of the New Orleans area was implemented.

"I've been through five or six hurricanes and I always stayed, but this time they ordered us out," said Wicker's uncle Ralph Wicker, a retired lawyer from Monroe, Lousiana.

"There's never been this kind of flooding before."

Ralph is planning on heading back to Louisiana as soon as possible but said the gas situation will complicate his return.

"Even if you get to Louisiana with gas, you won't find any there to get back out," he said.

Schools in New Orleans and its suburbs are not planning on re-opening until January.

T.C. Wicker, 15, is going to be leaving for Houston, Texas, in the next few days to stay with family and start at a Jesuit high school that is taking all Jesuit boys from New Orleans.

Wicker's brother Ben, 13, is going to be starting the eighth grade at Oxford Middle School.

"I don't really know what's going on," said Ben Wicker about the situation his family is in.

"We're all getting cabin fever," said Wicker with a smile. "We've been together non-stop for a while now."

Fredericha Carter, or "Nana" to the Wickers, had only been living in New Orleans for two years when Katrina hit.

"This is my first experience with a hurricane and I'll be 82 on Saturday," Carter said.

Robert Radice, general manager for the Inn at Ole Miss, said they have 28 rooms full of people from the New Orleans area and the Coast.

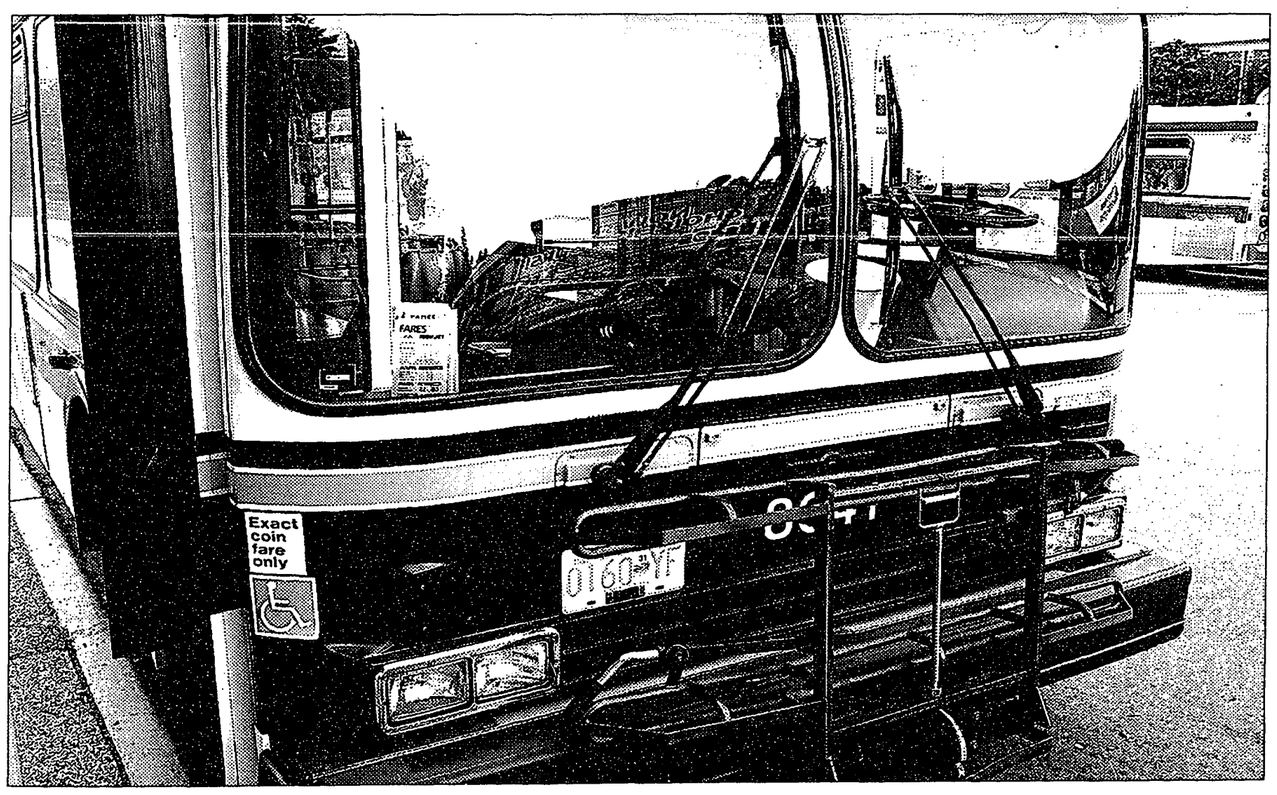
"That's over 100 people just here," said Radice. "Some will be leaving soon because they have found homes to rent or are going somewhere else."

A committee representing Lafayette County, Oxford and the university is preparing for more refugees that may flood the area.

All hotels are at full capacity, according to Oxford Mayor Richard Howorth. ■

Read more about Hurricane Katrina in the Ubyssey editorial, page 22.

BC Transit to use hybrid buses



HYBRID OR BUSSED: Public calls for public transit to be fuel conscious CUP/THE MARTLET PHOTO

by Patrick Szpak
THE MARTLET

VICTORIA (CUP) — Ken Wardroper, president of Bluebird Cabs in Victoria, BC, and veteran taxi driver of 30 years, believes that he has one of the nicest cabs in Victoria—a top of line Buick Park Avenue with all the options.

"It even turns the wipers on automatically when it rains," said Wardroper. Despite the luxury and undisputable comfort of his ride, he admits that sometimes he is greeted not with approving nods from his fares, but with expressions of mild disappointment.

"They say that they were hoping they would get to ride in a hybrid," said Wardroper, referring to one of five hybrid-engine Toyota Prius' used by Bluebird Cabs.

Wardroper's customers' hopes and expectations are increasingly becoming the norm in a society aware of both the environmental costs of automobiles that emit greenhouse gases and the economic reality of rising fuel prices. Slowly, government and businesses have begun to respond to these concerns.

BC Transit unveiled the first of six new hybrid buses, the first in Canada, in Kelowna in May. Three were introduced to Victoria in July. New Flyer-the largest manufacturer of buses in North America-fulfilled the contract for all six buses. Another three of the buses will be used in Victoria.

"BC Transit is committed to identifying and adopting new technologies for public transit," said Greg Slocombe, chair of BC Transit. "As well as environmental quality advantages, the hybrid electric buses has major advantages in lower fuel costs."

Tests done on the new buses show fuel savings as high as 58 per cent each year, or 100,000 litres. Greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced by 60 per cent each year.

Unfortunately, the hybrid buses, which use electric motors to capture the energy used in braking to help power the bus, come with a hefty $300,000 markup on the usual $530,000 price tag.

BC Transit predicts that they will have paid for the buses within 10-12 years. BC Transit buses are typically kept in service for 20 years.

Over 300 hybrid buses have been sold in North America, and orders continue to come in. Skeptics of government purchasing and predictions need only look at Ken Wardroper's Bluebird cabs to see that hybrid vehicles make good business and environmental sense for high-use automobiles.

Despite the relatively high cost of buying a new hybrid, Toyota Prius now make up 15 of Bluebird's fleet.

"Our younger shareholders who are buying new cabs are opting for the hybrid," said Wardroper. "If I were at that stage in my career, I would do the same thing."

Like the hybrid buses, the cabs benefit from lower maintenance and fuel costs and emit far fewer greenhouse gases. "Drivers save anywhere from $700 to $900 per month on fuel" with the new hybrids, said Wardroper.

"That's money directly in their pockets, and more than makes up for the monthly payment on the car."

Many of the younger drivers are "much more tuned-in to the environment," said Wardroper.

"That's a good thing." ■

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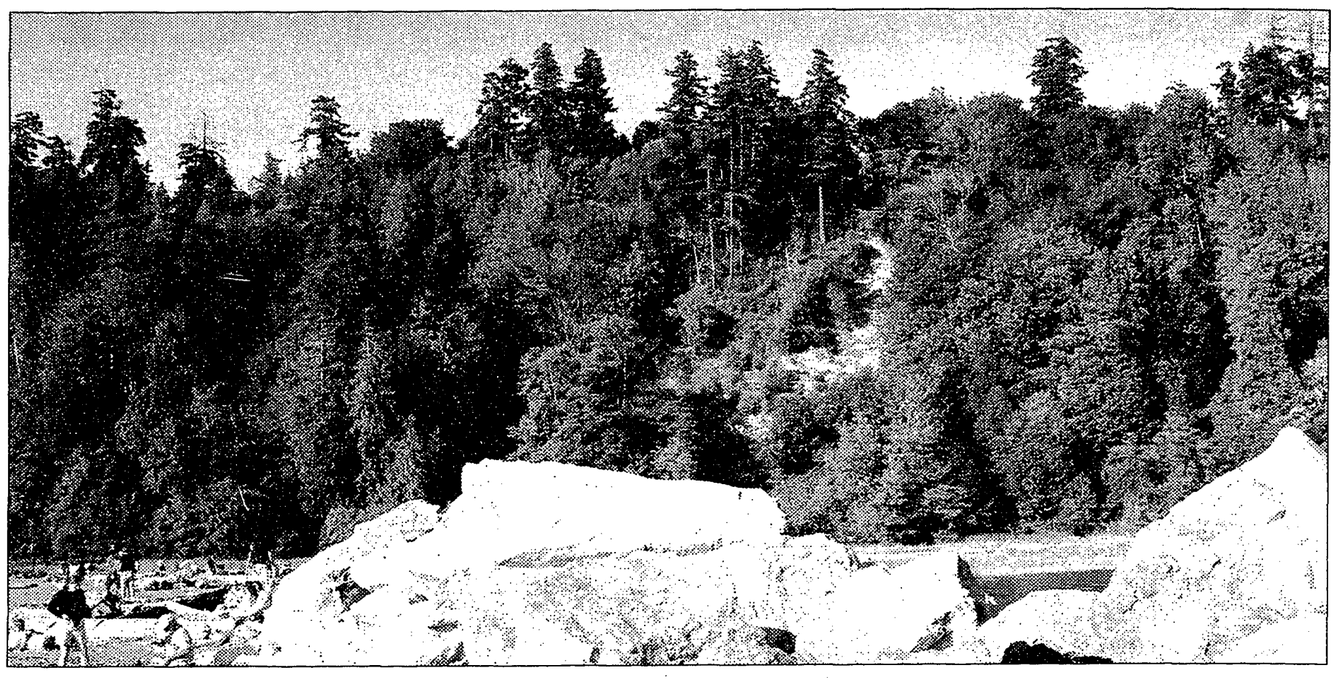
CORRECTION: In *the Ubyssey* Page Wednesday (August 10) an article entitled "Breaking down the Budget" misquoted VP Kevin Keystone as saying "but being emphatic and being ambivalent." Keystone in fact said "static" not "emphatic". *The Ubyssey* regrets the error.

What you might have missed



THE PHASE TWO TOWERS Residences to be constructed by 2007. **YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO**

Since you probably didn't read the summer issues...

Compiled by Eric Szeto and Paul Evans

Phase two towers good to go, says GVRD

Despite protests from Wreck Beach Preservationists, the GVRD voted in favour of construction of the phase two towers along South West Marine Drive. The resolution, however, was not without controversy. A clause in one of the resolutions has raised red flags because it allows for the towers to be built beyond the height of the treeline if UBC should suffer any 'undue hardship.' The completion of the towers will add 1700 much-needed but highly priced beds to UBC's already anemic student housing situation.

UBC must take its designs for ratification to the next Board of Governors meeting at the end of September.

Tuition goes up

For the milk drinkers on campus, two per cent is a familiar figure. It is also the latest increase in tuition for UBC students. Because of the tuition cap put in place by the provincial government earlier this year, tuition cannot increase above the "cost of living" from year to year.

This year's tuition hike has prompted concern. Many are frustrated by the fact that this is another increase, albeit a relatively minor one, that has seen tuition nearly double since 2001. Some feel that UBC should not be raising tuition at all and instead should be focused on efficiency. Others are worried that if UBC doesn't receive its requested government funding, uncertain until later this month, it will have to make cuts that will hurt students instead of being able to raise tuition to fill the gap.

Federal government allocates $1.5 billion for provinces

In an attempt to alleviate student financial woes, the federal government has promised to handover $1.5 billion in post-secondary edu-

STAYING PUT: The underground bus station on University Boulevard will have to wait until 2007, says UBC officials. **YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO**

this summer at UBC

cation money to all the provinces. This is welcoming news, considering that the soaring costs of post-secondary tuition, over the last five-years, has created financial havoc for students.

Croquet in Kelowna

With the inclusion of an Okanagan campus to UBC this year, student society executives from UBC-Okanagan and UBC-Vancouver met to discuss their future relationship and play a game of croquet.

Alma Mater Society (AMS) President Spencer Keys and the UBC-Vancouver delegation returned from Kelowna somewhat disgruntled over the UBC Students' Union Okanagan's (UBCSUO) reluctance to work with the AMS on a number of UBC administration and provincial government issues. The UBCSUO said that they were still figuring out how to deal with the University and want to take the relationship one step at a time. The student societies are scheduled to meet again in October.

Student loan bankruptcy reduction in motion

The provincial government has recommended that reforms be made to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency act. Under the current proposal graduated students are unable to declare bankruptcy for ten years. Recommendations have been made to shorten the length of time to seven years, and while student groups are reasonably pleased with the announcements, they are calling for an even shorter period of time before bankruptcy eligibility.

Budgeting for Coke

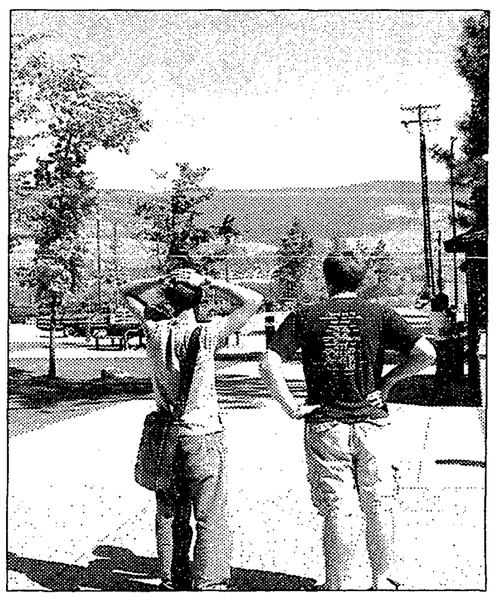
Adjusting to a $160,000 loss in sponsorship revenue from Coca-Cola was a major priority for the AMS as they developed their 2005-2006 budget. Because UBC and the AMS were unable to sell the required 33,600,000 Coke products as specified in their joint exclusivity contract with Coke, UBC will remain a Coke-only campus for an additional two years at no cost to the soft drink conglomerate.

The AMS was saved from having to make substantial service cuts due to a very successful year for AMS Catering and not having to fund AMS Orientations.

