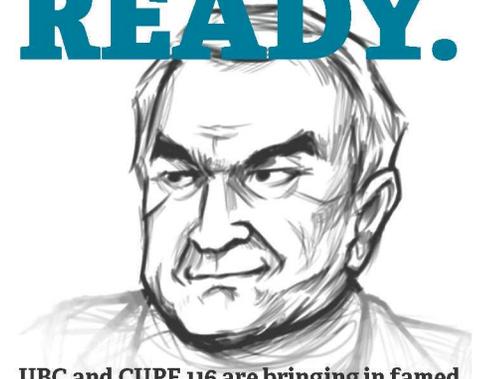




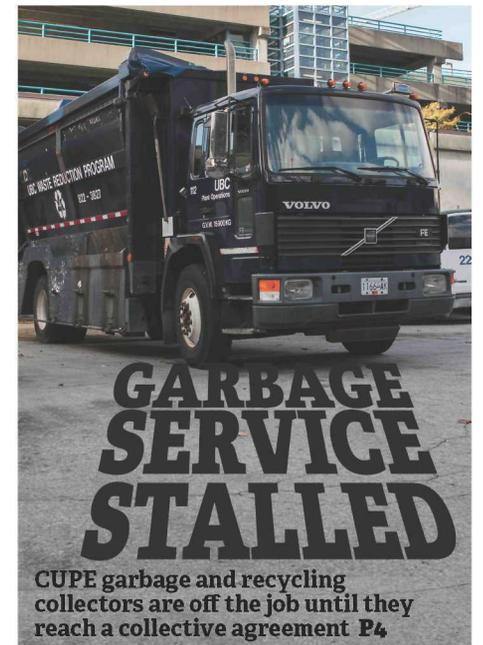
A new AMS report says UBC should be charging less for student housing P4

A THE UBYSSEY

CUPE. UBC. READY.



UBC and CUPE 116 are bringing in famed mediator Vince Ready for their next round of bargaining. Will it pay off? P4



CUPE garbage and recycling collectors are off the job until they reach a collective agreement P4



A new undergraduate lit mag hopes to get UBC poetry, prose and artwork in print P7

FIT 'BIRDS

Inside UBC's state-of-the-art weight training facility P5

What's on THIS WEEK, MAY WE SUGGEST...

18 THURSDAY **MUSIC »**



Open Mic: 9 p.m. @ the Gallery Lounge
Do you strum a guitar or scribble rap lyrics in your spare time? Want to show off your musical talents? Spread your wings at the Gallery's open mic night each Thursday.

19 FRIDAY **BZZR »**

Ghostbusters Beverage Garden: 7-10 p.m. @ the Norm
Beer + Ghostbusters = awesome times. The UBC Film Society is hosting their second beverage garden of the year. With games, prizes and an awesome costume contest, who wouldn't want to go? \$3-6.

20 SATURDAY **SPEAKER »**



The Mayan calendar and the end of the world: 8 p.m. @ H.R. MacMillan Space Centre
Have you ever wondered about the origin of all this "end of the world" business? UBC prof Marvin Cohoda will help put the impending end of the world in context as he discusses Mayan civilization.

21 SUNDAY **CONCERT »**

Festival of Survival @ Joe's Apartment
Interested in hearing some of Vancouver's homegrown musical talent? Check out the final night of this fest while enjoying some drinks over at Joe's. *Tickets \$12, 19+.*

22 MONDAY **SCIENCE »**



2012 Gairdner Foundation Symposium: 4-6 p.m. @ Life Sciences Centre
Join two prominent scientists and Canadian Gairdner Award recipients: William Kaelin from Harvard Medical School and Jeffrey Ravetch from Leonard Wagner Laboratory. *Free.*

Got an event you'd like to see on this page? Send your event and your best pitch to printeditor@ubyssey.ca.

THE UBYSSEY

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OUR CAMPUS
ONE ON ONE WITH THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE UBC



Manny Schneider at his post as supervisor at the Gallery Lounge.

Open mic Manny
Gallery Lounge home to globetrotting rap lyricist

Andrew Bates
Managing Editor, Web

Manny Schneider has been writing rap music since his early teens, but only now is he stepping onstage.

"I've been hiding CDs under my bed since I was young," said Schneider, who grew up in Switzerland and first learned to write in German. "I've been doing it for as long as I can remember, and definitely it's my dream to make it in the music world."

Schneider, 21, works full-time as a supervisor at the Gallery Lounge in the SUB, and can be seen on Wednesday open mic events rapping original lyrics on established instrumentals under the name Manny Cogeta. As a kid, Schneider moved across the world with his parents, who are both professors at UBC, when they picked up new assignments.

When he was 14, he moved from Basel, Switzerland to

Swansea, Wales, where he had to learn English. At first he would write his songs in German and transcribe them on the page.

"There was a lot of changes and stuff, moving around," Schneider said. "[Swansea is] a lot different than here. It's a lot smaller; it's a lot dirtier. The people are amazing. The humour is amazing."

His parents moved to Vancouver in 2006, when Schneider was 16. After he graduated, he did two years of general classes at Langara College. "I wanted to see if college was for me, you know?" he said. "I just took a bunch of random courses, all sorts, and it didn't really click."

Though his mother, who teaches Polish and German classes, and his father, who teaches Egyptology, didn't approve of his listening to rap when he was very young, they have been hugely

influential nonetheless.

"They taught me a lot, you know," he said. "They're the other side. My one influence is the rap world, which is a complete contrast to them, and then they balance the scale."

Schneider works shifts behind the counter in the Gallery from 1-9 p.m. and writes rap lyrics when he's on break. His YouTube channel, registered in March, has 15 videos. His one music video, shot and released in June, garnered 650 views.

Although he only performs at the Gallery right now, Schneider said he's going to be exploring open mic events elsewhere in Vancouver.

"I'm just getting some confidence at the Gallery," he said. "I like seeing people relate to what I'm saying, you know. It takes quite a lot out of you, putting those personal thoughts into songs. If you see people nodding and appreciating what you like, it's worth it."

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LABOUR »



KAI JACOBSON PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

Garbage collectors have been striking since Monday, and the CUPE 116 union won't put them back to work until a collective agreement is reached with UBC.

Garbage, mail workers pulled off the job

CUPE 116 says they'll keep striking until a contract is signed

Laura Rodgers
News Editor

CUPE 116 is no longer collecting garbage on the UBC campus as of this Monday, and the union says those employees won't go back to work until a collective agreement is signed. They also pulled campus mail employees off the job on Wednesday, until further notice.

The union has escalated its job action since Oct. 4, and two negotiation sessions are scheduled for this Friday and Saturday. The union has said they won't stop escalating job action until they get a contract with UBC.

"There were pickets affecting ... the people that collect the garbage from the big bins outside buildings, and compact the garbage, collect the recycling, do all that processing," said director of UBC Public Affairs Lucie McNeill. "There's no campus mail until further notice."

She said that managers have been tasked with picking up de-

partmental mail in the morning for the time being, but so far students in UBC residences have not been receiving any of their mail. Students in Totem, Vanier, Thunderbird, Marine Drive and Gage will have their mail delayed until the workers return to the job.

"Where necessary, UBC managers will be filling those struck positions in order to ensure that we don't end up with sanitation problems, rodent problems," McNeill said.

"Instead of doing management jobs, they basically go around and collect garbage ... I couldn't tell you if it's huge amounts of overtime for some people."

The strike also affects workers collecting recycling and compostable organic waste. Some residences have advised students to put organic waste into regular garbage bins, as organics collection is not being covered by managers. Custodians who collect trash

and clean inside buildings have returned to their jobs as of Monday morning, after striking last week and being off work over the weekend.

A works yard in South Campus with a trash compactor that serves as a hub for campus garbage trucks is being picketed, and the union says the pickets will keep going until they reach an agreement with the university.

"The employer's not happy, ... but we need to keep the pressure up, and that's what we're doing," said CUPE 116 President Colleen Garbe. "They can't get any outside contractors to come in or anything like that."

Garbe said mechanics, labourers and landscapers have also been pulled off their jobs.

"Needless to say, nobody's pulling weeds right now," said McNeill.

High-profile labour mediator Vince Ready will be presiding over the negotiation sessions on

Friday and Saturday. Both parties have expressed optimism about Ready's appointment.

When CUPE 116 issued their strike notice two weeks ago, there was an outstanding offer on the table from UBC. Garbe said that the offer wasn't satisfactory from the union's perspective and she hopes UBC will come back with a new offer that addresses their concerns.

"It [didn't] provide inflation protection, and there's no job security on the table," Garbe said.

