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Does the health plan measure up?

by Daliah Merzaban

The central question in this week's Alma Mater Society (AMS) referendum could have an enormous effect on the bodies—and wallets—of UBC students.

Students will head to the polls this week to vote whether they want a health and dental plan, but comparisons with other Canadian universities show that the AMS may not have negotiated the best deal possible.

If UBC students vote in favour of the plan during the referendum, which starts Wednesday and runs for eight days, students will pay $168 per year ($14 per month) for a mandatory health and dental plan which will take effect in January, 2000.

The plan's cost breaks down to $75 per year for medical coverage, and $87 for dental. The extra six dollars will help offset future premium increases.

The proposed plan covers 80 per cent of the cost of prescription drugs (including oral contraceptives), makes $75 available every two years for students who need glasses or contact lenses, covers 40 per cent of the cost of refractive laser eye surgery, and provides additional annual coverage of $300 for counselling, $150 for vaccinations and $1 million for out-of-country insurance.

In addition, the plan covers 70 per cent of the cost of an annual dental check-up, cleaning, and fillings, as well as 50 per cent of the costs of minor surgery—including root canals and wisdom teeth removal—to an annual maximum of $750.

The scope of coverage is comparable to that found at other Canadian universities: prices for health plans range from $45.60 at the University of Toronto, which doesn't cover oral contraceptives, to a $94 price tag at the University of Victoria (UVic), which offers such features as unlimited out-of-country coverage.

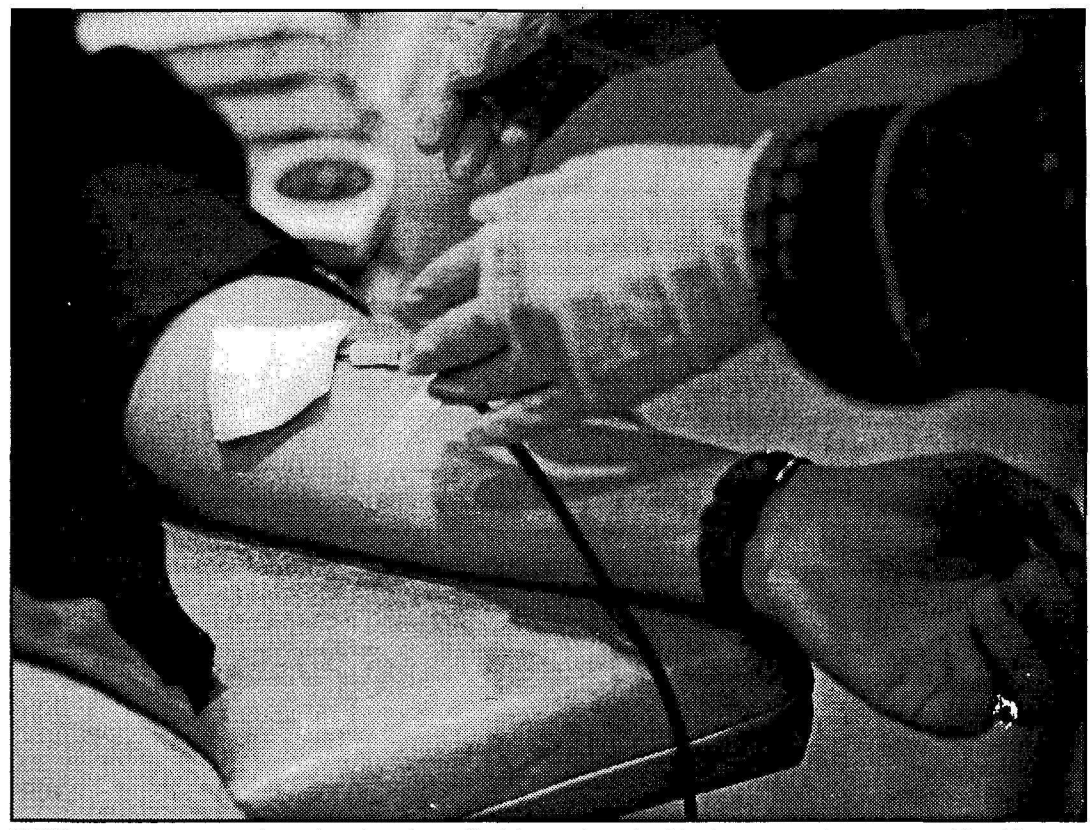
Dental plans across the country are also extremely similar in price and in features provided. The health provider chosen by the AMS, Student Care Networks (SCN), is unique in offering an additional 20 per cent discount to students who go to specific dentists. Any dentist who will give a 20 per cent discount to all UBC students will become a member of this network of dentists.

And SCN is evidently confident in its own plan.

"We've never lost a referendum," said SCN executive director Lev Bukhman. "Our programs have never been rejected by students."

But should UBC students choose to accept SCN's health and dental plan, those who don't want to pay for the plan will have a hard time opting out.