UBC architectural competition comes to close

And the winner of the UBC Archetectual competition is: Santa Monica's Ruble Yudell Architects and Planners and Vancouver Hughes Condon Marler. UBC hopes to have the $100 million University Boulevard transformation completed by 2008.

UBC intends to make University Boulevard the gateway for the campus. ■



WE LOST THE BALLS Croquet and consolidation. **TREVOR GILKS PHOTO**

Botanical garden roar!

This mythological half-bull, half-man says, "You're not welcome in this labrynth."
YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO

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SUNTAN STYLE: In the summer Granville Island is known for its kooky tourist items, which includes these handmade "tourists." Head to Granville Island in autumn to check out real people and the Fringe Festival. **YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO**

Best wishes to all of the students and faculty of UBC for a successful 2005-2006 academic year.

Gordon Campbell, MLA
VANCOUVER - POINT GREY

If you require assistance or information regarding any provincial government matter, please contact my constituency office.

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Highlights of the Fringe

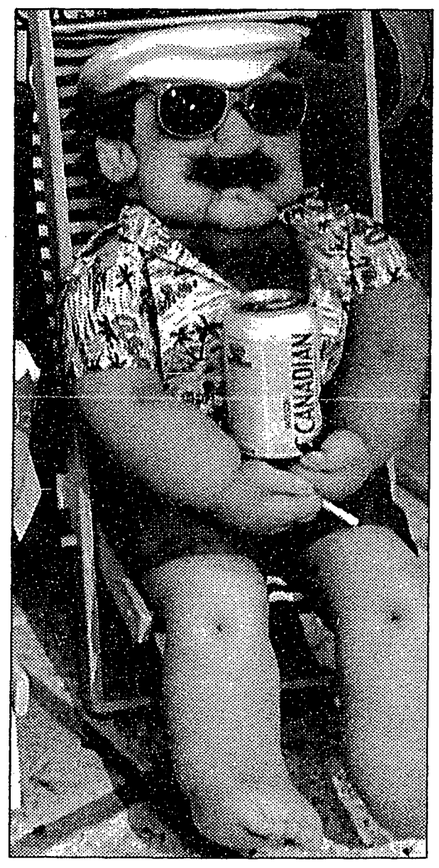
A very special event listing

Every year the Fringe Festival brings out the pure creativity of Vancouver's artistic community. Try not to worry too much about your back to school woes, take a break and see some of the Fringe. Ranging from $5 to $12 per show, the Fringe is well within budget and by the sounds of these shows, well worth it.

Self-Storage
MON AMOUR, MON AMOUR
Performance Works
(1218 Cartwright St)
Sept. 8, 4:15
This one-woman-show features a woman named Normal who lives in a storage container.

Maya's Song...in spite of the booze
ANNE MARIE LINDELL
Carousel Theatre
(1411 Cartwright St)
Sept. 8, 6pm
Pregnancy and the past combine to turn the heroine into Karen the Villain. Through dance, Karen the Hero is rejuvenated.

Cosmic Banditos
BISSETT & GOODKEY
False Creek Community Centre Gym (1318 Cartwright Street)
Sept. 8, 6pm
Sex, Drugs, Quantum Physics and banditos; need we say more.



Jew! (A Musical)
Sweet Babette Productions
BBQ Pit at Old Bridge Street
Sept. 8, 6:30pm
A woman explores her faith while planning her wedding. It's a comedy.

Three Chicks in a Tub
NAKED GODDESS PRODUCTIONS
202-1314 Broughton Street
Sept, 8, 7pm, 8pm & 9pm
Set in a real apartment, in a real bathroom, this piece about four women getting ready for a night on the town certainly sounds unique.

Lazy Susan
THEATRE MELEE
Carousel Theatre
(1411 Cartwright St)
Sept. 8, 8pm
Seven people fall in love with one another upon meeting over a dead body. An intruiging dark comedy.

Nostalgia Trip Tic
PANTHEATRE/SOUND MOVES
False Creek Community Centre Gym (1318 Cartwright Street)
Sept. 8, 8pm
A woman moves incredibly slow through past and future events. Based on *Steppenwolf* by Herman Hesse.

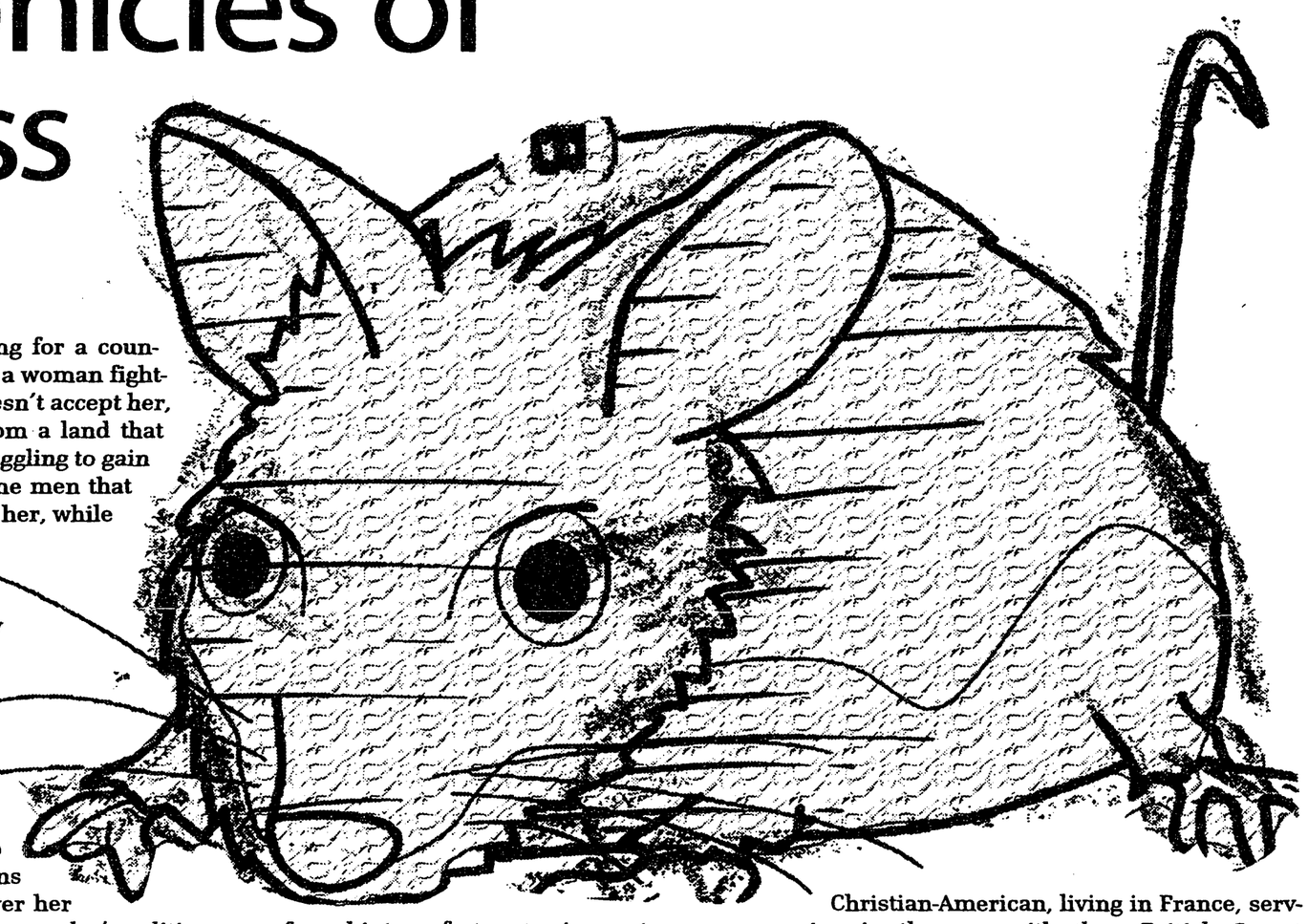
S.M.I.L.E. while you D.I.E.
THEATRE SERENDIPITY
Playwrights Theatre Centre (1398 Cartwright Street)
Sept. 8, 8pm
The quick solution to working in retail woes.

Broad Comedy
BROAD COMEDY
Performance Works
(1218 Cartwright Street)
Sept 8, 9:15 pm
According to the press release it is described by fans as "*The Vagina Monologues* meets Jon Stewart's *The Daily Show*." From abortion issues to oral sex, this one sure sounds interesting.

Bulletproof Pyjamas
MANUEL SCHULTE
Playwrights Theatre Centre (1398 Cartwright Street)
Sept.8, 9:45pm
The setting is Haiti, after their government is overthrown by a political coup. The star, a young boy who awakes on the beach in his pyjamas after the event. He has to pee really bad. ■

Love, War & Spies

The chronicles of a princess



by Ritu Kumar
CULTURE WRITER

THE TIGER CLAW
Shauna Singh Baldwin (Vintage Canada)

A blend of history and fiction, with a dash of thwarted romance thrown in, *The Tiger Claw* details the struggles of a Muslim princess during the Second World War. A nominee for the prestigious Giller Prize (2004), this is Shauna Singh Baldwin's second bestselling book. Baldwin took a character from a page in history and injected life, passion, motive, and ambition to create a story wrapped in human struggles and laid against a backdrop of the Second World War.

The central character is Noor Inayat Khan, the real-life daughter of Sufi Muslim leader Hazrat Inayat Khan, who journeys home to her native France in 1943 as the British Intelligence Agent Anne-Marie Regnier, alias Madeline. Her operative mission is obviously to help in the effort against the Germans, but her personal motive is to search for her lover, a man long condemned by her family and now condemned by the reigning Nazi powers: a Jew, Armand Rivkin. Trapped in an internment camp, Armand is oblivious to Noor's new job and her struggles to find a way to be with him again. Desperate for communication, she sends him a message hidden in a sardine can: the ancient heirloom tiger claw that she wears on a chain around her neck—a symbol of strength and protection.

The story is told by juxtaposing two timelines - Noor's free life and imprisoned life - until the two timelines merge, a framework supported by Kabir Khan's search for his sister. Thus, as Noor continues to risk her life as the only radio operator left in Northern France we travel the journey with her knowing that she will be imprisoned, but not knowing why or how.

The resulting story is a saga about more than a woman fighting for a country. It is a story about a woman fighting for a land that doesn't accept her, having descended from a land that doesn't want her, struggling to gain independence from the men that surround and control her, while searching for the only man that has loved her.

This is a story about colonialism, humanitarianism, desperation and trust. It is a story that evolves to show a woman who comes to realise all her decisions and choices were never her own, but were of someone else's volition.

Noor experiences great evolution and personal growth as she reflects on her life and losses from her prison cell. Writing to her aborted baby, Noor comes to terms with her personal history. "I write," she says, "not because [my] story is more important than all others, but because I have so great a need to understand it. What I say is my truth and lies together, amalgam of memory and explication." This evolution is paramount to the climax of the novel.

Although *The Tiger Claw* is the story of Noor Inayat Khan, it is more than just a day in the life of Noor, as it expands on what other characters are feeling and thinking. The reader feels for Armand and sorry for the pathetic Herr Vogel, the Nazi guard who "keeps" Noor, as well as the gnawing desperation that absorbs Renee Garry every day. Baldwin's character portrayal is profound. She strips the characters of pre-conceived notions of 'the little old lady' or 'the mean Nazi guard', for the reader to realize that these people are not inherently evil, but forced into unfortunate circumstances.

The Tiger Claw is a medium for many molds. Baldwin expertly weaves in plotlines that raise many social and ethical issues. For instance, from the beginning of the book we know that Noor had become pregnant, but was forced to abort the baby in a time where abortions were both illegal and dangerous. Knowing that her family already rejected her relationship with Armand, Noor turned to her younger sister for help in obtaining a backdoor abortion. Not until years later does Noor realise she had options she would have preferred in comparison to aborting her baby.

Similarly, Baldwin raises issues regarding the rights of women in a range of countries and faiths. The particular context and timeframe of this novel allows Baldwin to compare British colonialism in India with German conquests in France. Noor is the ideal medium for these issues to be raised, as she is not only a woman with restricted rights in the 1930's, but also a woman who is the child of a Muslim-Indian and a Christian-American, living in France, serving in the war with the British Secret Service, and in love with a man her family and Germany rejects.

I'm usually wary when it comes to historical fiction; I find the authors I have read usually have trouble blending history with fiction to make a story that flows while weaving both the fictitious plot with the textbook material to create a successful story. Baldwin changed all that for me—I was immersed in the story from page one to page 567. Despite the novel's thick exterior, when I came to the last page I was truly saddened by the thought of having to leave the characters I had grown to love. I wish that the novel had gone on just so I could experience more of Baldwin's amazing writing. Her style is natural with a distinguished flair for details while never going over the top.

I laughed, I cried, I cursed loudly until the other passengers on the bus shifted uncomfortably in their seats. This book is a definite must read - two thumbs up. In fact, I wish I had more thumbs, because they would be up too. ■

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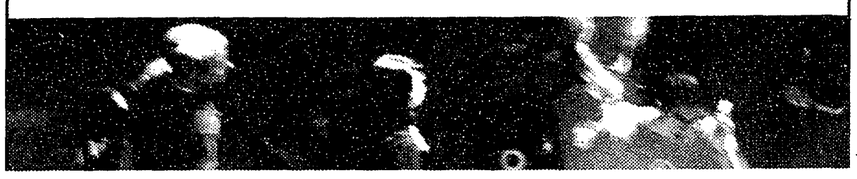

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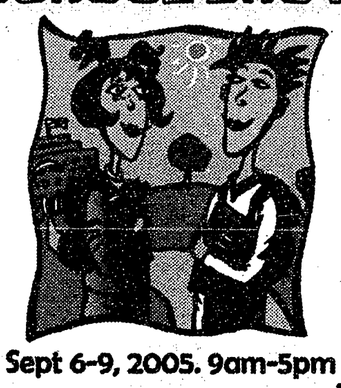

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RIP Summer Jamz 2005

This ain't nothin' but a summer jam/Brown skin and cinnamon tans, whoa /We're gonna party as much as we can/Hey-yeah.

Family vacations usually go something like this:

1) You and your family all wear matching outfits and conquer the unknown foreign lands as a united colonizing force or

2) You decide to wander off desperate to find someone to hook up with—forget good looks, you need a distraction from those two annoying mammals that begat you or

3) After attempting operations #1 and #2 to middling results, you lie around and listen to some tunes until your regular programming resumes.

On my family vacation I chose #3, and my summer jam was born.

"It's Your World" by Common

Common's "It's Your World" is the shizzle. Laptop opens, iTunes activated, insert headphones, close eyes—damn y'all, that was my world. I'd go there and I'd think, wow-listen-to-Common-go, what a hustler. If he can make it outta the ghetto and bounce back into the rap game with an album this solid, I can make it through a vacation! Shame on me. This song deserves to be an official summer jam selection for the simple fact that the lyrics get me off my ass. And the track is dope. And a note to Kid Cudi: this album is sicker than your average, you might want to tone down on the hallucination and give it a listen with a little less of an NYC steez all up in your ear.