McNeill says she isn't sure yet what UBC's position will be when the parties return to the bargaining table, but she hopes the talks will go smoothly.

"When the parties get back to the table, we'll have to determine on what basis we're resuming talks," said McNeill. "But the goal is still to achieve an agreement, and we'll be working very hard to that purpose." ☐

PLACES »

Arts students push for new space



ANDREW HOOD PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

The current AUS student space, MASS, is in the Buchanan building.

RJ Reid
Contributor

After campaigning for a new student space for the Faculty of Arts, Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) President Harsev Oshan, along with AUS VP Admin David Pasca, has started to move forward on his promise.

"We got the ball rolling by speaking to [AMS designer] Michael Kingsmill, who has mentored us on the project ever since the beginning of mid-summer, and we've made enormous progress so far," said Pasca.

Oshan said he has already presented a design of the building to the dean of Arts. The concept design currently entails a freestanding building with space for club storage, food services and merchandise, as well as areas for studying and guest lectures.

Pasca said the site for the space hasn't been finalized, but it could go on the west side of Buchanan A.

Oshan is aware of the recent difficulties that the Engineering Undergraduate Society (EUS) has had over control of their new student space. "Currently we have total control of MASS and we would like to have that," said Oshan. "But if engineering falls under that contract, it's going to be very hard for us to stand up to the university and say, no, we want the contract to be like this."

Vice-President Students Louise Cowan seemed to suggest that the AUS will run into similar issues as the EUS, saying, "While there is no formal policy of the university regarding this matter, the university does wish to take a consistent approach to the management of faculty student social spaces."

For now, Oshan and Pasca are focused on engaging students in a discussion about the new space and preparing for the referendum in February that will determine whether the Arts student body supports the building. "We need a referendum question to establish a student space fund," said Oshan.

The cost of the building is estimated at \$5.4 million, of which the AUS must raise \$2.5 million. "Right now as it stands, it's around \$42-46 a year per student if we're going to have it for five years. But we haven't really set in stone how much we will charge students," said Oshan.

Gul Arzu Gulsen, a second-year Arts student, sees the benefits to the space but is hesitant about the associated fee. "We have the SUB being built and that's already coming out of our pockets and I think we should take it one step at the time," she said.

Both Pasca and Oshan believe that the Arts student space is something worth investing in. "We do have 12,000 students who are under-represented on campus. They do not have a lot of space that is dedicated to them to study, to do their recreation, so we want to have a space that people can build a community around," said Pasca.

The referendum on the student space fund will be held from Feb. 4-15. ☐

NEWS BRIEFS

You can catch more fruit flies with high-calorie solutions

Fruit flies quickly learn to choose nutritious food over sweet food, a team of UBC researchers have found. The flies were presented with a variety of sugar solutions of varying sweetness and caloric content. While the flies initially preferred the sweeter solutions, they soon learned to go for the solutions that would provide more energy, even though they weren't as sweet.

The finding is interesting, according to the team, because it indicates that the flies are using a mechanism other than taste to determine the nutritional content of their food.

Panel stresses UBC earthquake preparedness

An earthquake preparedness symposium is being held at the Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability (CIRS) at 4 p.m. today. UBC experts will speak on a number of topics, including engineering for earthquake resistance, early warning systems, and how a major earthquake might affect Vancouver.

The symposium is being put on by ShakeOut BC, a province-wide earthquake preparedness program with counterparts in other Pacific Rim regions such as Alaska, California and Japan. ShakeOut BC is also holding an earthquake drill across the province at 10:18 a.m. today, although participating groups can choose to hold their drill any time within two weeks of today. ☐

TEACHING ASSISTANTS » TA union consults members, mulls possible strike

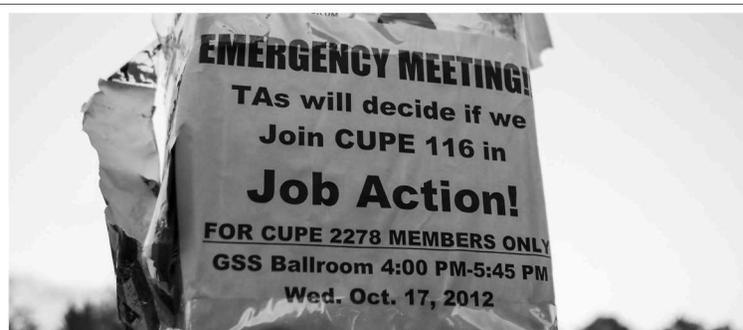
Laura Rodgers
News Editor

Negotiations with UBC aren't going well, and after an emergency meeting Wednesday, UBC teaching assistants (TAs) are still seriously considering a strike.

The TAs, represented by the CUPE 2278 union local, held a strike vote in March with 81 per cent of members voting in favour. They've been in mediation with UBC since the April exam period. When a talk held last Friday was adjourned by a mediator after an hour, the union decided to rally its members and consider what its next step would be.

"The bargaining team isn't fully satisfied with the offer that was presented and needed to speak with the membership to get a clear mandate on whether to go from there," said Trish Everett, CUPE 2278 communications director and a TA in the UBC theatre program.

Everett said that the university's latest offer doesn't address hiring preference for fifth-year Ph.D. students or third-year master's students, and it doesn't include the wage increase and tuition-protection clause the union had been asking for. The offer would give TAs two years of zero per cent wage increases, followed by a 1.5 per cent wage increase for both of the next two years.



KAI JACOBSON PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

Teaching assistants met Wednesday to discuss their next move, but will give their members another chance to vote next week about whether to begin a strike.

Everett explained that because the union is mostly composed of grad students, there's been fairly high turnover in membership year-to-year.

"[It is] probably a third of our members that weren't here for our strike vote in the spring," she said. "We want to make sure that they're being heard and their opinion matters before we make any major decisions."

She said that about 10 per cent of UBC TAs attended the Wednesday meeting. Those who attended gave the go-ahead for the union to hold a wider-scale vote early next week to determine whether they will strike, joining the UBC service and support workers of CUPE 116.

If the union opts for job action, they could make the decision to end mediation and serve the university with 72-hour strike notice at any time.

Director of UBC Public Affairs Lucie McNeill stressed that although tension is rising, neither the

university nor the union has decided to sever mediation yet. "Mediation is still ongoing, although people are not sitting at a table talking right now."

McNeill said she isn't sure what UBC's next step will be. "But as with all of our other union groups, we are in earnest [about] being at the table to achieve an agreement."

McNeill said that if CUPE 2278 opts to strike, it's possible that the university will give students and staff another window to decide whether or not they will opt to cross the TAs' picket lines.

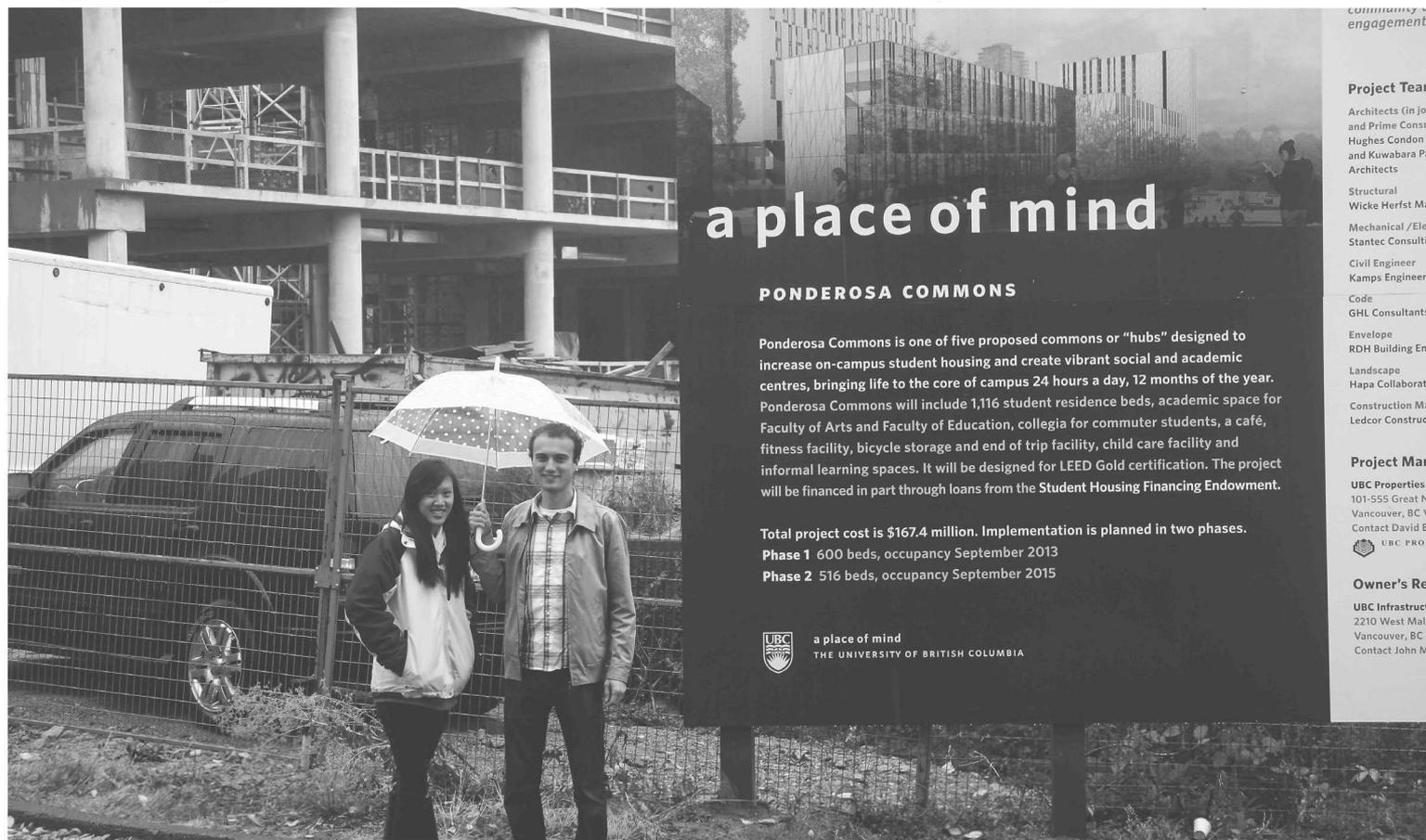
"It could very well be that students would have a new deadline by which time they would have to notify us whether or not they're planning to cross," she said.