The rules in the proposed UBC plan are specific: undergraduate and graduate students may only opt out if they have equivalent health *and* dental coverage. Students with equivalent medical coverage but no dental plan will end up paying the full dual plan fee, regardless.



HEALTH PLAN: UBC students head to the polls this week to decide the fate of the proposed health plan. TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

But this was not always the case in the other student health plans *the Ubyssey* analysed.

McGill students are covered by an SCN health and dental plan. But undergraduates have the option of opting out of either the health or the dental plan if they have equivalent coverage.

This flexibility is also evident at SCN-insured Concordia University, where undergraduates have a universal opt-out: anybody can refuse either plan for reasons of equivalent coverage, or simply out of personal preference.

Jennifer Grier, Concordia's health plan coordinator, said undergraduates voted for more flexible rules rather than having conditions placed on the plan. She says undergraduates would be "pretty angry" if they couldn't opt out of both.

"The fact that you have to actually prove that you're part of another health insurance [is] infringing on people's personal lives."

At the non-SCN University of Toronto, meanwhile, undergraduates, who have had a health and dental plan in place for two years, also enjoy flexible opt-out rules.

"Students can opt out of the drug and health plan if they have equivalent coverage," said Jack Ward, business manager for the University of Toronto student council." Students can opt out of the dental coverage for any reason, including if they just want to."

The same holds true at the University of Calgary. Amanda Affonso, vice-president operations and finance, agrees.

"I don't think our students would be very happy if they weren't able to choose."

Other universities researched by *the Ubyssey*, including Western Ontario, UVic, and York, only have health plans. Students can also opt out of these if they have equivalent coverage.

Naomi Persaud, health plan administrator at York, said that although graduate students have dental coverage, the undergraduates voted only for health coverage.

Graduate students are often more restricted in terms of opting out. At McGill and Concordia, graduate students must have equivalent health and dental coverage in order to opt out.

When *the Ubyssey* asked AMS president Ryan Marshall about the opt-out rules, he said looking at other universities is irrele-

continued on page 6

University's stop-GAP measures work

by Nicholas Bradley

At the last minute, the Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) has decided not to come to UBC—for now.

Brian Sullivan, UBC vice-president students, said that while the university was still in discussion with the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform (CBR), the radical anti-abortion group which organises GAP, UBC had received word that GAP would stay off campus.

"We have gotten a very clear assurance that they will not be trespassing," he said.

GAP originally planned to bring its display of large, graphic pictures that equate abortion with acts of genocide to campus this week.

"We've received an undertaking—the university has—from the [CBR] that they will not be coming onto campus, and will not be bringing the signs on campus," said Sullivan, who added that because of this promise, UBC has "not reactivated the request for a court order" to keep GAP from coming to the university.

CBR lawyers did not return *the Ubyssey*'s calls to confirm their plans by press time.

Discussions about the conditions for coming to campus, however, will continue.

Gregg Cunningham, executive director of CBR, told *the Ubyssey* last week that "these images will be displayed at campus." And he may still be right.

Stephanie Gray, president of Lifeline, the campus pro-life club, said that although the display will not proceed this week as planned, the GAP signs would still be shown.

"There will not be a display as planned this week, but the signs will be here."

Gray said that pro-life students will carry anti-abortion signs around campus. She pointed out that these students would not be acting on behalf of Lifeline, and that they would not be here today.

Last week UBC filed an injunction against CBR to prevent the GAP exhibit from coming after CBR refused to comply with the conditions the university set out. UBC wanted to restrict GAP to MacInnes Field, and charge a security deposit of $15,000 per day, both of which Cunningham said was unacceptable.

Meanwhile, students have been mounting opposition to GAP. UBC pro-choice group Students for Choice has stated that it will picket any display that comes to campus, and a rally has been planned for Wednesday. Other campus groups, such as Colour Connected, have also voiced their concerns about GAP.❖

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the following *ubyssey* staffers are eligible to vote in the upcoming elections:

Bruce Arthur
Todd Silver
Nick Bradley
Daliah Merzaban
Duncan McHugh
Jaime Tong
Tara Westover
Tom Peacock
Tristan Winch
Naomi Kim
Eric Jandciu
Cynthia Lee
Lisa Denton

This list includes all ubyssey staffers who have made three (3) contributions since September 7th and have attended three out of five consecutive staff meetings
If your name has been omitted, or there is an error, please contact Bruce to clarify any problems.

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referendum '99

September 29- October 8, 1999

Question #1

Do you support the implementation of an extended health and dental plan, jointly managed by the AMS and the GSS, at a cost of $168 per year, for twelve months of coverage per student, indexed to CPI*?

This increase will be automatically applied to your current AMS Fee unless you have an equivalent health and dental plan and you choose to opt out of the AMS/GSS plan.

*CPI (Consumer Price Index)

The Plan will provide the following benefits until at least August 31, 2001.