"We Belong Together" by Mariah Carey

I'm stuck in a cubicle for the rest of the day, with no escape. I'm drowning in work and I hate my boss and not one single person has emailed me yet and I've checked 198 times already and it's only 10am - no worries. Mariah Carey is my home girl. Making the crummy cubicle days of summer better was a jam by the name of "We Belong Together". What a great way to make time go by faster at work: listen to a sad sappy song and daydream about lost loves! Genius! "When you left I lost a part of me/ it's still so hard to believe/ come back baaaaaby please cause/we belong together." Couldn't have said it better myself Mariah, except you've got 13 octaves. How you make time fly by. Oh what, its 4:57pm? Serenity now.

—Ania Mafi

Some of this music isn't necessarily from Summer 2005, but that remains mere technicality. I think summer music has more to do with the context in which you listened to it, and the first few months of this summer were for me comprised of everybody else's love lives tearing bursting into flames. And by press-time, 14 couples in my immediate social vicinity had ended it all. 14! That's 28 shattered hearts, people. Get down and count the pieces.

Summer, Side A: Sad songs say so much

1. **"Elevator Love Letter" by Stars**
The "don't go, say you'll stay" outchorus of this number is the impetus of tearstained pillowcases across the city.

2. **"Kissing the Lipless" by The Shins**
I think it's the hooky chorus that inserts immediate nostalgia into this song, no matter where and when you play it. I'm sure it's made it on hundreds of road-trip mixtapes already, but sometimes, the wheel doesn't need reinvention for a reason.

3. **"Weekends Away" by Math & Physics Club**
If one song could bottle sunshine, winding roads, and the longing for both of them, this is it.

4. **"Yeti" by Caribou**
Glorious and gorgeous and providing that little break in the day you need to remember that life ain't so bad after all.

Summer, Side B: Five little pink pills/Shutchomouth

1. **"The Hook" by Stephen Malkmus & the Jicks**
2. **"Where Cedar Nouns and Adverbs Walk" by The Most Serene Republic**
3. **"This Heart's on Fire" by Wolf Parade**
4. **"Do the Whirlwind" by Architecture in Helsinki**
5. **"All for Swinging You Around" by The New Pornographers**

—Jackie Wong

1.1 So the blazin' summer slammin' sizzlin' single would have to be Killa Cam's 'Down and out'. The track screams Kanye, laced with some smooth 1970s Gill-Scott Heron flow: I listened to this on repeat as I walked from my deep in the hood of my Brooklyn apartment to the G-train on my way uptown. Uptown baby: this track would usually be blasting out some homeys ride outside my window until 4am. But I ain't mind.

1.2 Bingo-bango-bomb-yo, the album for my summa' belongs to M.I.A. The album is fresh and fierce, tearing through genres like postcards, from dancehall to hip-hop to nursery rhymes to others I don't even know about. Mia's intention, flow, and energy is undeniable, and the same goes for her steez.

2.0 Other summer repeats on the ipod:

2.1 Reggae legend Johnny Osbourne, 'Nightfall Showcase', as I was thinking about my woman.

2.2 Ghostface, 'The Pretty Toney Album',

2.3 Some old Foxy Brown from back when she was with Nas and Az working for the Firm. Remember that?

2.31 Also Foxy's 'Oh yeah' is illmatic.

2.32 On the subject of illmatic, Nas and Mob Deep on 'It's mine', rapping over that Scarface movie beat. Such a sick track.

2.321 On the subject of movies, Bloc Party's 'Banquet' was another sick track for the summer. The track just gets you so stoked and it was in my favorite movie of the summa', *The Beat That My Heart Skipped*.

3.0 As far as the new shit goes, Teairra Mari's heavy 'Make her feel good' remix features none other than Kanye, again.

4.0 And the weakest album of the summer you ask? Common's *Be*. Why is he so hyped? Complete snooze fest. Dash thirty dash.

—Nic Fensom

As a student who spent most of the summer in a dreadfully sweaty, blistering-hot office as the proprietor that might come to mind along my descent, as a 5'2" week-old back packing trip turned tragic beach party, it's like saddling yourself up to a bizarre friend who's gone out drinking, after getting connected on the phone by sexual attraction. Disappointing, my friend, for romance you not need have to speak a lot English, my own language. Luckily, time spent at home in Canada provided much-needed endurance. I received songs by email and downloaded songs from an online directory set up by a friend. From that limited but invaluable pool that sustained me through a few weeks, far from my own CD collection, I present here a brief selection of my defining summer songs.

"Roberta C." by Castrolane for the Painfully Alone

If you're someone who likes the Smiths—a lot—or worships Carson McCullers and doesn't like to explain why, or owns a large collection of napkins from dates with extremes, Castrolane for the Painfully Alone is your kindred girl. Don't tell anyone how much you like this band because if they google the lyrics they'll know too much about you, but to appreciate the band *only you are the kind of person who thinks about that happening and wouldn't be afraid.*

"These Words" by Natasha Bedingfield

This song should be worn out by now. But there's that soulful sing in her voice, the way Bedingfield attacks every line before it starts, and its nonsensical escalating floral and hopeless romanticism. Inexplicably, Bedingfield is a generic blond cheerleader type, although I suspect from her lyrics that she hid a few poetry books nestled beneath her pom-poms in her knapsack. The perfect build up to the 'I love you I love you I love you I love you' kills me every time.

"The Skin of my Yellow Country Teeth" by Clap Your Hands and Say Yeah!

There's a harpsichord, or an accordion, or something twangy and atypical under the half-shouted, half-mumbled lyrics that you can't hear the half of but which seem to impart meaning anyway. There's the combination of the country boy singing about his yellow teeth and the young kid who wants to have fun and party. The overall feel of the song is clangy and bashy and impossible to not equate with warm weather waywardness.

"I Lost You But I Found Country Music" by Ballboy

The shortest, sweetest song ever written. A song about music itself, a ditty that fills that empty space in the bed with the sound of longing. Sigh. I hate summer.

—Alex Leslie

Making room on the gravy train

The Most Serene Republic and Wolf Parade march on as most-loved bands of summer

by Jackie Wong
CULTURE WRITER

Just as all those running around in their giant rubber gardening clogs will soon retire their summer of Keebler elfdom to the whims of calf-high suede boots in varying shades of UGGly, the heady hangover of summer slowly pops its collar against the new grim of colder nights and umbrella necessities. But keep your chin up, kid-we've only got our toes wet with September so far, and there's plenty of time to appreciate the bronze nation around you while continuing to wake up and dance to the fruits of your summer music garden. My two favorites capture kitchen party confections of the highest order.

The Most Serene Republic's *Underwater Cinematographer* and Wolf Parade's *Apologies to the Queen Mary* were two summer classickz. Classix. Classics. Sunny and warm and just glitchy enough to hook you into spending an evening with them, it's hard to lump the Wolf and the Republic into the same generic category, but if describing their sound could be reduced to penny candy, Wolf Parade is black licorice and The Most Serene Republic is salt water taffy. Together, their sugary addictiveness will keep you freckled right into the fall.

The Most Serene Republic's debut, *Underwater Cinematographer*, was first released on Sunday League Records in 2004, but was signed to Arts & Crafts Records this June. Big name buy-in, holla! For this reason, much of the hype surrounding this band dwells on album material that is, to the band, old(ish) news. With virtually zero kinship ties to the Broken Social Scene love parade that has come to characterize the Arts & Crafts label, The Most Serene Republic are a sugar-spun powerhouse all on their own, Stars/BSS cross-references aside. A keen departure from the laptop pop of, say, The Postal Service (though if you like them, you'd probably dig these guys too), the Most Serene have been said to draw influences from the symphonic complexities of Igor Stravinsky or jazz king Bill Evans. Shout-out-loud vocal choruses and layered hooks lean into one another, creating a wash of intelligent, tattered-sheets dreamrock flush with big hearts and wide-eyed songwriting. Adorable? Indeed. Listen to "Where Cedar Nouns and Adverbs Walk" or "Epilogue" to see what I mean: you can stream it off the Arts & Crafts website. If they weren't so busy making a living by being both cute and marvelously talented, you might find one of the band members sitting at the back of your English class. As a 6-person crew of high school friends hailing from Milton, Ontario, the kids of The Most Serene have put university on hold in favor of touring with Pretty Girls Make Graves, Stars, and Broken Social Scene all summer. I arrived too unfashionably late to see them play at the Media Club in August, but apparently, their live show catapults already-solid album work out of the water. Check it out yourself when they open for Metric at Richard's on Richards, October 30.

For more quirk and less smirk (or both, if that's your bag), Wolf Parade's brand of dumpster-diving instrumentals, black-lit guitar lankiness, and lyrical eccentricity draws quick comparisons to the Modest Arcade Mousefire camp. This pack of howlers certainly holds their own in the world of pop-rock morbidity, however, and anthems like "Grounds for Divorce" and "This Heart's on Fire" demonstrate the caramel-sticky epic of their debut LP, Apologies to the Queen Mary. Hailing from Montreal and securely belted to the Sub Pop labelwagon, Wolf Parade's album is a firecracker of a grower that gets better with every listen. Slick with a little more elbow grease than The Most Serene Republic, this debut shows some weighty promise for things to come. More proof, of course, that Montreal is so hot right now... but then again, when wasn't it a site of Vancouver scene envy? Wolf Parade teams up with Australian summer sparkplugs Architecture in Helsinki for a show on September 24th at an eastside arts space. 156 West Hastings, to be exact. I don't know where that is exactly, but follow your nose and be prepared for one of the best live indie-plosions you'll hear all year. *Apologies to the Queen Mary* hits record stores September 13.

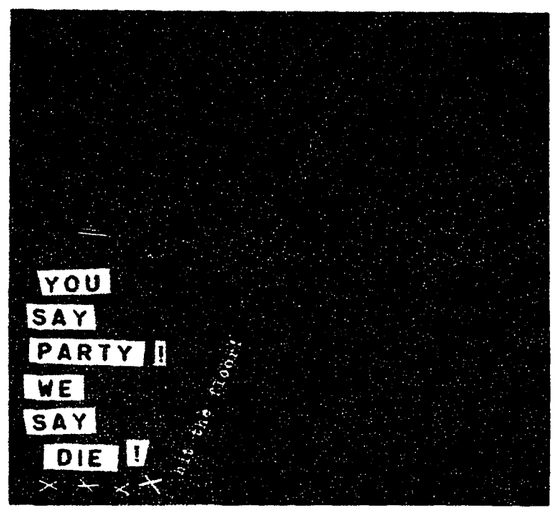
Indie music on speed needs to take a breath

You Say Party! We Say Die!
Hit the floor
Sound Document

by Trevor Gilks
CULTURE WRITER

When I was given this CD to review, I had never heard of the eloquently titled band "You Say Party! We Say Die!" I didn't admit this at the time, of course, because for all I knew YSP!WSD! were the hippest, up-and-comingest band on the scene and I didn't want to look like an idiot.

So, before even listening to the CD I went to their website to do a little bit of research. At first, the slick-looking site bursting with tour and promo info didn't give me much insight into how uncool I was for not having heard of them. However, in the bio section I came across the phrase "we've played everywhere from small stuffy suburban basements to UBC's SUB Ballroom" and a wave of relief came over me. Any band that names the Ballroom as the biggest venue they've ever played is one that I could certainly be forgiven for not having heard of. And, adorably,



their contact information lists their myspace site.

Had I gone straight for listening to the CD, I probably would've assumed they were much bigger blips on the indie radar. Only a band riding very high in that scene would have the balls to give their songs names like "The Gap (Between The Rich And The Poor)", "Love In the New Millennium", and "He!She!You!Me!They!We!Us!Ok!" Their song titles resemble those of The Hives, but without any of the fun or irony.

The lyrics aren't as bad as the song titles (how could they be?) although they do occasionally come close. For the most part, the lyrics are either forgettable, or vocalist Becky Ninkovic's voice is too low in the mix to be understood. Every once in a while, however, a stinker like "I love the cocks that we are made of" rears its ugly head. The band manages to come up with one of the more obnoxious songs in recent memory with "The Gap (Between The Rich And The Poor)" by having Ninkovic squeal "the gap the gap the gap the gap the gap the gap the gap the gap between the rich and the poor the poor the poor the poor the poor the poor" over and over again, until one hand reaches up to cover my ear and the other hand reaches for the fast-forward button. The only reason Le Tigre can get away with repetitive, pseudo-political grandstanding is because their music is catchy as hell.

In terms of song-writing, the band sounds like standard issue indie-pop, but on speed and with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. Guitarists Jason Nicolas and Derek Adam play efficiently and cleanly, but at least once in every single song (literally) there is a pointless breakdown in which the beat drops and the guitars either come back in a wankier, slower pace or come crashing back faster and louder. This is even more frustrating when they actually seem to be coming up with something catchy or fun (as is briefly the case in "Stockholm Syndrome Part Two").

The production is a curiosity as well. The guitars sound sharp and are buzzing like they should, but the drums sound tinny and distant, as if drummer Bruce Dyck was playing in a garage across the street from the studio. And the vocals are usually simultaneously high-pitched, squeaky, fuzzy, and indistinct. Every once in a while ("You Did It!" "Love In The New Millenium") we actually get to hear Ninkovic's voice, and we find out she has an engaging (if not particularly emotive) vocal presence. Krista Loewen's keyboards get the best treatment, and make her the best part of the album.

YSP!WSD! are a group of talented musicians, but they are in desperate need of a deep breath. ■

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The Ubyssey

Living across gender

One student's story of transition

by Emily Sors THE PEAK
Illustration by Yinan Max Wang

From childhood's hour I have not been
As others were—I have not seen
As others saw—I could not bring
My passions from a common spring.
From the same source I have not taken
My sorrow; I could not awaken
My heart to joy at the same tone;
And all I lov'd, I lov'd alone.

—EDGAR ALLAN POE
AS PRINTED IN *STONE BUTCH BLUES* BY LESLIE FEINBERG

From childhood's hour

BURNABY, BC (CUP)—It began when I was around three or four years old. My earliest memory of how I feel about who I am is of looking in the mirror and seeing a stranger's face staring back at me. Of course, the image was of my face, but somehow I knew it was not me. My mother looked like my mother; my father looked like my father. My grandparents looked like themselves, as did my great-grandmother. I thought, perhaps, it was just because I was little, and that I would look "right" when I grew up; but even my cousins, both around my age, looked how they were meant to look. To this day, I carry that feeling with me every time I look in the mirror.

I was always very girly as a child. I read girls' books, such as the Ramona and Babysitter's Club series, and for that, I was labeled a "sissy" in elementary school. Most of my friends were girls.

Without sisters, I never had much of a chance to dress up, though I would sneak into my mother's high heels and wear my grandmother's jewellery. At six years old, it's cute when your "grandson" plays pretend as your granddaughter. At eight, it isn't so funny anymore.