Everett said that she was still unsure what the response will be from union members in next week's vote. "It's hard to predict because I only know what TAs I've been speaking with feel, and generally the tone at the meeting today," she said. ☐

RENT »

AMS criticizes high cost of student housing

Report argues UBC should take in less money from residence fees



a place of mind

PONDEROSA COMMONS

Ponderosa Commons is one of five proposed commons or "hubs" designed to increase on-campus student housing and create vibrant social and academic centres, bringing life to the core of campus 24 hours a day, 12 months of the year. Ponderosa Commons will include 1,116 student residence beds, academic space for Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Education, collegia for commuter students, a café, fitness facility, bicycle storage and end of trip facility, child care facility and informal learning spaces. It will be designed for LEED Gold certification. The project will be financed in part through loans from the Student Housing Financing Endowment.

Total project cost is \$167.4 million. Implementation is planned in two phases.

Phase 1 600 beds, occupancy September 2013

Phase 2 516 beds, occupancy September 2015

UBC a place of mind
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Community engagement

Project Team

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Structural: Wickie Herfst Mave

Mechanical / Electrical: Stantec Consulting

Civil Engineer: Kamps Engineering

Code: GHJ Consultants

Envelope: RDH Building Engrs

Landscape: Hapa Collaborative

Construction Manager: Ledcor Construction

Project Manager

UBC Properties Trust

101-555 Great North Road

Vancouver, BC V6G 1V6

Contact: David Eng

UBC PROPERTIES TRUST

LABOUR »

UBC and CUPE 116 call in high-profile mediator for this week's bargaining



HOGAN WONG PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

When CUPE 116 goes back to the bargaining table with UBC, they'll be joined by famed labour mediator Vince Ready.

Arno Rosenfeld
Staff Writer

When CUPE 116 and UBC go back to the bargaining table Friday, they'll be joined by a man widely considered the premier labour mediator in Canada.

The university announced today that they agreed to work with Vince Ready, an arbitrator who has received wide acclaim in his 30 years on the job mediating over 7,000 labour disputes.

"When there's an out-of-control labour dispute, Vince Ready more often than not is the superman who steps in and saves the day," read a *Vancouver Sun* profile in 2007, around the time Ready received the W.P. Kelly Award for lifetime achievement from the federal government.

Using a mediator other than Ready would be "like hiring someone you know is the third-best cardiac surgeon for your heart transplant," UBC business professor Mark Thompson told the *Sun*.

UBC said they chose Ready for the new round of negotiations because the mediator they had been using, Mark Atkinson of the Labour Relations Board, was unavailable.

Costs for Ready will be split evenly between CUPE 116 and UBC, said director of UBC Public Affairs Lucie McNeill.

"Vince Ready has an amazing record as a mediator in the province and both on the employer side, but I have to say, ... on the union side as well," McNeill said.

Ready, now nearing 70 years old, first took a union job in 1966 as an organizer for the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelters Workers. From 1978 to 1982, Ready worked as a mediation officer for federal and provincial governments before setting up an independent business.

Thompson said Ready's past work for both unions and the government allows him to understand both sides of labour disputes.

"[We were] very eager to be there when [CUPE 116] was ready," McNeill said. ☐

Sean Cregten, former AMS associate vice-president academic, and Brittany Jang, campus development commissioner, prepared an AMS report arguing that UBC should stop expecting housing to make an extra \$4 million every year to pay into the central UBC budget.

Ming Wong
Senior News Writer

The AMS is pushing UBC to charge less for housing on campus, but the university may not change their position anytime soon.

Ever year, UBC Housing and Hospitality Services (SHHS) takes in over \$4 million more than it needs to operate and passes this money on to UBC's central budget.

But a recently released AMS report is asking the SHHS to stop paying those millions back to UBC and to lower the interest rate for new student housing projects. The report states that if these changes are implemented, each student living on campus would save \$648, on average, per year.

"If you want to create a social, sustainable community ... [and] students can't afford to live, work and learn here, is it really an economic and socially sustainable campus?" said Kiran Mahal, AMS VP Academic.

Mahal thinks that no longer paying a yearly bill to UBC and lowering interest rates would have a very small impact on the university's overall budget.

"But [it] will have a huge impact on the budgets of students, who will now have that much cheaper rent," Mahal said.

Former AMS Associate VP Academic Sean Cregten, who authored the report, criticized the current financial model for UBC's student housing.

"Expecting the same return from student housing as they do for other investments ... means [UBC] is viewing student housing as a profit-generating activity," Cregten said. "We think [housing] is something more essential to the student experience."

A one-bedroom apartment in Gage costs \$1,183 per month. The AMS says this is well above market rate, comparing it to a typical Vancouver one-bedroom apartment at \$880.

However, SHHS director Andrew Parr maintains that with updated numbers from Canada's Mortgage and Housing Corporation, he can show that UBC housing is at or below market rate.

Seto Avakian, a fourth-year psychology student, thinks any rent over \$1,000 per month would be "ridiculously expensive" for his student budget. He's opted to live in a Gage Towers shared quad

unit this year, and thinks that his rent of roughly \$650 per month is reasonable.

"I think it's pretty affordable," said Avakian. "Relatively, compared to Marine Drive [residences], it's much more affordable."

Parr argued that UBC also has to pay for a number of amenities for student residences, like 24-hour help desks and Internet service.

Parr said that UBC does try to make residence fees as affordable as possible, so long as the department operates "in a financially viable fashion, without subsidies, in a self-supporting way."

Parr continued, "It will be difficult to make it much cheaper and still meet that mandate."

To build new housing like the soon-to-be-completed Ponderosa Commons building, SHHS borrows from a UBC endowment fund and later pays the money back at a 5.75 per cent interest rate. Cregten said that UBC is making money on this interest and the rate should be lowered. He said up to 23 per cent of the housing fees students pay will wind up going toward this interest.

Parr said that the interest rate was set so that UBC would get the same return on the endowment money that they would if it was invested elsewhere. The interest rate can only be changed by a vote of the UBC Board of Governors.

SHHS has begun talking with the AMS to discuss their recommendations.

Parr said he thinks the best solution is for SHHS to give students clearer information about where their money is going. He said that the \$4.4 million goes towards administrative costs like payroll and IT services, but added that SHHS is trying to obtain a more detailed breakdown for students.

"[The money] supports central services we receive [and] benefit from that we don't pay for directly," said Parr.

"Affordable housing" is typically considered to cost no more than 30 per cent of a person's income. But Mahal argued that post-secondary students who attend school full-time need a clearer indicator of what "affordable housing" means.

"[There's] a need to better define what affordability is for students," she said. ☐

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RUGBY »



UBC will attempt to avenge their earlier loss to Alberta when they face them on Friday in Edmonton.

JOSH CURRAN PHOTO/THE UBYSSSEY

Women's rugby off to playoffs

Victory over Victoria puts UBC in fourth place

C.J. Pentland
Sports + Rec Editor

It was close, but the Thunderbirds pulled it off.