At summer camp, I found a dress in the costume tent. I wore it all week—one of the happiest times of my life. My counsellors were fine with it; the only reason they ever made me take it off was so it could get washed! Coming home was a different story, however. Since every picture of me I brought home featured me in that dress, there was no hiding it from my parents, who made it clear that it was shameful.

When I was 12, my mother mentioned a news article about a transsexual who had her "sex change" funded by health care. She commented on how outrageous it was that "such an unnecessary and ridiculous surgery" would be paid for by taxpayers. I thought a lot about it that night in bed. What began with imagining what it would be like to be a woman quickly turned into an anxiety attack triggered by the thought of never getting the chance. I imagined what it would be like to sleep with a man, to feel him thrusting inside me. I envisioned myself in my mid-20s, telling my parents that I was going to transition. I envisioned them asking me what the hell I was thinking, and then disowning me. I shut down at that point. There is no way I can convey in words how scared I became. I cried silent tears all night. By morning, I had made up my mind to be the best man I could be.

> "DESPITE EVERYTHING, I DOUBT I WOULD TRADE THIS EXPERIENCE FOR THE WORLD. I'VE BEEN GIVEN A RARE GIFT—THE ABILITY TO SEE THINGS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF BOTH MEN AND WOMEN. I'VE BEEN GIVEN THE CHANCE TO BE TRUE TO MYSELF IN A WAY OTHERS CANNOT."
>
> *–Emily Sors*
> *Transgendered, male to female*

The best man I could be

High school gave me a chance to redefine myself—no more girly stuff for me. I tackled high school by acting tough. I didn't do this by picking fights with the meanest bullies. I lacked the muscular strength to ever be perceived as macho, so I found other ways to assert my masculinity. I took pride in my pacifism, but I also took pride in my ability to take a punch, which I termed "integrity." I was cold, calculated in my mannerisms, emotionless. I derived joy from boasting of my tolerance for physical pain. Soon, I forgot my past and came to believe that I genuinely was the character I had created.

As my 16th summer began, my then-girlfriend left me, giving me the classic "it's not you, it's me" line, which left me convinced that it had to be me. It compelled me to spend the rest of that year exploring who I was. As a result, I realised how little I liked myself. During this self-exploratory period, I allowed some of my subtler "feminine" traits to be expressed again, such as my caring and sensitivity. I discovered my spiritual beliefs, as well as my bisexuality.

Two years ago, I underwent some medical tests, including a test of my FSH (a hormone of the reproductive system) levels, which the doctor mentioned were "more suited to a female range." I became suspicious of having an undetected intersex condition. My earlier memories suddenly came back to me, including that night when I was 12. Having never made any of the connections before, I started putting the puzzle pieces together, and the image I got surprised me: I was really a girl, with a penis.

This realisation scared me. I turned to my partner for support. We had a long conversation about everything, and though she was supportive, she feared what would happen if her "boyfriend" were to become a girl. However, as much as we both tried to keep our relationship stable, it ended the following February, partially because I was becoming much more withdrawn. As all this happened, I went from being scared out of my wits to slowly accepting myself as transgendered.

A new name, a new face

At last year's Queer Awareness Week, I attended the drag show in a dress—looking pretty silly with a beard! One of the Queens called me up to the stage, and asked me my name. I gave them my male name, and they retorted it wouldn't do. They called me by a feminised form of my male name, which I had also briefly used back at camp when I dressed up. It got me thinking about my name. A week later, I decided on a name for myself —Emily, the name I use today when I am in "girl mode."

After taking my name, I gradually became more comfortable with myself. I went out shopping for women's clothes one week before Pride to have an appropriate outfit to wear. I jumped right in, buying my bra first. I didn't realise the price tag had fallen off, so I was stuck holding up a long line-up while the cashier explained to the manager that "a young man needs to get a price check on his bra." After that, shopping became easy!

Things got difficult for me living with my parents. I was hiding who I was, but the frustration was showing. After one particularly fierce fight, I left and found my own place to live, a place where I could be myself in peace. I began building a new wardrobe for myself and reunited with my partner. She's still coping with my transgenderism, as am I, but she is very supportive. At last year's Transgender Day of Remembrance, she marched by my side. Today, I never wear my boy clothes at home, unless a visitor doesn't know. I still live publicly as a man, but occasionally you can see me in girl mode around campus.

To thine own self be true

Some people tell me I have amazing courage. Some tell me that I'm a freak. In the end, I realise I am neither; I'm just a lost soul trying to find myself again. I know who I am in my heart. As Shakespeare wrote, "To thine own self be true." To that end, what I am doing for myself is simply something I have to do. I was born a woman, plain and simple. The only part of me that is male is my physical body. My journey from man to woman began first when I realised that I am transgendered. I had all the evidence staring at me in my face, but I only saw it briefly one night at the age of 12 before I denied who I was for eight years. When I realised it again, I feared what it meant. I tried to assure myself that I wasn't transgendered, that this was simply a phase I had yet to finish; however, after 22 years and many sleepless nights, I know it is not.

Transitioning is a slow, stressful process that is emotionally, and sometimes physically, taxing. I have chosen to wait until I graduate next year before I begin medically transitioning, to avoid having the two stresses in my life simultaneously. In the meantime, while it is extremely distasteful for me, it is enough for me to live publicly as a "man" for now, as long as I can live privately and socially as a woman. I can also use this time to get to know myself better and adjust to the changes to my personality as I allow myself to express my feminine aspects again.

Getting the body to match the spirit

The transitioning process will begin with seeing a psychiatrist. The goal here is not to "cure" me of transgenderism, but instead to determine if I am indeed transgendered or if this is caused by a mental disorder, or a figment of an overactive imagination. When the doctor sufficiently determines that my transgenderism is genuine, I will be approved to see an endocrinologist for the next step—Hormone Replacement Therapy, or HRT. I will continue seeing the psychiatrist throughout the transition process, as it is a highly emotional journey that requires personal care.

Often, transgendered women begin HRT simply by taking an anti-androgen such as Spironolactone or Androcur, which is less common, as it has not been approved in the United States. Both have the effect of reducing the natural production of testosterone and other male sex hormones. There is no significant effect from these drugs, other than slowing down the expression of some male secondary sex traits. Usually, these effects don't become visible for at least six months, though the side effects (tiredness, frequent urination, and dehydration) appear much quicker. The use of anti-androgens helps the effectiveness of estrogen.

Estrogens such as Premarin or Estradiol are used to promote the development of female secondary sex traits. These are the hormones that are most effective in physical transition. Within a couple of weeks, a noticeable softening of the skin can be expected. Breast development occurs more slowly, usually not appearing for at least six months. Fat distribution shifts too, eventually producing a more feminine body shape. Body hair slowly thins out, eventually dropping to a normal female range, though facial hair growth remains only slightly less than that for a normal male. The voice does not change, nor does any aspect of skeletal structure. Facial hair is removed permanently via electrolysis or laser removal, voice training is used to adjust the voice, and surgery is often used to correct skeletal features, particularly concerning the face.

Hormone therapy will help take me a long way towards being "passable"—being able to be perceived by others as a woman, not a man. However, there are still hurdles along the way. I am lucky in that my face is naturally feminine, so I don't expect to need surgery to feminise my face.

The final steps

Once I am passable, I will begin what's known as the "real-life experience" or RLE. This is where I will start living full-time as a woman. At this point, I must come out to anyone I haven't yet, including family and employers. The RLE is meant to "prove" that I am in fact a woman (and can handle living as one) to psychotherapists and other doctors.

After a year of living as a woman, I will be eligible to be approved for the final step in transition—Genital Reassignment Surgery (GRS). GRS will be the final step in physically becoming a woman. Society still tries to define our gender by the genitals with which we are born. However, this isn't reason enough to change my genitals, and many transgendered people do not take this step. I need to change my genitals because I am horribly uncomfortable with the ones I currently have; they simply don't feel right to me.

The actual surgery is a simple idea—invert the penis to make a neo-vagina. The head of the penis is used to create the clitoris, while the scrotum can be used to create the labia. The penile shaft is inverted to create the vaginal wall. Nerve endings are preserved, which leaves most "post-op" transwomen capable of orgasm. The only unused parts of the male genitalia are the testicles. The depth of the vagina is usually around five or six inches, but depths of nine inches have been reported.

Long life's journey into day

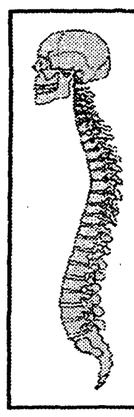
After all this time is spent transitioning (both medically and legally—getting that little F on your records isn't easy, and in some states and provinces it is impossible), suddenly a weight is removed. What then? Surely transitioning is over, right? Yes and no. The physical transition is over, but the personal transition continues. Every day, there will be new things to get used to. Slowly, I will adapt to life as a woman and become content with who I am, while letting go of male privilege.

The process can be painful. Many people are not accepting of transgendered people. My transitioning will disrupt many lives, not least of which will be my family's. Until I am ready to "come out," I must continue to hide my true self from them. My partner is also impacted by my transition. She loves me very much, but she's not sure if she can handle me as a girl. She needs to find herself and where my place is in her life. I'm lucky I didn't suppress this until after marriage; otherwise, the marriage could have shattered.

Depression comes with being transgendered. Though I've never personally been seriously suicidal, I've come close many times. In the past, I was depressed because I wasn't being true to myself, and I wasn't accomplishing what I knew I could. Now I get depressed thinking of what society thinks of me. I cannot yet fathom losing everyone close to me because they cannot accept me for who I am.

Despite everything, I doubt I would trade this experience for the world. I've been given a rare gift—the ability to see things from the perspective of both men and women. I've been given the chance to be true to myself in a way others cannot. The transitioning process has given me ample opportunity to better myself as a person. ■

> "WHAT I AM DOING FOR MYSELF IS SIMPLY SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO. I WAS BORN A WOMAN, PLAIN AND SIMPLE. THE ONLY PART OF ME THAT IS MALE IS MY PHYSICAL BODY. MY JOURNEY FROM MAN TO WOMAN BEGAN WHEN I REALISED THAT I AM TRANSGENDERED. I HAD ALL THE EVIDENCE STARING ME IN MY FACE, BUT I ONLY SAW IT BRIEFLY ONE NIGHT AT THE AGE OF 12 BEFORE I DENIED WHO I WAS FOR EIGHT YEARS."
>
> *–Emily Sors*
> *Transgendered, male to female*



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Move aside, Pussilia

Somebody put Steve Carell on the pedestal

***The 40-Year-Old Virgin* now playing**

by Trevor Gilks
CULTURE WRITER

"I dated this girl for a while...she was really a...nasty freak. She just loved to... get down with...sex all the time. It was like...anytime of day...she was like, "Yeah, let's go! I'm so nasty!" And I'd be nailing her and she'd be like, "Oh, you're nailing me! Cool!"

Andy Stitzer (Steve Carell) is charming, well-meaning, and totally hopeless in the pussy department. A stockboy at Circuit City, Stitzer lives a quiet, celibate existence with his action figures and his kareoke machine for stimulation. But everything changes overnight when his co-workers (Seth Rogen, Romany Malco, and *Anchorman*'s Paul Rudd) discover his titular shortcoming over a poker game, tipped off by his bluffs about touching titties: "it [felt] like a bag of sand."

Since Carell is a good-looking, funny and supremely talented man who I can't imagine has any problems getting laid, it is all the more impressive that he can so convincingly play a 40 year-old virgin who has never busted out the no-pants dance.

And despite what the synopsis and the title might lead you to believe, Carell and his co-writer/director Judd Apatow don't paint with any broad or ignorant strokes. None of Andy's work buddies play the 'Stifler role'—the sex-crazed man-pig is tossed aside for real characters, and their attempts to get Andy laid are motivated more by genuine fraternal interest and not to simply advance the plot. The "right lady" comes in the form of Catherine Keener in one of the finest casting choices in years. Keener shares Carell's age, offbeat good looks, and awkward sex appeal; never belittled by the script or direction, Keener's role is a refreshing departure from the virgin/whore dichotomy. This granny just wants to get laid like anyone else.

> "I DATED THIS GIRL FOR A WHILE...SHE WAS REALLY A...NASTY FREAK. SHE JUST LOVED TO... GET DOWN WITH...SEX ALL THE TIME. IT WAS LIKE...ANYTIME OF DAY...SHE WAS LIKE, "YEAH, LET'S GO! I'M SO NASTY!" AND I'D BE NAILING HER AND SHE'D BE LIKE, "OH, YOU'RE NAILING ME! COOL!"

While *The 40 Year-Old Virgin* may boast profanity, vomit, urine, and boners, it is by no means offensive. The movie is not a platform to smugly make fun of virgins, or anybody else for that matter. Andy is smart, funny, and loveable. Instead of simply laughing at the fact that he collects action figures, *The 40 Year-Old Virgin* develops a touching rapport between Andy and his Ironman figurine. The movie lets Andy be an interesting and witty guy, and we actually want him to score some hot ass (but only with the right lady). For contrast, did anyone really give a shit whether or not Owen Wilson got Rachel McAdams to run off with him in *Wedding Crashers*?

And unlike that film, which fell flat whenever Vince Vaughn left

the frame, *The 40 Year-Old Virgin* has almost no misfires (except maybe for Andy's nymphomaniac manager who is more scary than funny). A number of scenes (such as the speed-dating and the chest-waxing) seem, in retrospect, incongruent and take away from the momentum, but they're funny enough to distract even the most anal pace-keepers.

In a summer of hyped comedies (*Bewitched, Dukes of Hazzard, Monster-In-Law*) that failed to make anyone really laugh, Steve Carell almost redeems the summer season by sneaking in this funny, smart, and refreshingly kind-hearted sex comedy. Perhaps audiences' desperation for real laughs can explain how a low-budget comedy with no big stars managed to grab the top box office spot two weeks in a row. Or maybe Steve Carell is just a powerful sex symbol with immense box-office prowess. Either way, I'd totally tap that. Enjoy your orange!

Get down for these spunky *Aristocrats*

***The Aristocrats* now playing**

by Alex Leslie
CULTURE STAFF

There's an old joke that's a classic fallback for serious comedians: A man walks into a talent agency and says to the agent, "I have an act to pitch to you." The agent replies, "Sure, what's your act?" The man says, "Well, actually, it's a family act. So, first I'm out there on stage, and I strip naked and start to masturbate until the patch of stage in front of me is completely covered in my own thick milky jizz. Then I dance and slide around in it for a bit, kind of like a figure skater or a J-Lo video. And then my wife enters stage right and she sits in the jizz and starts jacking herself off, so her jizz is everywhere too. Buddy, she's spraying like an unmanned fire hose; it's in her hair, it's in my hair, it's pooling in our bellybuttons. Thick, thick strands of cum. You know, a little bit like a melted cheese string. And then we lie down in this big pool of our own spunk and start fucking like bonobos. She gets out the 11-inch ribbed dildo and starts giving it to me real hard, right up the ass and then our kids come in and my prostate starts to..."

"Excuse me sir, but what kind of goddamn show is this!" exclaims the talent agent, trying to cover his entire face with his palms.