A 10-5 victory on Saturday afternoon over the University of Victoria Vikes has given the UBC women's rugby team a date in this weekend's Canada West final four playoffs in Edmonton. They finished with a 1-3 record during the regular season, which helped them clinch the fourth and final playoff spot in the conference.

It was a tight, low-scoring affair against the Vikes, but the Thunderbirds' defence came up big at key moments to preserve their lead. UBC controlled the play for the majority of the first half and stopped three good Victoria opportunities late in the game when

the Vikes had possession deep in Thunderbird territory.

Sagal-Maria Kahin and Annabel Arnott scored tries for UBC, who overcame an early 5-0 Victoria lead. Arnott scored the winning try in the 70th minute, as the T-Birds won a clean ball out of a ruck inside Victoria's 15-metre area. They worked the ball over to Arnott, who finished the play off by running it the final five metres to the try line.

"I'm very happy with our scrum," said UBC head coach Lesley McKenzie after the game. "I'm very happy with a couple of things that we've got going on in the centres right now, which should give us something to work with at the Canada West championships."

The playoff berth ends a one-

year post-season absence, as the T-Birds qualified and placed third in 2009-2010 and 2011-2012. The semi-final game takes place on Friday night, with the T-Birds taking on the host University of Alberta Pandas, who finished first in the conference. Earlier this season, UBC suffered a 58-3 defeat at the hands of their Albertan rivals.

If the 'Birds can roll with their momentum and take down the Pandas, a date in the final will greet them on Sunday. If they fail, they will play in the bronze medal game on Sunday.

The winner of the Canada West championship will represent the conference at the CIS nationals at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia from Nov. 1-4. 

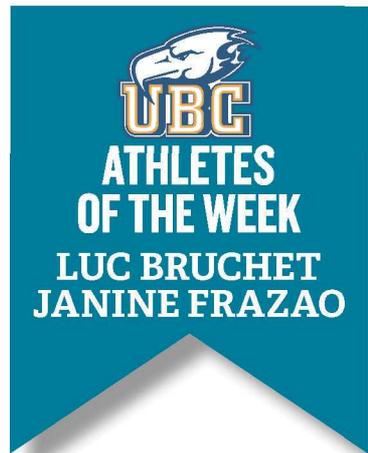


PHOTO COURTESY TAC

Janine Frazao, a striker for women's soccer, is the UBC Thunderbirds Athletic Council co-athlete of the week for the week ending Oct. 14. During the T-Birds' 13-0 win over UNBC on the weekend, Frazao, a fourth-year sociology major from Port Moody, B.C., found the back of the net five times, making her the all-time Canada West career scoring leader with 46 goals. She currently sits in second place in the Canada West for regular season scoring, and will be instrumental in helping the third-place T-Birds push for a home playoff game.

Luc Bruchet, a cross-country runner, is the UBC Thunderbirds Athletic Council co-athlete of the week for the week ending Oct. 14. Bruchet, a fourth-year kinesiology student from Surrey, B.C., was able to shave over a minute off his personal best time at the Bronco Invitational hosted by Santa Clara University. Bruchet lined up against a very strong field and was able to finish the eight-kilometre race in a time of 24:08, which was good enough to place 7th in a field of 157 runners. His quick time led all Thunderbirds over the weekend, and was a key reason the T-Birds as a team finished ninth overall.



FILE PHOTO KAJ JACOBSON/THE UBYSSSEY

FITNESS »

T-Bird athletes powered by top-notch strength training

Rory Gattens
Staff Writer

The UBC Thunderbirds athletic program has a history of success. Last season alone, the Thunderbirds won four CIS national championships, one NAIA championship and four Canada West titles. But while the program as a whole receives praise on a daily basis, it is the unheralded strength and conditioning program at UBC that pushes Thunderbird athletes to new heights.

Jim Diehl, who graduated from UBC with a degree in kinesiology in 2009, is entering his second year as the head strength and conditioning coach. His combination of practical and academic knowledge is revolutionizing the athletics program.

"UBC needed a unified strength and conditioning program, but there wasn't really any of the infrastructure to do so," said Diehl. "My job was to propose this idea of a head strength and conditioning coach to the athletics department. Through several meetings with [associate director of intercollegiate and high performance sport] Theresa Hanson, herself along with the department made it possible to bring me on full-time with the program. From there it has expanded exponentially into the program that it is today."

Diehl had three goals in mind with the creation of this position: to give each athlete the proper training and focus for their individual needs, to promote the weight room as an important facet of athletic training and to develop a sense of pride among UBC's athletes.



Jim Diehl (left) and Spencer Baker's work as strength and conditioning coaches has proven to be a big asset for T-Bird athletes.

KAJ JACOBSON PHOTO/THE UBYSSSEY

This past summer, Diehl expanded the varsity weight room at UBC into a facility that has become the base of university athletic standards in Canada.

"Essentially what I wanted to accomplish with this facility, with what we didn't have before, is to have distinct units of training," he said. "I wanted to integrate everything into one unit. We have ten HD double-sided racks by Hammer Strength, which are the first ones to be assembled in Canada.... In addition to this, each rack is modified to my specifications with landmine attachments, a set of chains and a massive amount of bands."

Each rack acts as an efficient multipurpose station where athletes can perform all of their lifts in the

same place. In addition to these racks, the facility has multiple plyometric boxes, a cable station and an indoor track for warming up.

"The goal is to use the well-organized structure of the program to keep developing programs that are above anything else in Canada," said Diehl. "So not only is the strength and conditioning becoming something that people know about, but [it] actually becomes something that other universities in Canada model themselves off of."

The athletics department also hired an assistant strength and conditioning coach, Spencer Baker, to complement Diehl's work. Baker has worked with high-performance athletes in hockey, rugby, and track and field.

"With Spencer coming in, we can bring in an intricate testing procedure by working together to really dissect each athlete as far as balances, tightnesses and weaknesses," said Diehl. "We are going to run three seminars [that] each athlete attends to learn the fundamentals of athletic movement, weightlifting and Olympic lifting. This not only shows the athletes how to do their lifts, but actually educates each athlete as to why they are doing each lift and what they're getting out of each lift."

The athletes will also benefit from Baker's experience with different types of physical therapy, including myofascial release, a soft-tissue therapy that reduces pain and restriction of motion,

and Trigger Point Therapy, which treats muscle knots to alleviate pain elsewhere.

"If Spencer and I can develop a system where this is done properly, we can add a huge dynamic to the athletes," said Diehl.

Diehl and Baker's philosophy is to simplify the athletes' complicated exercises and develop fundamental movement patterns in the most responsive, efficient way possible. Diehl described these patterns as "jumping, sprinting, simple push/pull movements, squatting movements" and simple raises, though he does add auxiliary exercises such as rotator and hip work.

Diehl also hopes to increase the responsibility of each athlete with the facility's new computer sign-in technology. Although this step might seem elementary, Diehl hopes that it will create a healthy, organized atmosphere in the athletics department.

"When everything is so organized and on point, from my point of view and Spencer's point of view, we can focus on our own relationships with athletes rather than they be stressed out coming into another environment. School is stressful, their teams are stressful, especially when they are in season, and I don't want athletes to come in here feeling uneasy about the workload they have to complete."

"I want this to be a place where athletes want to come and have a good time while they're here through seeing the levels of performance they can reach by working with Spencer and I." 

LITERATURE »

NOVEL IDEAS

Three UBC authors share what they'll be bringing to this year's Vancouver Writers Fest

Rhys Edwards
Senior Culture Writer

Every year in the third week of October, the Vancouver Writers Festival brings together hundreds of poets and authors from across the world to the cultural hotbed of Granville Island.

For over 20 years, writers of every kind have converged to deliver thought-provoking talks and workshops that scratch the bibliophilic itch.

Many famous artists and public figures have spoken at the festival, and this year is no exception; scheduled speakers include Michael Chabon, David Suzuki, Margaret Atwood and Douglas Coupland, among others.

By fostering a community of mutual support, UBC's departments of English and creative writing have heavily influenced the development of Vancouver's literary scene. Both alumni and instructors will be speaking at the festival on a wealth of different topics. *The Ubyssy* got in touch with three speakers hailing from UBC to get the scoop on their contributions to the festival.

GILLIAN JEROME

For Gillian Jerome, writing is not only a means of expression; it is a vital element within community development.

"I think it's pretty necessary to not only create, but to organize, to be politically active. Different writers will take on different issues," said Jerome, who is currently working on her second book of poetry and teaching several literature courses in the English department.

Jerome's writing is informed by her constant engagement with local issues of justice and equality. For instance, her 2008 non-fiction book *Hope in Shadows* retells the oral histories of people living in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

In writing the book, Jerome wanted to "work against the multiple stereotypes that are produced every year in the media around the DTES, which is a marginalized neighbourhood, but also a neighbourhood of tremendous community and strength."

She strongly believes in literature's ability to influence people. "A poem can save someone's life; a book can change a person's perspective," she said.

At the Writers Fest, Jerome will be contributing to a discussion about women and literature. Dismayed by the gender gap which still characterizes book criticism in Canada, Jerome founded the Canadian Women in the Literary Arts (CWILA) organization earlier this year in an effort to "assist in developing greater critical awareness of all marginalized voices."

Currently, the CWILA is sponsoring a \$3,000 critic-in-residence position for a Canadian woman to write and publish book reviews; Jerome plans to fulfill the mandate of the organization with additional programs.



ANNABEL LYON

Annabel Lyon, who teaches in the creative writing department at UBC, doesn't distinguish between philosophy and literature — hence the successes of her widely acclaimed 2009 novel, *The Golden Mean*, a fictional account of Aristotle's mentorship of Alexander the Great, and its sequel, *The Sweet Girl*. Lyon is recognized by critics for her ability to balance history, philosophy and prose, and it's this relationship that she will be discussing at the festival.

"I am a fiction writer first, and my first obligation is to the demands of the narrative and not to the historical record. If people want to read history, there's another place they can go for that," said Lyon. "When I'm looking back at the ancient world, if I have to move things around a bit, I don't have any qualms about that."

As an undergrad, Lyon studied philosophy at SFU. But it wasn't

until she started a master's in creative writing at UBC that she discovered her passion for literature.

"I thought, well, before I go on and do Ph.D. work in philosophy, I'm just gonna try and explore this little thing.... And of course once I got here, I was completely smitten with it, and I knew that that was what I wanted to do."

MADELEINE THIEN

Madeleine Thien's prize-winning novels involve characters and histories that struggle to reconcile themselves.

"It's about learning to live with the different pasts that people have," said Thien, on the themes of her work.

Thien, who holds a master's in creative writing from UBC, will be participating in a group discussion at the festival on the role of forgiving and forgetfulness in historical literature. Her insight comes from her 2011 novel *Dogs at the Perimeter*, which weaves

together multiple points of view on the Cambodian genocide.

"The Cambodians who might have witnessed or spoken and told their story, it took them a generation to have the means to finally start writing their own stories.... As a writer, when you see that kind of silence and that kind of unwillingness to examine what happened there, not by Cambodians but by the outside world, it's a painful thing. The book was my way of thinking about what happened there."

To complement the novel's exploration of personal experience and history, Thien set up a Tumblr page that features a blend of art, poetry and science. Thien hopes that the site illustrates how endlessly complex historical representation can be.

"When writing about the Cambodian genocide, you become very aware of the limitations of language, the limitations of words to capture what people experience." ☞

FILM »

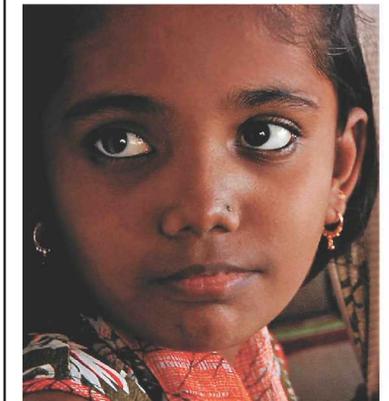


PHOTO COURTESY VIFF
Blood Relative is Mukerji's second award-winning feature film.

Alum wins doc award for India epic

Anna Zoria
Culture Editor

Three years after the international success of her debut film *65_RedRoses*, UBC alumna Nimisha Mukerji is creating more well-deserved buzz with her new film *Blood Relative*.

Blood Relative premiered at this year's Vancouver International Film Festival and took home the award for the most popular Canadian documentary.

Taking place in India, the film details a man's fight to save the lives of children suffering from thalassaemia, a rare blood disease. The disease is completely treatable, but unfortunately, most patients can't afford the medication.

Mukerji said that she was not expecting to do a film of this nature, let alone travel halfway across the world to do it.

"It was definitely a leap of faith," she said. "But once I was [in India], I realized that there was a compelling story to tell."

She said she was hesitant to immerse herself in heavy themes again after her 2009 documentary *65_RedRoses*, which followed her friend Eva Markvoort's struggle with cystic fibrosis. The disease claimed Markvoort's life shortly after filming ended.

"It's hard because on a human level, you're completely empathetic for the people that you're filming," Mukerji said on dealing with her subjects' trauma. "It hits me.... It hits me all the time."

Nonetheless, Mukerji said that the overarching theme of her work is positive.

"I'd like to think that by making the film, we were able to tell a story that — despite being in India, and despite being about children who are facing an illness — is still a story about hope."

Filming in India was equally challenging and rewarding for the young filmmaker. "India is like organized chaos," she said. "Everyone's trying to survive the day, basically. You kind of have to think quick on your feet."

But it seems that being in the middle of such a fast-paced and tumultuous story reaped spectacular results for the UBC film grad.

"It's incredible drama. As a filmmaker and a storyteller, you couldn't ask for a more high stakes situation than when people are faced with these sorts of obstacles and challenges."

Mukerji said she hopes to give a voice to her subjects and motivate the audience to help with the causes.

"It was always important to me that it wasn't just about, all right, I told a good story and people are moved by the film.... It's about channeling that energy so that people can actually make a change and make a difference." ☞

PUBLISHING »

New student mag to print this January

Hannah Goddard-Rebstein
Contributor

Gold Literary Magazine is mining UBC talent. The most recent addition to publications on campus, this magazine aims to feature contributions in the fields of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, photography and art.

Founder and editor-in-chief Callie Hitchcock is a second-year student at UBC. Hitchcock noticed a gap in opportunities for student poets, writers and artists across all faculties to see their work in print. With characteristic self-motivation, she decided to solve the problem herself.

“First of all, I wanted to create a creative community where lovers of art and writing could come together,” she said. “And then I also wanted a place where people could have a platform to showcase their work.”

“A lot of literature and art magazines really want established artists, but we want people who are up-and-coming.”

Gillian Anselmo
Gold Graphic Designer

Hitchcock pointed out that before *Gold Literary Magazine*, the student community lacked a literary magazine that was made by students, for students. *PRISM international*, a literary magazine produced by students in UBC’s MFA creative writing program, is “mostly previously published people, and they don’t take any



Second-year student Callie Hitchcock is the founder and editor-in-chief of *Gold Literary Magazine*.

KAL JACOBSON PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

submissions from the creative writing program,” Hitchcock explained.

To start the publication, Hitchcock applied to the AMS to form a club and recruited her friends to fill positions. Kristen Underwood, the events coordinator, and Gillian Anselmo, the graphic designer and art director, were two of the first people to join the team.

Underwood is in charge of fundraising and public rela-

tions to promote *Gold*. Anselmo masterminded the minimalist, clean-cut look of the magazine. And as editor-in-chief, Hitchcock said she is “the string tying everything together and making sure it’s going forwards.”

The magazine is currently online, but the staff aims to publish a print edition by January 2013.

The *Gold* team said they are interested in seeing the magazine expand and evolve with new volunteers and contributors. In a

world where it’s becoming harder and harder for new talent to edge a foot through the publishing door, the magazine is intended to give like-minded people the opportunity to grow as artists, connect with friends around UBC and Vancouver, and share their work.

“Long term, I really think that hopefully this can be a place where people — amateur writers, amateur artists — feel like they can be published. Because

a lot of literature magazines [and] art magazines really want established artists, but we want people who are up-and-coming,” said Anselmo.

“People who are sitting on pieces underneath their bed, on their computer, in their drawers,... they should really pull them out and submit them, because any art, any literature is good,” urged Underwood. “If you try and you really believe it’s good, don’t hide it; publish it.”

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QUEBEC »

Concordia to offer indigenous studies program

Major and minor programs have been in the works since 2001

Erin Hudson
CUP Quebec Bureau Chief

MONTREAL (CUP) — By next fall, Concordia University is hoping to make history as the first university in Quebec to offer a bachelor's degree with a major concentration in First Peoples studies.

A major in First Peoples studies has been available to students since September 2010; however, approval from the Ministry of Education, Leisure and Sport must be granted before the program is official, meaning no student can graduate with the major until then.

The major is offered through Concordia's School of Community and Public Affairs, along with a minor that is both available and officially sanctioned. Minors do not require ministerial approval.