"Wait, wait! I'm not at the good part yet," the man reassures. "So then our kids come in carrying photos of their dead grandparents. My son starts masturbating to the photo of his grandfather and my daughter starts masturbating to the photo of her grandmother. Cross-generational photo incest! And then we all start rolling around in the huge mess that's now entirely covering the floor and my son starts giving it to my wife from behind. I get on the other side and I'm fucking my wife from the front. And then my daughter pulls out her..."

SAGET

"Hey, buddy ..."

"Wait! Let me finish! So then our pet dog, Evelyn comes trotting out, to lick up all the jizz, right? Clean the place up real good, you see? But then she gets excited and joins right in. And the dog starts masturbating, but my daughter has to help him out cuz his paws are all furry and clumsy on his junk and that gets in the way of him getting really, really hard. The dog sort of has to be coached by my son. They have dog-on-boy sex. Then my wife takes the photograph of her mother that's now lying there on the stage completely soaked in jizz and impales it with the dog's dick. I start sucking off the dog and the dog starts licking my wife's ass, while my kids watch and finger each other. My son starts vomiting and his puke mixes with all the jizz that's everywhere, that now includes my dogs. And then the dog takes a shit and we all get up and start tap-dancing to a hip hop cover of the song that played at Lady Di's funeral. Then my son does an impression of Hitler and I do an impression of Stalin and my daughter and wife play Churchill and Roosevelt and kick the shit out of both of us. Then our big finale: my son and I lie bruised and bleeding on the ground while my wife and daughter jack each other off while singing "Stars and Stripes Forever" and pretending to lynch us. To close, we all get up and take a bow and the lights go down!"

"Wow. So what's your act called?" asks the talent agent.

"The Aristocrats!"

Go see *The Aristocrats* for about two hundred different versions of this joke intermixed with a bit of comedy theory, some history and a lot of spare jizz. Be brave, leave your fear of vulgarity at the door and be aware that Bob Saget is one dirty motherfucker.

More from the genius that gave you *Flubber*

***The Man* now playing**

by Aaron Carr
CULTURE WRITER

Who's the man? About a week ago I turned a corner and became instantly captivated by a poster advertising *The Man*. Needless to say, the mere presence of Samuel L. Jackson (*Jackie Brown*) and Eugene Levy (*American Pie*) called for a closer look. But any hope inspired by such picture-perfect casting evaporated when I scrolled down to read the tagline: "One of them walks the walk. The other talks the talk. But only one can be *The Man*." It seemed clear to me that this movie was going to brave new frontiers of crap.

The Man goes something like this: Federal Agent Derrick Vann (Jackson) has a banal 24 hours to investigate his partners death and the disappearance of an arsenal of weapons. To complicate things, Internal Affairs Agent Peters (Miguel Ferrer) is investigating Vann's handling of the heist.

In spectacularly predictable fashion, things go from bad to worse for the streetwise agent when a talkative dental supply salesman named Andy Fiddler (Levy) arrives in town for a dental convention. Fiddler ends up inadvertently entangled in the drama after being misidentified as a potential contraband enthusiast.

From here on the story is a rotating succession of stock scenes portraying standard personality conflicts and fish-out-of-water scenarios that inevitably results in a strange friendship.

The Man inexorably suffers from a recycled plot, paper-thin characters, and the unfortunate absence of any truly gut-busting laughs. The comedy is mildly humorous but never particularly clever.

To his credit, director Les Mayfield (Flubber) keeps the film moving along relentlessly, finishing in a lean 80 minutes. *The Man* is at its best when Jackson and Levy are together on screen, which Mr. Mayfield seems to know because he keeps the primary focus on the duo throughout, cutting anything not directly related to the dyad to minimal content.

While Mayfield manages to keep the action and laughs moving along, the movie has a staleness to it. This sense of complacency is *The Man*'s biggest problem; even the brilliant casting of Jackson and Levy fails to live up to expectations as neither talent is ever fully utilized, leaving the audience with the feeling that they've just seen yet another mediocre movie that could have been good.

In the end, *The Man* is a fairly enjoyable buddy flick with a good mix of action and comedy that should entertain most audiences looking for a light summer comedy. But with the current prices at the box office and the gas pump, I would suggest waiting for the rental.

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The Constant Gardener breaks new ground

Meirelles moves forward from *City of God* with another gritty drama

***The Constant Gardener* now playing**

by Jesse Ferreras
CULTURE WRITER

Brazilian director Fernando Meirelles burst onto the international film circuit in 2002 with his monumental drama *City of God*, a harrowing achievement that opened the world's eyes to the violent, impoverished world beyond the vistas of Rio de Janeiro. Three years down the road, he has turned his attention to third world issues once more in his adaptation of John le Carre's bestselling novel, "The Constant Gardener." A rare thriller that works at every level of its thick plot, Meirelles turns his cinematic eye upon the cost of pharmaceutical advancement, telling the story of reluctant subjects in Africa. The result is a surprisingly effective tale of a man who embarks on a desperate search for the truth and turns up more than he can bear.

Justin Quayle (Ralph Fiennes) is a diplomat serving as the British High Command's representative for aid effectiveness in Kenya, a job that consists, it seems, of filling in at university lectures for higher-ranking officials. It is at one of these substitutions that he makes the acquaintance of Tessa (Rachel Weisz), who berates him for the British government's involvement in the Iraq war, and soon after wins his sympathy as she breaks down in front of her colleagues.

Though she embarrasses him in front of an educated audience, Justin and Tessa fall in love, are married, and he thereafter brings her with him to Kenya, where she finds that her husband invests more interest in his elaborate garden than the atrocities occurring around them.

With her husband distracted, Tessa tours Kenyan shanty towns (which director Meirelles claims make the violent underworld of *City of God* look like Disneyland), becoming suspicious of the methods being used by pharmaceutical companies to test a drug known as "Dypraxa" on its subjects, many of whom are reluctant to receive treatment.

Using every means at her disposal, Tessa comes too close to the truth, and she is murdered in what seems at first like an attack by bandits. Justin, driven by rumours of his wife's infidelity and haunted by his own refusal to pay more attention to her ambitious concerns, is forced to question the loyalty of his colleagues and the legitimacy of his superior's intentions, sending him on a downward spiral towards truths he suppressed for far too long.

Fernando Meirelles is a filmmaker who refuses to allow his audience to remain blind to troubles plaguing societies in developing countries. Unlike many other filmmakers, however, he is successful because he projects disturbing truths upon his audience in a fashion that is haunting without being preachy. In *The Constant Gardener* he gives equal screen time to his British subjects as to those who suffer the brunt of civilization's drive to modernisation, leading to a combination of stories that are equally absorbing.

Ralph Fiennes has already proved himself a master of communicating characters with a haunted past in films such as 2002's *Spider*, and he is equally believable as a man who shifts quickly from a pushover diplomat to a hardliner risking everything in pursuit of the truth. Rachel Weisz is equally impressive, turning out a passionate performance in what is ostensibly her best work to date. The real stars of the film, however, are the stark images Meirelles casts in bright hues through digital video, accentuating the grit of the film's setting. Combined with a disquieting score by Alberto Yglesias (*Talk to Her*), Meirelles constructs an affecting work out of the inner turmoil of his subjects who find themselves caught in the outer turmoil of the world's most ravaged societies. ■

The fuck stops here

Divorce: rough on the heart, easy on the ears

Reggie and the Full Effect
Songs Not To Get Married To

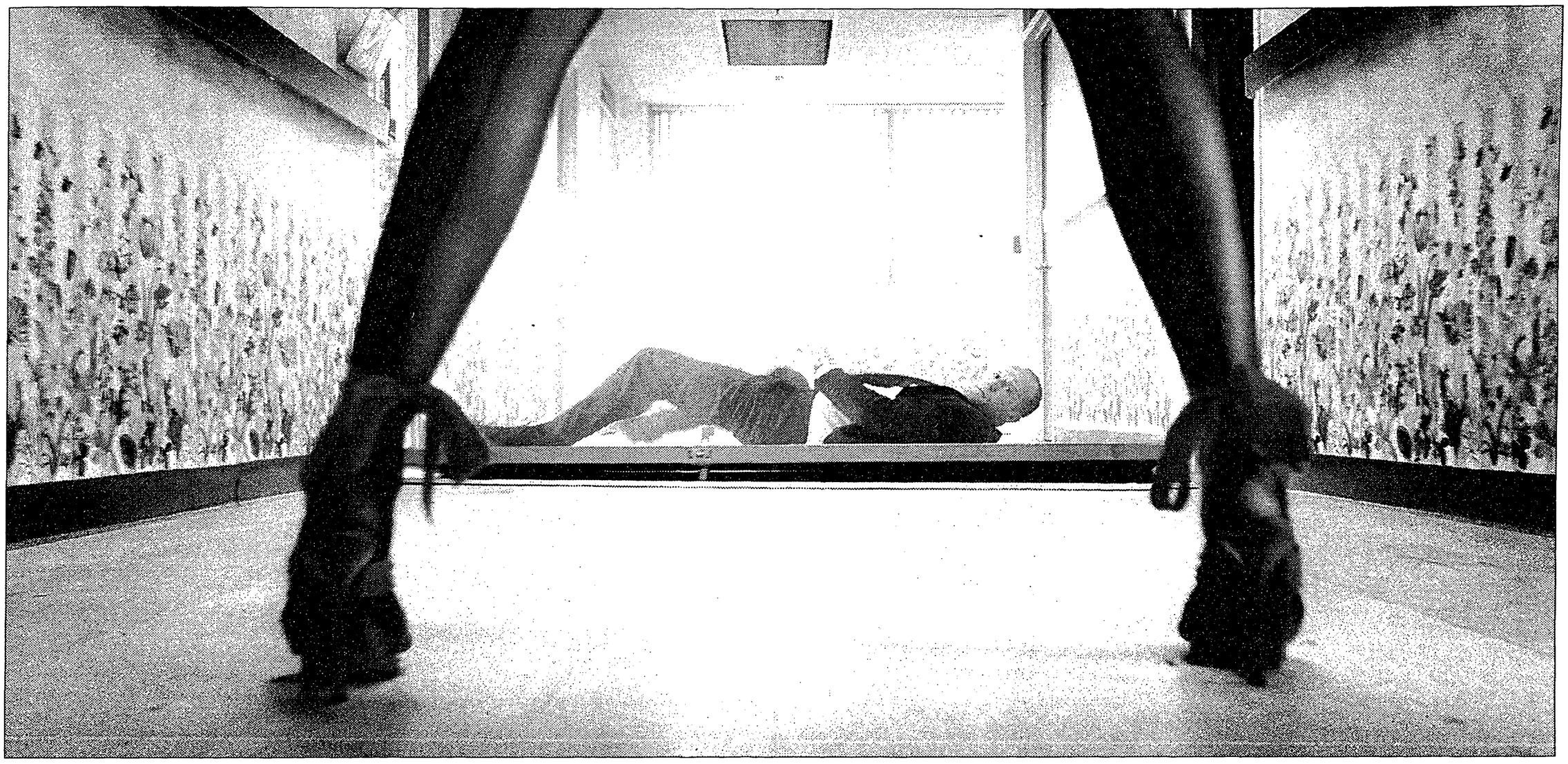
by Sean Lee
CULTURE WRITER

So, what do you do when you're faced with a nasty divorce, as well as the poorly-timed decision to dissolve the band that you've been a part of for nearly ten years? If you're James Dewees, you take your part-time project, Reggie and the Full Effect, into the studio and record one of the best rock albums of the year.

The affectionately titled album, *Songs Not To Get Married To*, can best be described as a progressive fusion of everything from heavy metal screaming to pop-rock ballads. Inspired by the emo-infused sound that brought his former band The Get-Up Kids international fame, this new album marks a more mature and diversified musical style for Dewees.

This isn't to say that *Songs Not To Get Married To* doesn't have the tongue-in-cheek humour that has long been a staple in previous Reggie albums. But while older albums were filled with 'special appearances' by Dewees's alternate musical personas, this album only features a few of these silly songs left to the end of track list.

Overall, the latest effort from Reggie and the Full Effect illustrates not only how music can serve a therapeutic purpose for the artist, but also reaffirms the old saying, that sometimes change is welcome. ■



Transported: the good, the bad, and the Audi

***Transporter 2* now playing**

by Simon Underwood
CULTURE EDITOR

Just as unknown numbers of desperate, predominantly African-American refugees gathered at the Superdome in New Orleans and waited in vain for the buses, 74 anonymous Vancouverites communed at the Paramount theatre and waited for *Transporter 2* to begin. There is no necessary correlation or conclusion to be drawn from these simultaneous events, just the unfortunate irony underwriting the qualitative assessments to be made sporadically throughout this review. Tragedy, while tragic, is never able to bring the first-world citizens of earth to a total standstill; the mundane becomes a welcome reprieve, and so we fold as much laundry as we can in front of the television until the news clips start to loop again and it seems we've done enough. But unlike Condoleeza Rice, we are *not* the Secretary of State of the United States, and unlike Ms. Rice, our job *is* to purchase strappy sandals in the midst of a state of emergency, or in my case, to buy a ticket to *Transporter 2* on an other-wise monochromatic Saturday afternoon.

Even so, I'd like to think those shoes distracted Ms. Rice more than Luc Besson's sequel did me. As the feature presentation began I honestly thought that a mistake had been made and that we were going to have to sit through another car commercial, but it turned out that Mr. Besson was merely introducing the star of the film, a four-door Audi sedan gleaming like a trans-human phallus. Clearly Mr. Besson is smitten, but I felt sorry for the plexiglass Ford police cars left slain by the wayside, the Audi's 6 cylinders simultaneously emasculating and eviscerating the flaccid North American auto industry. If only Besson loved the star of the film as much as his wheels. Jason Statham, former Olympic swimmer and as penis-like as the Audi, is an imposing lead—if I ever saw him coming after me full sprint I would empty my bowels and plead to be his bitch. But Besson seems to think that a stern, fixed facial expression will somehow make Statham some kind of hypermasculine hero—he's really just a stiff in a suit.