Daniel Salée, the school's current principal, has been working on implementing the major and minor programs since the 2001-2002 school year.

"We're really in the very final stage now of having it approved; it took a lot of time," said Salée. "But we're confident that this year should be the year where we'll be able to finalize the whole thing and have it approved officially."

Along with Manon Tremblay, now senior advisor on aboriginal initiatives at the University of Ottawa, Salée and his colleagues took two years to put the program proposal together. Passing Concordia's internal governance processes, the major and minor programs were approved by the university's Senate in 2006.

The final hurdles for the major program involved gaining approval from the Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec (CREPUQ) and then the ministry. Each of



Concordia University (pictured above) will be the first university in Quebec to offer an indigenous studies program.

the external reviews involves answering a series of questions and recommendations concerning matters such as program finances, projected enrollment and curriculum content.

But though this final stage of approval typically does not take a long time, Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning Ollivier Dyens expressed uncertainty over how the Ministry of Education will function under the newly elected provincial government.

"Right now in Quebec, we've split the Ministry of Education in two different ministers, so there's a brand new one who's in charge of university and I don't know what the process is at that point right now, so it might slow down a bit," he said.

Salée said the major program received a lot of support within Concordia and from government bodies, though he noted that he

and his colleagues had to "justify more what we're doing or what we're trying to do."

"Really the biggest problem was that when you make certain claims with respect to epistemologies and methodologies, you get all these people who raise eyebrows: 'What do you mean? Why aren't Western ways of knowing good?'" he continued.

For Salée, part of the reason for the nearly decade-long approval process was due to the major in First Peoples studies being the first of its kind in Quebec.

"No other university in Quebec has a similar program,... so there was a lot of discussion internally. For example, one of the big issues was how do we integrate aboriginal methodologies into a Western-type curriculum," he explained.

With the exception of Bishop's University's minor in indigenous

studies and Université Laval's certificate program, no other Quebec university has a structured program offered through the institution. Some students and staff at McGill University have been lobbying the university to establish a program for at least a decade and a program is reportedly in development.

Over the last 20 years, many universities across Canada have developed a variety of programs, departments and faculties dedicated to the expanding field of indigenous studies.

Out of the 15 members of the U15, an informal group of the top research-intensive universities in Canada, only four universities do not offer official programs for students in the field of indigenous studies: McGill University, Université de Montréal, Dalhousie University and Queen's University.

ONTARIO »

Religion removed from convocation speech in Ontario

Darryl Gallinger
The Lance

WINDSOR (CUP) — The prayers of atheists have been answered by the University of Windsor with the removal of Christian prayer from convocation ceremonies in favour of a personal moment of reflection.

Holly Ward, chief communications officer for the university, confirmed the change.

"It's definitely a tradition of the University of Windsor to use a prayer, as it has been a tradition to use prayers at most universities nationwide," she said. "Having a moment of reflection is not unusual. It's changed because we have a changing campus. We have a lot of diversity on our campus... We want to make sure you feel included."

"The decision was made at the president [Alan Wildeman's] level, because concerns had come to his office," Ward added.

Shawna Scott, student and president of the Windsor-Essex County Atheist Society, had lobbied for the prayer's removal and feels validated by recent decision.

"I'm really proud of the university for making this change," she said.

Scott challenged the line of the convocation prayer, which refers to an "eternal God" as "the source of all goodness, discipline and knowledge," explaining that, "The end result of us graduating is a product of our hard work, support from our family and friends and everyone working really hard to build our own success. To us, it doesn't come from a deity... It makes it really awkward to be there and feel excluded like that."

Scott founded the atheist group in 2010. Its 170 members fundraise for charities and provide a network of non-believers with resources and support.

"The sentiment of a prayer is a beautiful one," said Paul Anderson, a member of the atheist society. "However, it's impossible to write it in such a way that can accommodate all faiths, including those who don't believe in God."

"Or even those who believe in more than one god," Scott added.

Scott first expressed concerns about the prayer following her undergraduate graduation in 2010 and again in 2011 in formal letters to the university. She never received a reply from administration. In preparation for the fall 2012 convocation ceremony, where Scott would be recognized for obtaining her master's degree, she wrote the university once more, suggesting a moment of personal reflection as an alternative to the traditional prayer.

A month after the letter was sent, Ward confirmed the change to student paper *The Lance*.

Jordan Legg of the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship is not troubled by the change. "I'm more concerned about people actually engaging with who Jesus is and loving him completely with their words and actions rather than giving him lip service at a convocation ceremony," he said.

Legg explained that his group talks about Christianity with students on campus, and for him, "teaching others to love Jesus" is more important than maintaining a campus tradition.

REGINA »

Website links anonymous texters

Paul Bogdan
The Carillon

REGINA (CUP) — Have you ever thought that you need to meet more of your classmates, but you're just too shy or apathetic to actually go out of your way and talk to people? Well, now University of Regina students can reach out and connect with other students from behind their phones.

URconnecting.com randomly matches users to other U of R students so that they can anonymously text each other. To sign up, all people need is a valid @uregina.ca email account, and after the obligatory a/s/m (age, sex, major), they are on their way to booty calling and text bombing other students.

"It didn't seem like it'd be too hard to make, and I thought it could be kind of fun for students, like first-year students and stuff like that, to ... meet people," said creator Jordan Howlett.

URconnecting.com went public when Howlett, a fourth-year computer science major at the U of R, posted a link to Reddit on Sept. 2. This isn't the first University of Regina-based social media outlet that Howlett has created; last fall, he launched the

short-lived URhotURnot.org.

To get started, users sign up with their University of Regina Webmail account. A confirmation email is sent shortly thereafter, prompting you for your phone number — but users are reassured that "no one else will ever see it," as all texts are redirected to a third party's phone number and forwarded to users. The only information your texting partner sees is your age, sex and area of study.

"I don't give out anyone's names or anything, so if they want,... [they can] take that and be like, 'Here's my actual number if you want to text me,'" said Howlett.

Howlett said that he still has some issues to work out on the website.

"I'm hoping to get a few users right away to work out the bugs and stuff, because it's really hard to debug it because I have to be able to have phones texting each other.... Hopefully I can get some people to try it out and report back with anything that goes wrong," said Howlett.

At press time, the site was still seemingly full of bugs that need to be fixed. After some tinkering around, though, I was able to

connect with a partner.

But my excitement was short-lived, as after a friendly "ahoy," I was sent a message saying, "Everyone else is currently talking. You will be alerted when someone becomes available!" After a while I was paired up with someone, but after I told them I worked at *The Carillon*, my partner left the conversation.

I did eventually get paired up with someone willing to chat briefly, though. The anonymous fourth-year film student said they felt safe to meet up in the real world with someone they met on the website "because it requires a U of R email to sign up" and that "[w]ith the right marketing and promotion [URconnecting] could take off."

The anonymous texter signed off shortly thereafter, and I was then paired with Mike Clory, a fourth-year marketing student. Clory said he joined URconnecting "[t]o meet new people around the university that I likely would not have had a chance to meet otherwise. You never know who you'll get along with! Plus it's a really cool idea."

Despite past breaches of security with University of Regina websites, Howlett doesn't feel

concerned with the security of URconnecting.com.

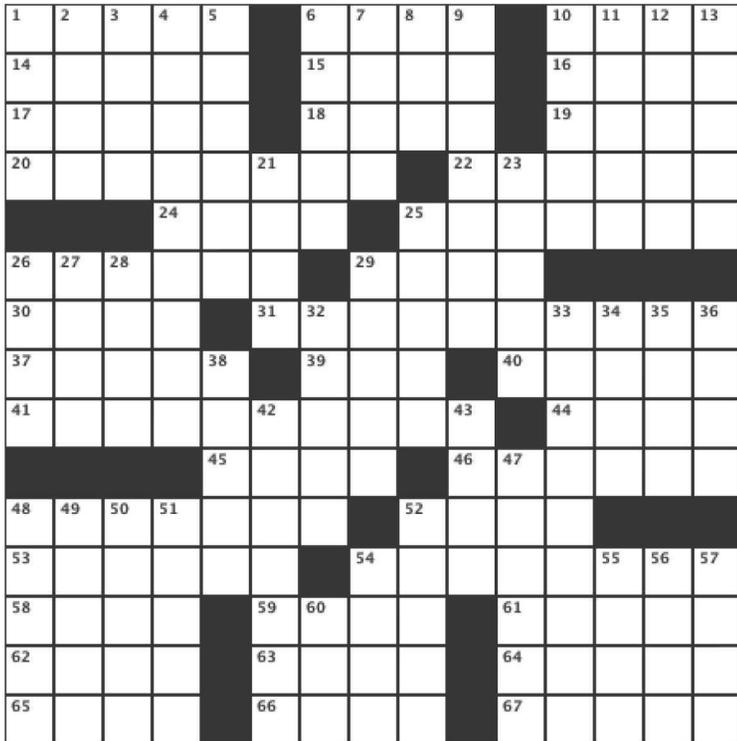
"All passwords are going to be hashed and everything, so they're pretty secure. If they got into my database right now, the [phone] numbers will be hashed with the password as well, so if you got into the database, you wouldn't see them in clear text. Hopefully, it'll be okay... I'm not expecting anyone here will be hacking into it," said Howlett.

If the social media outlet gains enough popularity, Howlett is looking to expand it with more features.

"If it got popular enough, I have some things I'd like to add some features and stuff that'd be interesting. We'll see if it gets there," said Howlett.

His ideas for expansion include being able to request to speak with students from specific faculties, or even specific classes.

"It would be nice to be able to specify who you want to talk to, like I want to talk to a random engineering student. I think it'd be neat if you were in class and you could hashtag CS310 and you'd join a group conversation with everyone in that class and text each other," said Howlett.



PUZZLE PROVIDED BY BESTCROSSWORDS.COM. USED WITH PERMISSION.

- 61- Related on the mother's side
- 62- Frobe who played Goldfinger
- 63- Vincent Lopez's theme song
- 64- Tirades
- 65- Singer Fitzgerald
- 66- Storage shelter
- 67- Streamlined

DOWN

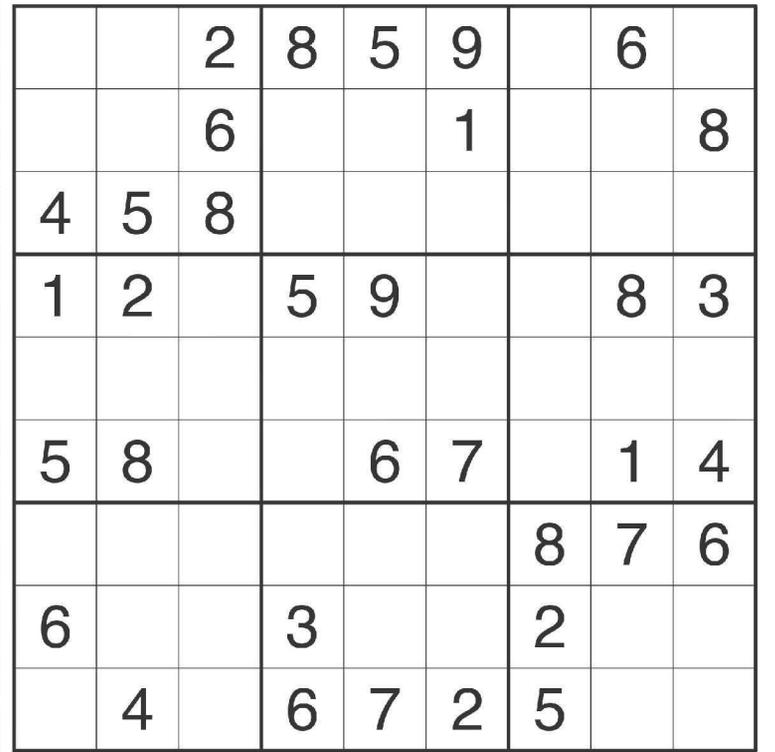
- 1- ___ monde
- 2- Poet ___ St. Vincent Millay
- 3- Prefix with meter
- 4- Turn indicator
- 5- Sacred place
- 6- "Of course!"
- 7- French 101 verb
- 8- Spot
- 9- Official sitting
- 10- Short ringing sound
- 11- Sonata movement
- 12- Lend
- 13- Shriveled
- 21- Not base
- 23- Dark
- 25- Early computer
- 26- Betty of cartoons
- 27- Dies
- 28- Sets of equipment
- 29- Edit
- 32- Actress Graff
- 33- Occurring in late summer
- 34- Lukas of *Witness*
- 35- "___ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto)
- 36- Faculty head
- 38- Actress Spacek
- 42- Teachings
- 43- *The Time Machine* race
- 47- Edmonton team
- 48- Vessel
- 49- Slippery as ___
- 50- Knot
- 51- It comes from the heart
- 52- Fine fiddle
- 54- River to the Ubangi
- 55- Writer Grey

ACROSS

- 1- Moor
- 6- Nitti's nemesis
- 10- Stick in one's
- 14- Opponent of Ike
- 15- Suit to
- 16- Burt's ex
- 17- Free laces, say
- 18- Very, in Versailles;
- 19- Don Juan's mother
- 20- Channel leading away
- 22- Ice cream topped with syrup
- 24- Scottish body
- 25- Primitive form of wheat
- 26- Two-piece bathing suit
- 29- Hydroxyl compound
- 30- Not a dup.
- 31- Decreased
- 37- Vows
- 39- Grazing spot
- 40- Mock, annoy
- 41- Virulent epidemic disease
- 44- Tabula
- 45- Transmit
- 46- Relax
- 48- Crushed sugarcane
- 52- And ___ goes
- 53- Bugs
- 54- Used
- 58- The back end of something
- 59- Doozy



ANSWERS FROM OCTOBER 16 ISSUE



PUZZLE PROVIDED BY KRAZYDAD. USED WITH PERMISSION.

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FILM FESTIVAL
2012

"Damn, that's some good lighting"
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LAST WORDS

PARTING SHOTS AND SNAP JUDGMENTS ON TODAY'S ISSUES



INDIANA JOEL ILLUSTRATION/THE UBSSEY

And so, in his 24 hours at UBC, Vince Ready got CUPE 116 a collective agreement, ended the NHL lockout and saved you \$638 per year on rent.

READY, READY, HE'S OUR MAN

"Rockstar" and "labour mediator" aren't words that are often used in the same sentence. But in an attempt to settle the ongoing service workers' strike, UBC and CUPE are bringing in just that.

Vince Ready will be mediating the next round of bargaining between Local 116 and UBC. Ready has been in the business since 1982, and he's worked on over 7,000 labour and commercial disputes. He's mediated and arbitrated in almost every major sector, from aviation to transportation. People on both sides of the table say Ready brokers conclusions that allow both sides to save face.

To sum up, it would be hard to find a more experienced hand for this next round of negotiations.

We can try to parse the signals in this hire all we want. Ready's presence might indicate that both sides are desperate to reach a deal; UBC and CUPE are splitting the bill on his services. It may be a sign of how much things have escalated since the job action began on Oct. 4.

Or it could allow both sides to throw up their hands and declare the other side beyond reason. Ultimately, though, we don't know what will be on the table at Friday and Saturday's mediation sessions. But we can only imagine the tension will be high.

PROPOSED ARTS STUDENT SPACE DESPERATELY NEEDS A FIRST LETTER

Arts students are pushing for their own student space. They say that their current space, the Meekison Arts Student Space, can't accommodate large events and the growing number of Arts students.

Although MASS seems to be a good location for the occasional undergrad beer garden, the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) says the lack of space limits their options. Arts is the largest faculty, so a new student space makes sense.

But the AUS may not have control of those events if they run into the same roadblocks the engineers are hitting in the negotiations for their new student space. The Engineering Undergraduate Society (EUS) wanted to have complete control of their student space, but it doesn't seem like UBC will allow that to happen.

UBC wants to have more control over the events that go on in students spaces in campus. If a new policy passes, UBC could veto any events the AUS wants to host.

Whether the AUS's negotiations with UBC will go any differently from the EUS's remains to be seen. The process is still in its early stages. Even if they get the new space, they may not be able to hold the events that they say will justify it.

The new building is estimated

to cost about \$5.4 million, with all but \$2.5 million coming from a donor that still needs to be found.

The cost works out to \$42-46 a year per student, which would have to be approved in a referendum. The price could be a hard sell given the amount of construction on campus, not to mention the increase in student fees. The AUS needs a big donor whose name they can put on the front of the Arts Student Space. Otherwise, the acronym will be, well, somewhat unfortunate.

CUPE 2950 DEAL PROBABLY NOT A SIGN OF THINGS TO COME

Last week, UBC reached a tentative agreement with CUPE 2950.

The library and clerical workers union had planned to hold a strike vote next week, but before any vote was taken, UBC offered a deal.

So hurray, right? If deals are being made, does that mean campus strikes will soon be a distant memory?

Not quite; it seems the two per cent increases of the CUPE 2950 deal is the extent of UBC's offer. And while that may have sufficed for CUPE 2950, other striking unions like CUPE 116 remain unimpressed.