And all he does is move shit. Money, viral cures, little European boys; whatever shows up in the back seat with a destination. Slumming it as a chauffeur for a few months, Statham starts getting harassed by this Euro-trash dude and his heroin-chic henchwoman who want to infect his young charge with a contagious virus. So Statham has to drive his car around for several circuits to find the antidote which looks suspiciously like grape juice. It was all very stultifying, and I couldn t help but let my mind wander back to the Big Easy and all the folks still waiting for a ride. Although *Transporter 2* is auspiciously European, and while the automobile seems to belong to a distinctly American ethos of individualism, the film still manages to bridge the Atlantic divide; Besson's few black characters are either white-ho-corrupting thugs or materialistic Jamaicans. Sometimes white people can't stop seeing black people as stock characters. Check it, Condoleeza. ■

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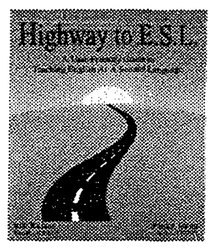

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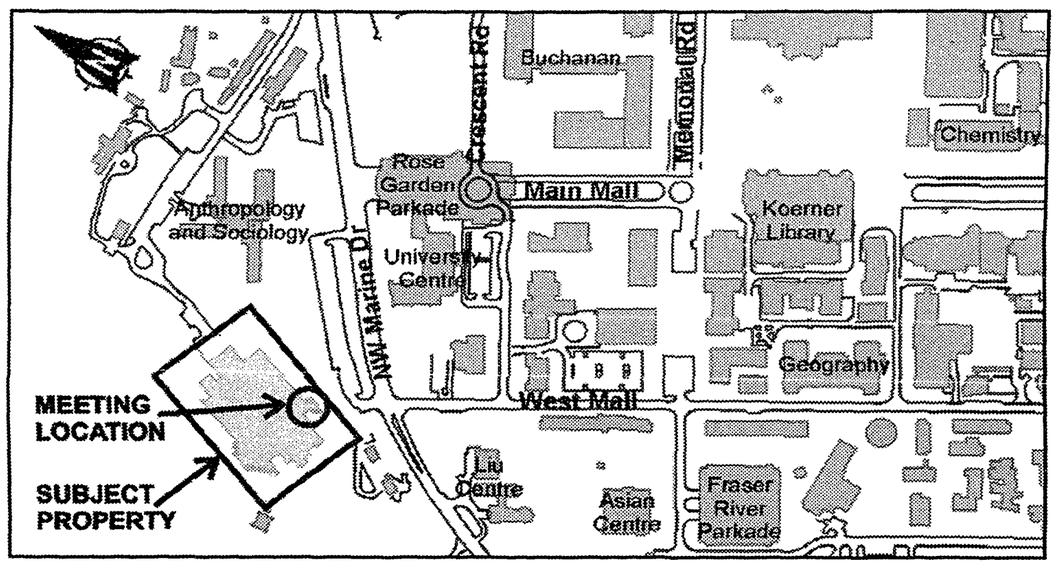

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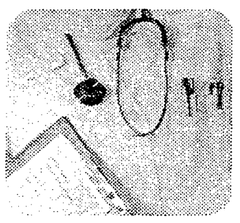
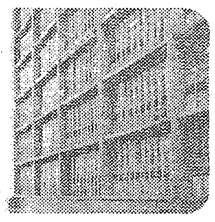


OMSAS www.ouac.on.ca/omsas/
Ontario Medical School Application Service
September 15, 2005: Last day for registering for on-line applications
October 3, 2005: Application Deadline

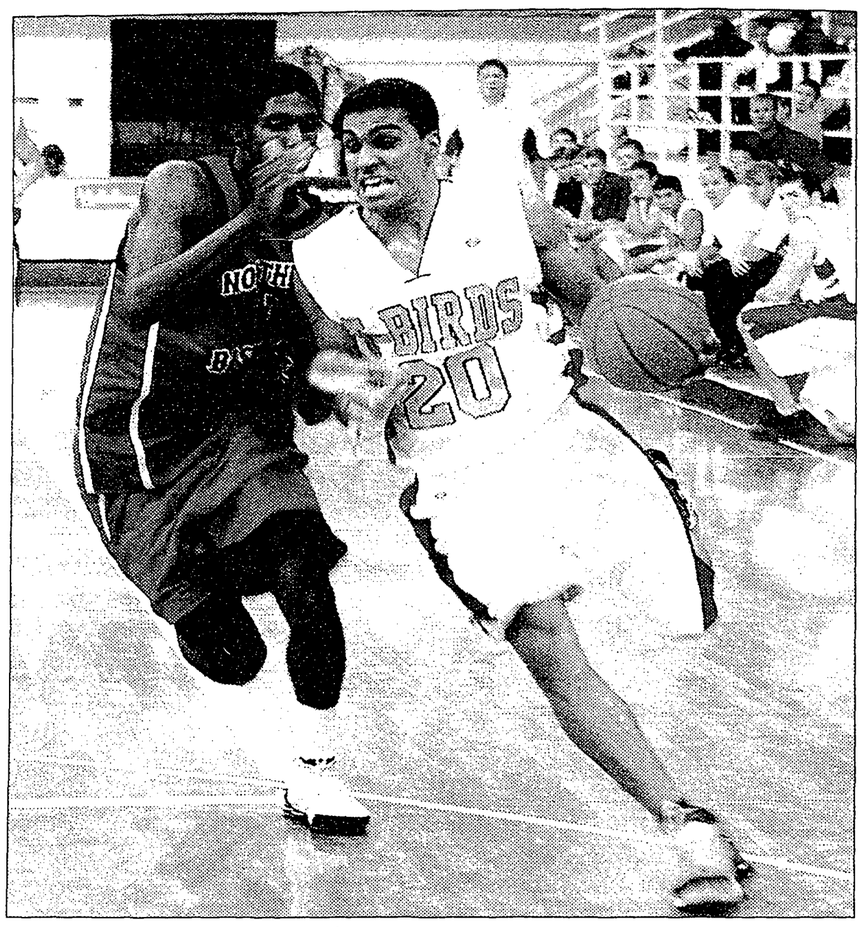


www.ouac.on.ca/olsas/ **OLSAS**
Ontario Law School Application Service
November 1, 2005: Application deadline – First year
May 1, 2006: Application deadline – Upper years

TEAS www.ouac.on.ca/teas/
Teacher Education Application Service
December 1, 2005: Application deadline

www.ouac.on.ca/orpas/ **ORPAS**
Ontario Rehabilitation Sciences Programs Application Service
(Audiology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy/Physiotherapy, Speech-Language Pathology)
January 16, 2006: Application deadline

ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES' APPLICATION CENTRE
CENTRE DE DEMANDE D'ADMISSION AUX UNIVERSITÉS DE L'ONTARIO
170 Research Lane
Guelph ON N1G 5E2
http://centre.ouac.on.ca



PSSST... Bains gets the secrets of the game. **YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO**

BIRD DROPPINGS

NHL draft pick joins UBC

Goaltender Jeff Weber will add his name to the UBC men's ice hockey roster. Weber was an eighth-round selection of the Buffalo Sabres in 2003. Weber joins Kyle Bruce and Adam Taylor to become the third drafted player on the UBC hockey team. Lacing up for the Thunderbirds, Weber is part of the lineup for Thursday's game against the Canuck prospects.

Women forwards rise above

UBC women's basketball has two new players for the 2005/2006 season. Forwards Leanne Evans, a transfer from Southeast Missouri State and Katie Ward, formerly of Illinois State, join UBC to help create one of the strongest forward line-ups UBC has seen in a long time.

Along with the men's basketball team, the women's team is also gaining height. Evans measures up at 6'2" and Ward is currently the tallest female player in UBC history at 6'6". As a member of the Canadian junior national team Evan helped the team win the bronze and qualify for the world junior championships. Ward's two-inch growth spurt during her time at Illinois State and the dedication that gained her provincial all-star status in high school are sure to benefit her performance as part of the UBC team.

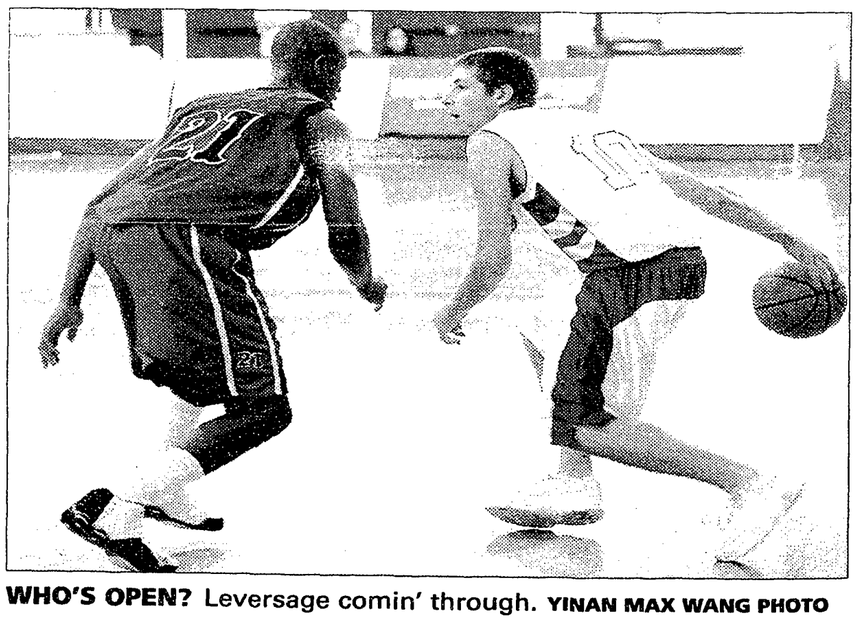
Team Gets Taller

Matthias Dockner joins the UBC men's basketball team this season to play as a forward. Dockner previously played basketball in Austria but did not receive any money or financial assistance while playing; therefore Dockner escapes the professional participation rules and is entering his first year of CIS eligibility. The average height of the basketball team is 6'4", an increase of two inches, due to the new additions of Dockner, 6'8", and Sean Stewart, 6'6".

Hardware from Turkey

The World University Games in Izmir, Turkey came to a close on August 21, 2005. Throughout the course of the games, Team Canada managed to win a total of 12 medals. The medal count included three gold medals, six silver medals and three bronze medals.

Canada excelled in the fields of swimming and wrestling, where three and six medals were won respectively. UBC's Lyndsay Belisle brought home a silver medal in the women's 51kg freestyle wrestling. The men's basketball team lost 81-75 against Australia in their final game. Scoring eleven points in the tournament finale, UBC guard Pasha Bains helped the men's basketball team to their eighth place finish.



WHO'S OPEN? Leversage comin' through. **YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO**

Wrestling traffic to become a champion

Lyndsay Belisle's hard work pays off in Turkey

by Megan Smyth
SPORTS EDITOR

Even though UBC doesn't have a varsity wrestling team, the university is still well represented by powerhouse Lyndsay Belisle. Although Belisle is not able to train at UBC, she is still able to represent her school on the international stage.

Belisle recently returned from competing in the 51kg women's freestyle wrestling event at the World University Games in Izmir, Turkey.

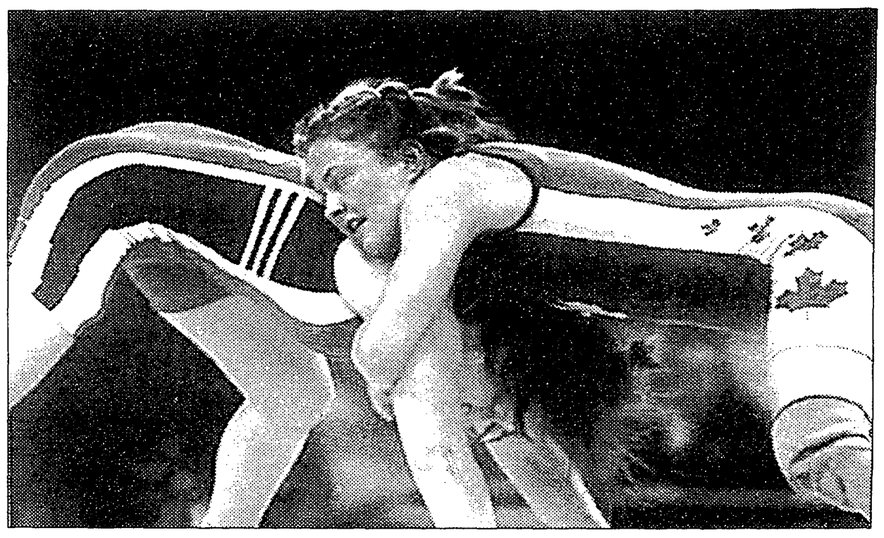
"The Turkish people were probably the friendliest people I've ever met in my life," says Belisle on her experiences at the competition. Belisle feels she was able to enjoy the recent competitive experience in Turkey because "the games were very well organised." The fact that "it was a university games, which means there are younger competitors," also helps to reduce the stress of the event ,she adds. As this was also Belisle's third World University Games, she was already used to the routine and atmosphere of the competition.

This year the games brought new memories and experiences for the competitive wrestler. "It may not be my favorite memory, but I went to a Turkish bath. It was a pretty bizarre experience," recalls Belisle. After modestly stating that she "wrestled a pretty good tournament," it's pretty safe to say that Belisle created another lifelong memory by bringing home a silver medal from Turkey.

Belisle did not become involved in wrestling until her senior year of high school. "We had a wrestling unit in Phys Ed class; I tried it, and I liked it and I was good at it," she remembers. Since then Belisle has put in eleven years on the competitive circuit. Because UBC does not have a varsity wrestling team, Belisle must train at SFU; but as she is a UBC student she cannot be a member of their varsity team. Over the years this hasn't caused problems or been a deterrent for Belisle. "The location of the schools is what makes things difficult. The commute is hard. I go to class during the day at UBC, and then race across to the other side of the city to train at SFU," says Belisle.

The biggest challenge for Belisle hasn't been the geographical distance between her classes at UBC and her training centre at SFU, but has been finding time to make enough money to pay all the bills. "When you're training all the time and going to school, you don't have time for a job," explains Belisle.

The strong competitive spirit in Belisle has driven her through these obstacles; none have stopped her from wrestling in many of the top international competitions. Belisle's past achievements have included placing fourth at the World Championships in 2001 and 2002, winning the silver medal at the 2003 Pan American Championships and competing in the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece.



HEADLOCK: I'll never let you go. PHOTO CURTESY OF LYNDSAY BELISLE

Life never slows down for Belisle. Less than two weeks after returning from the World University Games in Turkey, Belisle is getting ready for her next challenge: the practicum she must complete as part of the UBC education program.

"I'm still going to be training and competing, but my coaches know that I'm in my practicum and I might have to ease off training," states Belisle. As for what the future holds, "right now I'm at the stage where I'm taking it year by year," she says.

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Events Calendar

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
The Main Event Carnival
3:00 - 5:00 PM @ Koerner Plaza free admission
Featuring club booths, games and food, and stage performances.

UBC Improv's "Residence Regatta"
7:00 - 9:00 PM @ Totem Park Ballroom $2.00 / free with Firstweek wristband
Some of campus' funniest people in their first improv show of the year.

Comedy Night
10:00 PM - Midnight @ The Norm Theatre, SUB
$4.00 / free with Firstweek wristband
5 of the best young comics from around Vancouver.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
Guest Speaker - George Stroumbolopolous
7:00 PM @ Totem Park Ballroom $3.00 / free with Firstweek wristband
One of MuchMusic's most popular hosts, he recently left for The Hour, CBC's new hour-long news magazine.

All Ages Pool Party
9:00 PM - Midnight $3.00 / free with Firstweek wristband
A splash! A giant group of people partying in a pool to beats from CiTR DJs!

First Pit Night
Pit Pub, SUB $2.00 / free with UBC student card
A Firstweek classic - partying downstairs in the Pit and upstairs in the Partyroom/Courtyard. . Your UBC student card gets you free cover at the Pit. Last year, the lineup for Pit Night started shortly after lunch.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
UBC Improv Night
9:00 - 11:00 PM @ Scarfe 100 $2.00 / free with Firstweek wristband
Head down to Scarfe, the birthplace of UBC Improv, for an evening of bedtime stories unlike any you've heard before.

Candlelight Series featuring Buck 65
Doors at 7:00 PM @ Pit Pub, SUB $7.00 / free with Firstweek wristband
Indie sensation Buck 65 plays an intimate, acoustic show in the birthplace of intimacy, the Pit. 19+, Two pieces of Government ID required for entry.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
Open SUB Night $10.00 / free with Firstweek wristband
A years' worth of crazy fun crammed into one building.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
Metric with special guests Elizabeth and Columbus
Doors @ 8 PM - Pit Pub, SUB $12 advance, $15 at the door
Tickets at The Outpost in the SUB. 19+, 2 pieces of government ID are requried for entrance.

Did you know?

Concerned about Tuition and Access?

Do you know all there is to know about your tuition and student fees? Want to get involved in campaigns to keep university education affordable and accessibly? Check out a new AMS website: **www.studentsforbc.ca** - an online bank of information and resources about post-secondary education in BC.

Datebook

Budgeting Blues? Tuition Troubles?

Confused about how to pay for tuition, housing, food, books and still find money for fun? Want to learn how to budget effectively? Check out AMS Financial Awareness Days, featuring speakers on a broad range of topics specifically targeted at student finances. Presenters include the World Financial Group, UBC Student Financial Assistance & Awards, and the Credit Counselling Society of BC. Coming to the SUB October 3 - 5!

Service Groups Briefs

Get Involved! Volunteer for Shinerama

Shine Day, September 10
Shine Shoes and make new campus friends while raising funds for Cystic Fibrosis Research. Sign-up at: ams.ubc.ca/shinerama

Can't come to Shine Day? There are other volunteer opportunities:
Sept. 3rd & 4th: 5 volunteers needed for each day from 11:30am-4pm to sell 50/50 tickets at the NCAA Basketball Games.
Sept. 6-9: 2 volunteers needed each day to be at the Shinerama booth in the SUB to sell UBC football tickets, 11am-3pm; 2 volunteers each day to hand out AMS Insiders and promoting Shinerama on campus 11am-3pm.
Sept. 9: As many volunteers as possible to shine shoes in teams around campus and downtown. 15 volunteers from 5:30-10pm to help out at the football game doing various tasks, and 20 volunteers at the SUB from 4-8pm and 8-12pm to help with Open SUB Night.
To volunteer contact: 604.822.9268

AMS Food Bank

The AMS Foodbank is located in SUB 58 re-opening for business in September, Thursdays from noon to 3pm.
All UBC students are welcome to use the Food Bank by showing a valid student ID card. It offers dry goods, non-perishable groceries and often hygienic supplies as well. An emergency only service for students during a time of crisis, we ask that users limit themselves to one bag of groceries for individuals to make sure food is available for everyone who needs it. There is a limit of 8 visits per family per semester. Staff will provide referrals to other Lower Mainland foodbanks and sources of financial assistance if these limits are not meeting your needs. We will not turn anyone away and want to help.
Donations of non-perishable goods will also be accepted during operating hours. Please give generously.
Operated by volunteers from the Ismaili Students Association and the Red Cross Club

Sexual Assault Support Centre Reopens

The AMS' Sexual Assault Support Centre will be re-opening its doors on September 6 in SUB 119A&B with expanded services including: full-time staffed drop-in hours, 1-1 feminist counselling to survivors and their support people, and education/awareness activities. It is also developing a resource area.

Executive Briefs

AMS Budget for 2005/06

The Budget for 2005/06 has been approved by AMS Council. Check out its Highlights below - the complete budget is available online at www.ams.ubc.ca/budget. If you have any concerns you can contact the AMS VP Finance Kevin Keystone at vpfinance@ams.ubc.ca.

2005/06 Alma Mater Society Budget Highlights

	2004-2005 Budget	2004-2005 Actual	Over (Under)	2005-2006 Budget
REVENUE				
AMS Student Fees	2,812,000	2,875,725	263,725	2,951,000
AMS Pass Through Fees*	6,152,000	6,505,333	453,333	6,717,000
Operating Revenues	905,000	981,716	76,716	970,000
Sponsorship Revenues	170,000	156,562	(13,438)	7,700
TOTAL REVENUE	10,039,000	10,619,336	580,336	10,645,700
TRANSFERS				
Non-Discretinary Transfers	8,245,400	8,752,821	507,421	8,917,500
Discretionary Transfers	100,000	202,000	102,000	-
Contingency	84,680	-	(84,680)	86,410
TOTAL TRANSFERS	8,430,080	8,954,821	524,741	9,003,910
WITHDRAWALS FROM FUNDS				
Replenished Funds	(114,000)	(114,000)		(143,295)
Non-Replenished Funds	-	-		(27,338)
TOTAL WITHDRAWALS FROM FUNDS	(114,000)	(114,000)	-	(170,000)
TOTAL DISCRETIONARY INCOME	1,608,920	1,664,515	55,595	1,641,790
EXPENDITURES				
Administration Office	512,000	510,329	(1,671)	515,300
Student Government	532,012	580,039	48,026	572,561
Student Services	327,596	325,145	(2,453)	300,879
Programs & Publications	348,392	359,680	11,288	415,898
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,720,002	1,775,193	55,191	1,804,638
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	2,918	3,322	404	7,785
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	13,714	14,118		21,903

*AMS Pass Through Fees are collected by the AMS and immediately remitted to other organizations (i.e. Undergraduate/Graduate Societies and AMS Health & Dental Plan Provider. These are not part of the AMS Operating Budget.

Field hockey star takes on Aussies

Stephanie Quinn makes the national team

by Onkarbir Toor
SPORTS WRITER

The UBC Thunderbirds women's field hockey team went undefeated last season and deservedly won the CIS championships. In the finals, they blanked the UVIC Vikes 3-0. Stephanie Quinn was the best player in the final, scoring a brace. She was named to the All-Canadian team for the second time in her career. Along with Tiffany Michaluk, Devon Bromley, Jennifer Tait, Stephanie Jameson, and Kathryn MacPherson, Quinn forms an attacking combination which opposing teams dread to face.

Quinn says "This season was probably the best season, [we] went undefeated, a good group of girls, helps us to play well."

Recently, Quinn was selected to represent Canada against the visiting Australian women's field hockey team. It was a great feeling for Quinn. "I was so excited. I couldn't believe it. It came as a bit of surprise, especially to play against Australia, a very good team. They were ranked third in the world when we played them," says Quinn.

Playing on a bigger stage was a great experience for Quinn. "I guess it was exciting and nerve wracking at the same time. There was sort of no chance to think. The pace was something to get used to, for sure," she recalls.

A graduate from Kitsilano High School (1999), Quinn recently completed her bachelor's degree in Human Kinetics at UBC and is presently studying with Canadian Securities. "In the future, I would like to become a financial advisor," she says.

Quinn got into field hockey at an early age. "My uncle coached an Under-10 team at Trafalgar Park. My cousin was playing too. I played and just loved it and kept on going," she remembers.

Quinn got a lot of support from her parents and friends. "I guess my parents always supported me in whatever I did. They never pushed me into things. Friends have always understood when I need to go away [for playing]," she says. Stephanie Jameson, Stephanie Hume and Leslie Magnus, other members of the UBC women's field hockey team have been of great help to Quinn. She feels that teammates become really close friends.

About the coaching success of Hash Kanjee, Quinn says "I think he has been extremely successful and I think he has got a winning formula which combines physical fitness, tactics, defending strength and a strong tradition of the program."

Hash believes Quinn is like a role model. "She is definitely one of the best on the team and has contributed to [UBC's] success. She has one more year [to play for UBC]. I would love to take her back on the team. She has been playing great. She has chosen to go to Germany to play for six weeks. She is a very good field hockey player and with hard work, she could be a very good forward. She has got a lot of talent, and a lot of ability, " Hash says.

Quinn has had her hard times too. "I guess anytime I haven't been selected is a hard time. It affects your confidence. You have to look and find other perspectives. You can't hold on to [negative experiences] too tightly, otherwise it really affects you," she says.

SMOOTH HANDLING: Quinn takes control of the ball. RICHARD LAM/ UBC ATHLETICS PHOTO

Quinn believes UBC should do more to promote field hockey as a sport. "Maybe if we created an intramural program at UBC, more students will play at the recreational level and they may take an interest [in field hockey]," she says.

UBC has just received a new field hockey turf. This is a good step to promote field hockey. However, the turf has its shortcomings too. "Unfortunately the turf wasn't laid very flat. There were a lot of bumps. We definitely need a second turf with water fountains and washrooms" Quinn says.

Besides field hockey, Quinn likes yoga, travelling and experiencing the outdoors. When it comes to other field hockey positions she hates playing defense. On the field her strengths include her speed, perseverance and her work ethic.

Quinn admires Silken Laumann, the Canadian rower who has shown grace and determination during her years in the competitive spotlight.

Quinn has had an amazing season and this is just the beginning. She is a strong player and a very soft-spoken person. Achieving a spot on the national team is definitely a milestone in her career; it adds another feather to her cap. If she keeps on her high note, one day she might be recognised with an Olympic gold medal hanging on her neck.

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AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan 2005 / 2006

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6138 SUB Boulevard, Vancouver, BC
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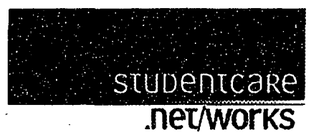
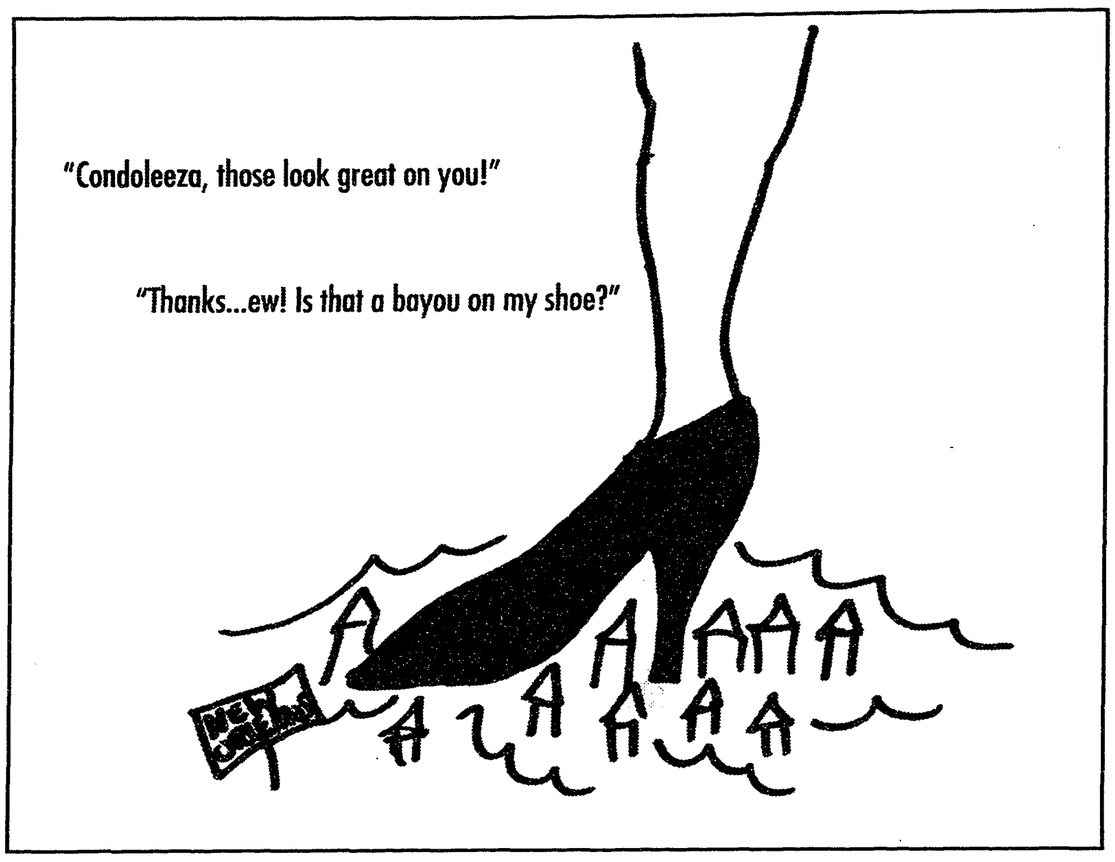


US administration: unacceptable

Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina worsened by Bush's negligence



It's been one week since Hurricane Katrina devastated the city of New Orleans. One week, and still there are thousands of survivors waiting to be rescued, thousands of bodies waiting to be recovered and thousands more to whom life as they as they once knew it seems only a distant dream. One week for incredible stories of altruism, goodwill, and compassion to emerge from the beneath the rubble, and one same week for any of these individual acts of goodwill to be overwhelmed by an administrative failure of the highest order. While no one can control the weather—especially at its most frightening extremes—unpredictable actions on the part of the elements can and must be minimised and mitigated through conscientious preparation, planning, and infrastructure, whether in structural or bureaucratic form.

It is this negligence—this grave failure—on the part of the Bush administration that has turned a story from one about a natural disaster into a profoundly depressing chronicle of man's inhumanity to his fellow man. But we're not talking about the 'looting', the 'pillaging,' or the 'survivalist' tactics undertaken by disenfranchised, dislocated citizens (labels that seem suspiciously dependent on the colour of the person in question's skin). The inhumanity that concerns us most is that taken by the Bush Administration toward its most vulnerable and impoverished citizens; the moral failure of an administration unable to fulfill its most basic duty, and indeed the very duty upon which an entire election was fought, won, and lost. We predicated our case on the following.

In 2001, *Scientific American* warned that the New Orleans levees were woefully inadequate, stating that the city did not have adequate evacuation routes or procedures ready for its citizens in the case of a likely emergency. A Pulitzer Prize-winning report published a year later by a local newspaper sounded the same warning. In 2004, the US Army Corps of Engineers Hurricane Project requested $11 million dollars for upgrades to levees that would have protected residents from surges in Lake Pontchartrain. The project received $5.5 million. The following year, the US army corps requested $22.5 million but received a meagre $5.5 million. The Bush Administration was slated to allot $3 million for 2006. A 44 per cent decrease in funding for construction projects over the past four years has now left thousands stranded and thousands feared dead in Louisiana. The list goes on.

It seems that everybody knew New Orleans was under prepared for a serious emergency situation and yet nothing was done. And let's face it: the changes that needed to be made were expensive. They were not within the reach of the New Orleans civic government, nor the Louisiana state government—mired in cronyism, and totally broke to boot. Yet instead of the Bush administration increasing funding to help prepare New Orleans in times of disaster, funding was cut and funneled into other areas.