Though CUPE 116 hasn't stated what exactly they're expecting in a deal, if UBC is unwilling to offer more than for CUPE 2950, the prospects at the bargaining table look uninviting — meaning students can expect more picket lines in their future. ☹

Class participation: more than just a mark

FRONT OF CLASS

by Catherine Rawn

The other day I said to my class, "Please turn to the person next to you, and together come up with an example of a time when you or someone you know experienced classical conditioning," a concept which I had just described.

Many students enthusiastically took advantage of this learning opportunity. But as I looked around the room, some students were checking email, some students were talking about other things, and others were simply staring blankly into space. I thought to myself: why aren't more people taking advantage of this chance to study? The midterm is next week! This experience prompted me to think (again) about why I ask students to engage in particular activities on their own during class — and I thought you might be interested in knowing, too.

Why do I ask my students to do things like this? Because it works. The broad framework of what's called "active learning" has taken higher education by storm over the last decade or two. Every time I ask students to discuss ideas and problems with people around them, participate in demonstrations, privately write a summary of what they just learned or engage in a team test, I am using some of the techniques of active learning.

There are dozens of examples of studies that have compared courses or topics that use active learning approaches to those that don't. The specifics differ by course and discipline, but the message is clear: active learning results in improved student learning, relative to traditional lecture format. Granted, not just any activity will do; those that are tied to specific, measurable learning objectives are best. My teaching practice is far from perfect in this regard, but I strive for such synergy daily among my in-class activities and learning

objectives (and assessments too, but that's another story).

So why is it that some students choose to take advantage of active learning techniques in the classroom, and others sit idly? Maybe the idle students are idle when I'm lecturing too, but I just don't notice as much. Perhaps some students are unmotivated by the task or are failing to take care of their physical health and therefore zone out. Okay. But I think another part is not realizing just how valuable those active learning opportunities can be.

Based on research from cognitive psychology, I suspect that active learning works because working with the material promotes recalling it, which strengthens memories. It can also help people attach new ideas to existing memories, so the new ideas stand a better chance of being recalled and perhaps even applied in new situations. By taking five minutes to think up an example from your own life of a concept — like classical conditioning, if you're in my intro to psych class — you will remember it better than if you didn't. Even if you're tired or uninterested or thinking about your weekend plans or otherwise don't feel like participating in active learning, remember that. Learning is challenging. It takes work on the part of the person trying to learn.

On the first day of each of my courses, I warn my students: I'm here to create conditions in which you might learn, but I'm not going to guarantee anything. And that's what it comes down to. It's your choice to waste your time or to help yourself learn.

Catherine Rawn is an instructor in the psychology department at UBC. Front of Class is a series of columns on post-secondary policy from UBC students, professors, instructors and administrators. If you're interested in writing on this topic, email coordinating@ubyssey.ca with your ideas.

AMS needs real advocacy on housing affordability



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK
by Laura Rodgers

The AMS put out a report about student housing, and it has a clear message: students are paying too much.

The way UBC Housing is set up right now, they're required to make enough money to pay over \$4 million back to UBC every year. And that money comes directly out of students' pockets.

UBC's justification for why this has to happen is flimsy. They say that the rent they're charging students is reasonable because it's close to similar rents in Vancouver. True, it is rented at below market rates. But Vancouver has one of the craziest rental markets in the country, UBC owns all of the land its housing is built on, and most students don't have a lot of money.

Even with the high rents, UBC still gets a kilometre-long wait list every year for residence, so they really don't have any incentive to change what they're doing. But operating student

housing as a profit centre is fundamentally unfair.

If the AMS really wants to change this, though, they're going to have to do more than just quietly hand the university a report. Student politicians are often enamoured with the idea of trying to sway UBC from behind closed doors, but this approach rarely accomplishes anything.

This is because, so long as they're quietly negotiating, students don't have any power. UBC has all of it.

UBC has the money, the mandate and the final say. The only real leverage that students have is strength in numbers and the potential to win public favour. The students who saved the UBC Farm or kept market housing off Gage South only accomplished anything because they banded together, got angry and made their wishes known.

The AMS housing report has some fantastic ideas for making student housing fairer. But until the AMS starts publicly campaigning to make those ideas a reality, they'll remain just that: ideas. ☹

Want to write editorials about something *other* than unions?

Come to our editorial meetings in SUB 24! They're at 4 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays.



PIC OF THE WEEK



A student enjoys the remaining hours of sunshine this fall by BMX biking down the SUB steps.

KAI JACOBSON PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

HELL YEAH

The Ubyyssey is older and better-looking than you'll ever be. HAH.



SHAMELESS GIVEAWAY NON OPT-OUT STUDENTS ONLY WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

SOME PEOPLE JUST CAN'T HANDLE HALLOWEEN

THE UBYSSEY HAS FREE TICKETS TO AN ADVANCED SCREENING OF FUN SIZE ON SATURDAY, OCT. 20 11:00AM

IN THEATRES OCT. 26

ON OCTOBER 26 TREAT YOURSELF

CLAIM YOUR TICKET BY COMING TO RM 23 IN THE SUB



5TH ANNUAL

CELEBRATE LEARNING WEEK

October 27 - November 4, 2012

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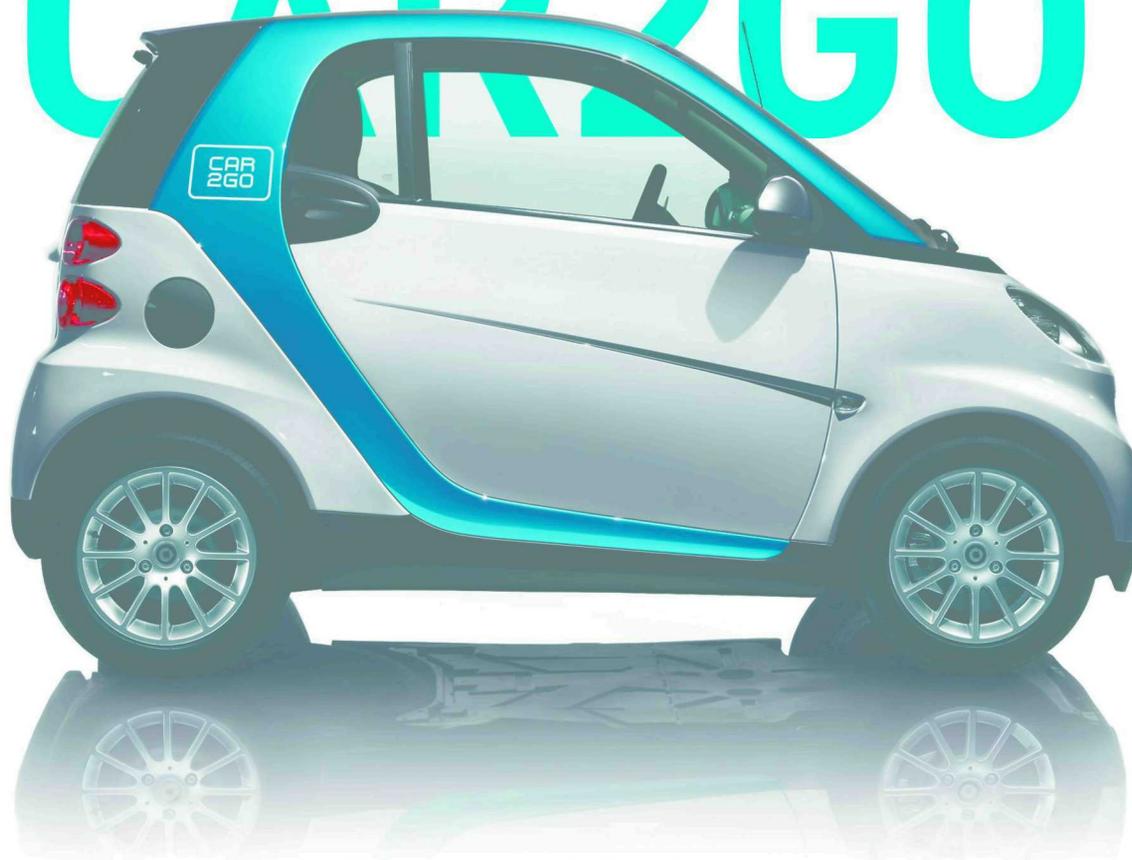
Celebrate Learning Week is a showcase to celebrate teaching and learning opportunities available to our students at UBC Vancouver.

Join us as we honour and promote learning and development opportunities through open lectures, information sessions, student advising activities, poster sessions, workshops and more.

Many events are **FREE** and open to UBC faculty, staff, students and the community.

www.celebratelearning.ubc.ca
 @CelebrateLearn #CLW2012

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