One of these areas was indubitably Iraq. President Bush has allocated over $200 billion since 2003 to fight the "War" on Iraq. It doesn't take a mathmagician, nor an English honours student well versed in high irony to figure out that this funding that could have otherwise been diverted into critical domestic infrastructure, but was instead spent to destroy the infrastructure of *another* country.

Unfortunately one of the critical components of disaster relief and the restoration of civil order is manpower, the ability to bring responsible security to zones where the social fabric has disintegrated. Usually this job is left to the National Guard. But where were those fine young Louisiana guardsmen waiting to come to their state's rescue? You guessed it—Iraq! Or in full-submersion combat: Jackson Barracks, located just south of the French Quarter is home to the Louisiana National Guard, and is currently still under about 12 feet of water.

Republicans are skilled in playing a zero-sum game; in this case they gambled, and in this case they lost; the available National Guardsman were lost in the post-hurricane chaos in which timeliness was most critical.

Hurricane Katrina was not a surprise terrorist attack; the hurricane's path and the damage it would likely cause were known long before the storm reached the Cajun Coast. Authorities were able to realise the wisdom in evacuation but for some reason they didn't think it necessary to adequately prepare relief efforts. Effective preparation and planning would have ensured that medical supplies and food reached beleaguered residents rather than the anarchy and continued misery that now plagues the New Orleans. To be fair, a massive relief effort cannot be mobilised overnight. But if the danger is predicted and confirmed in advance, why wait until it strikes to mobilise? Much has been said about the inability of the poverty-line population of New Orleans to afford their own evacuation. Mobility costs money: Evacuation vehicles should have been provided days before the destruction. Barges could have been directed towards the area to rescue those stranded by the flooding. Relief centres could have been pre-prepared for those not evacuated in time. But nothing was done until far too late, and the Bush administration is left with a tragedy that will leave a mark on at least a generation of Cajun Coast inhabitants. ■

LETTERS

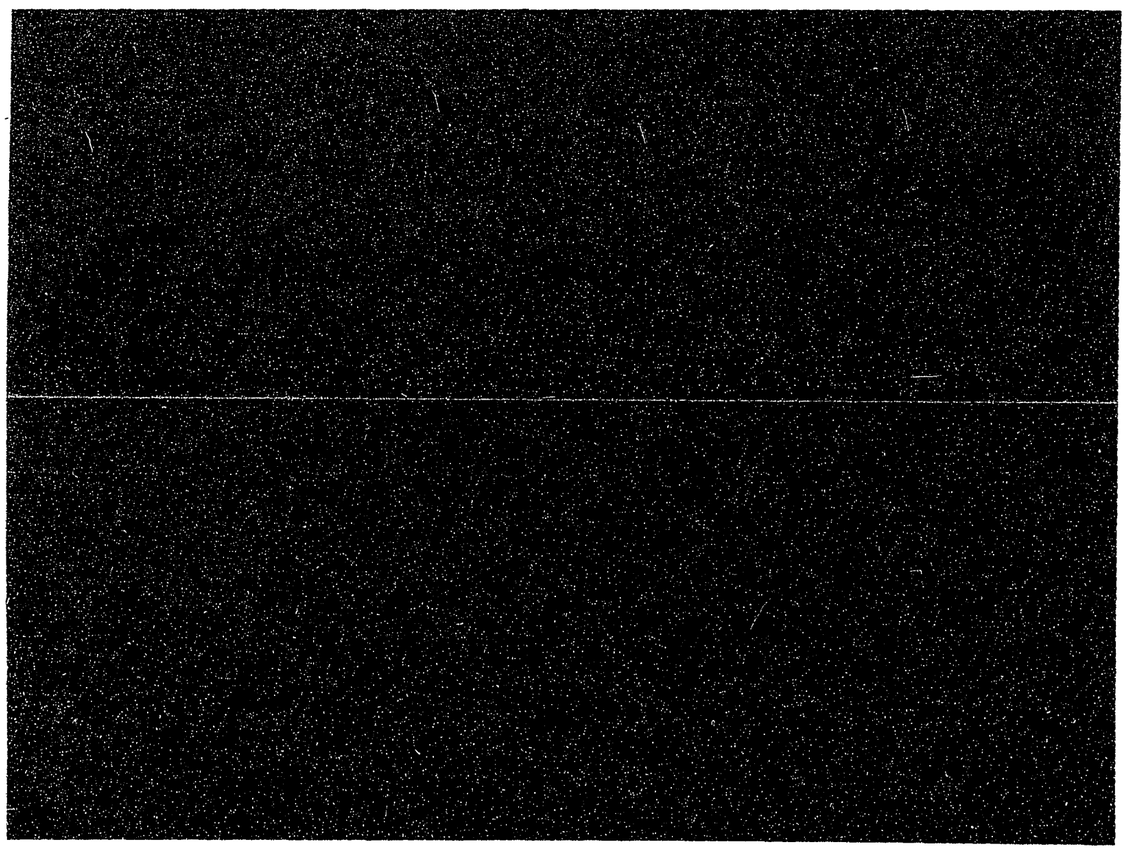
Just say no to unfair drug laws

If outspoken Canadian marijuana activist and seed entrepreneur Marc Emery is guilty of anything, it's telling the truth about marijuana prohibition. Canada is now faced with choosing between its sovereignty and US President George W. Bush's punitive culture war.

If health outcomes determined drug laws instead of cultural norms, marijuana would be legal. And if harsh penalties deterred consensual vices, the United States would be a "drug-free" country.

The University of Michigan's *Monitoring the Future* study reports that lifetime use of marijuana is higher in the United States than any European country, yet the US is one of the few western countries that uses its criminal justice system to punish citizens who prefer marijuana to martinis. Students who want to help Canada "Just Say No to the American Inquisition" should contact Students for Sensible Drug Policy at www.ssdp.org."

—Robert Sharpe, MPA
Policy Analyst
Washington, DC



STREETERS

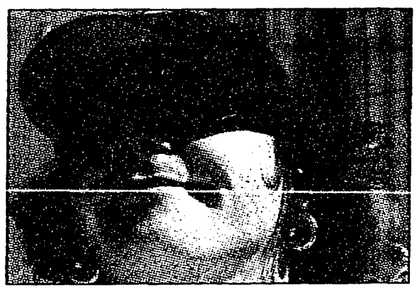
HOW WELL DID THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION HANDLE THE AFTERMATH OF THE HURRICANE KATRINA?

"I don't know too much about it. I guess they didn't get around to getting people out quick enough. They should have pulled the army out of Iraq to help."

—Ben Holzman
Engineering

"I wouldn't want [Bush's] job for anything. It's too easy to criticize."

—Peter Thompson
Arts Alumni

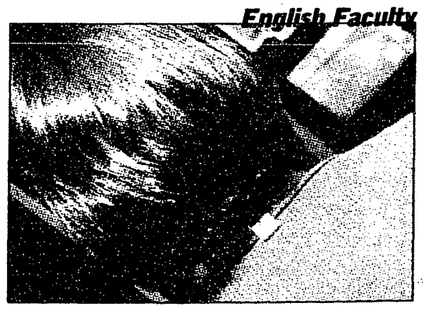


"I guess they didn't handle it too well. There is not enough disposable army power in the US right now—they are all in Iraq."

—Scott MacLellan
Construction Worker

"Not very well at all. I think the Bush Administration has presided over the decay of infrastructure in the south in general, and New Orleans in particular. They have transferred their resources overseas."

—Michael Zeitlin
English Faculty



"I don't think they handled it very well. The response didn't seem that quick. There were lots of people complaining on the TV."

—Parveen Grewal
Science

Birds bowl over Matadors in basketball tune-up

by Bobby Huang
SPORTS WRITER

The beginning of a new school year always promises unbridled potential for students. The beginning of a men's varsity basketball year promises this and then some.

Last year ended on a sour note for the T-Birds, as they bowed out in a 2-0 pacific division final series loss to the Victoria Vikes. UBC hopes to erase those memories with an extended playoff run this season that will hopefully culminate in a trip to Halifax to play for the CIS championship.

To accomplish this lofty goal, the revamped hoop squad will have to do it without several key members of last year's squad. Gone are starters Karlo Villaneuva, Mark Tasic, and Peter Wauthy. However, the addition of two former Triple A MVPs in the name of guards Pasha Bains and Chad Clifford, should ease the loss of those three starters.

The quest for a CIS title began this past weekend at War Memorial Gym as UBC kicked off their exhibition schedule with two games against NCAA Division 1 opponents. The T-Birds suffered a 90-74 loss at the hands of the veteran-laden University of Colorado team on Saturday, but rebounded with an 85-61 romp over the Cal State Northridge Matadors on Sunday afternoon.

UBC dominated the opening minutes of the game, jumping out to an early lead that they never relinquished.

Just when it looked like the Matadors were building some momentum by cutting the UBC lead to 41-30 at halftime, the sharp shooting Casey Archibald shot a dagger into any hopes of a Matador comeback by draining a three-pointer in the opening minute of the second half.

Archibald, a fourth-year guard, led all scorers with 18 points, followed by 13 points from two-time CIS scoring champion Pasha Bains.

"Pasha and Casey play great together," said UBC head coach Kevin Hanson. "They're looking for each other now, but we have to be careful that our team doesn't stop playing when those two guys have the basketball. We want to get away from relying on one or two scorers and move towards being a well-rounded scoring team."

Every player in the UBC lineup scored at least two points, including point guard Jordan Yu whose outstanding 11 assists proved his readiness to fill the starting role.

Spearheaded by Yu, the T-Birds' high-tempo transition offence exploited the Matador team that turned over the ball 21 times. The end result gave UBC a 24 point difference over the Matadors.

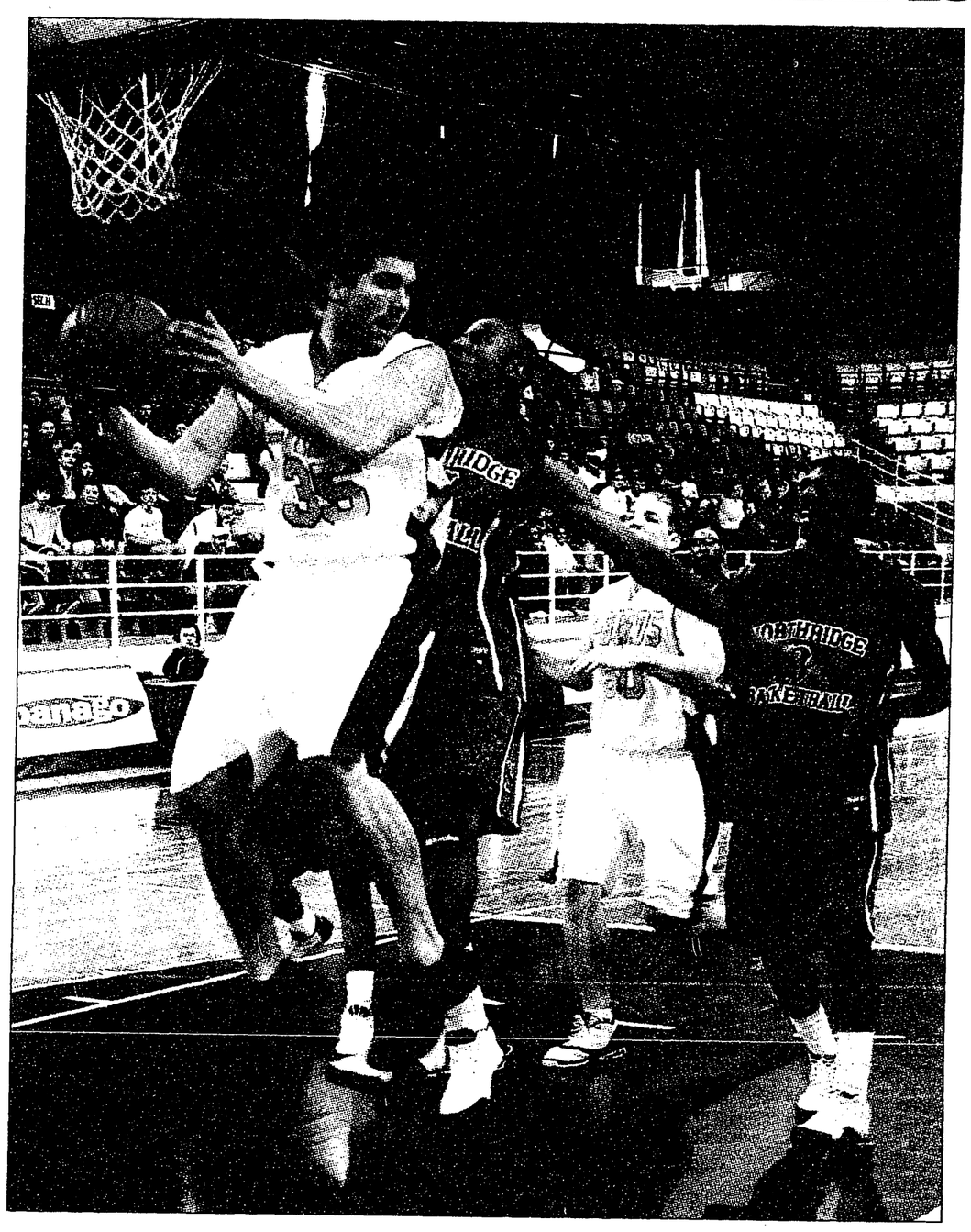
At times, many of the UBC players appeared confused and disoriented on the floor, symptomatic of a team still trying to find the right chemistry after practicing for only a brief time.

"We'll probably start nine or ten different guys over the course of the season to find who's going to be playing well," continued Hanson. "We've got many different lineups that will play well together once they get used to playing with each other."

As nice as this win was, the sixth-year coach realises that the road to Halifax will be an uphill climb.

"Last year, we peaked early on, reached a plateau at Christmas time and played .500. This year the emphasis is to peak in March."

The T-Birds now enjoy an extended lay-off before opening the regular season at home against the Trinity Western Spartans on October 22.



DUNK TIME: UBC men's basketball player Chad Clifford heads for the net during Sunday's game against Cal State Northridge. YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO

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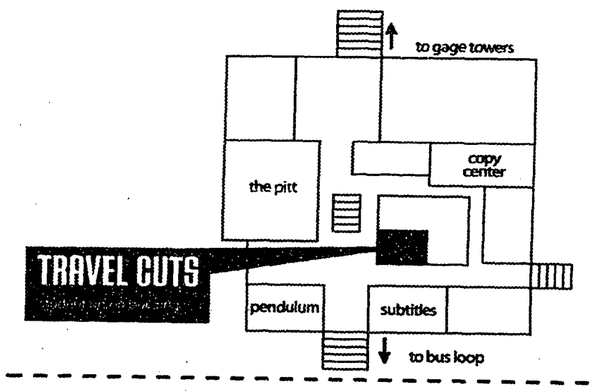

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