HEALTH BENEFITS:

• 80% of the cost of Prescription Drugs,	• Refractive Laser eye surgery 40%
• Dental Accident: unlimited coverage	• Ambulance: unlimited coverage
• Vaccinations: up to $150/ year	• Counselling Services: up to $300/ year
• **Vision Care:** $75 every 24 months for eyeglasses or contact lenses	• Out of Canada Travel Insurance: up to $1,000,000

DENTAL BENEFITS:	Insured coverage (any dentist)	optional Dental Network Coverage	Total coverage in Network
Diagnostic & Preventative(2 check-ups per year)	70%	+20%	90%
Minor Restorative (Fillings)	70%	+20%	90%
Oral Surgery (Wisdom Teeth)	50%	+20%	70%
Endodontics (Root Canals)	50%	+20%	70%
Periodontics (Gum Treatment)	50%	+20%	70%
Major Restorative (Crowns)		20%	20%
Annual Maximum	$750	no max	$750+

Note: After August 31st, 2001, the AMS and GSS may modify benefits in negotiations with the Plan Provider. Although the benefits may change, the cost of the plan will not exceed the amount approved in this referendum.

☐ YES ☐ NO

Question #2

Do you support an increase in your AMS fee of $9, refundable upon request, to create a special AMS Student Services Fund, which will be used to improve and expand AMS services such as:

- Safewalk
- The Aquatic Centre
- JobLink
- CiTR
- Speakeasy Peer Support

Note: This fee increase may only be applied to AMS Student Services, and cannot be placed within the general operating budget of the AMS.

☐ YES ☐ NO

Question #3

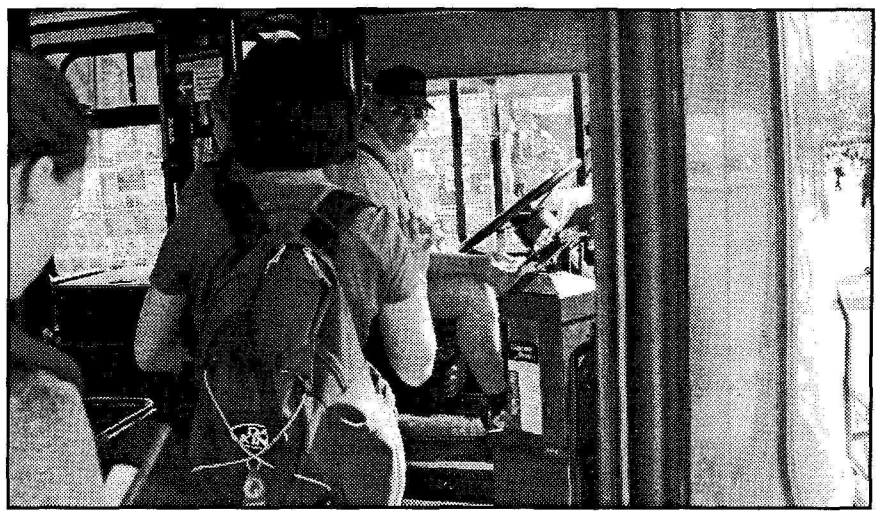
Do you support the Alma Mater Society of UBC adopting a stance that calls for a comprehensive harm reduction drug strategy that includes:

- the legalization of marijuana;
- an increase of health services, including detoxification centers and access to needle exchange programs;
- an increase in social housing, to decrease the number of homeless and increase the number of safe healthy homes;
- the prescription of injection drugs set up under safe medically monitored conditions.

☐ YES ☐ NO

Vote in Referendum '99
September 29 - October 8 1999
Bring your Studetn ID card to vote

New U-Pass heading to UBC



U STILL DRIVING? Well, you won't be soon. TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

by Nicholas Bradley

A proposed mandatory bus pass could have UBC students out of their cars and on public transit in the new year.

"It's really been a coming of age of both UBC in terms of getting serious about this, and TransLink [formerly BC Transit] in comfort level...I'm starting to see lights go on," said UBC director of transportation planning Gord Lovegrove.

At the centre of the plan is a bus pass, which will be bundled with a series of transportation-related services, such as change rooms and showers for cyclists, preferential parking for carpools and vanpools, and even a campus shuttle, said Lovegrove.

The 'U-Pass' would be valid across all three transit fare zones, and is part of a larger strategy which calls for improved facilities for cyclists and pedestrians, discounted transit passes for university staff, and support services, such as a guaranteed ride home, for staff.

AMS Transportation Commissioner JesseJackson said that the planning for the U-Pass is nearing completion, with a service plan for buses already in place.

"The AMS is working towards a position of a referendum which they think they can win, and that they think is equitable, [and] that they think the univerisity is paying enough to make it fair," said Jackson.

UBC and TransLink are currently negotiating who will pay the costs for the plan. Lovegrove said that the biggest obstacle to moving forward with the plan is negotiating with Translink.

"[Negotiations are] still very frustratingly slow, but if you can get a bus pass down around the $25, $20 [per month] range for students...the indications from our January '98 survey are [that students would] love it."

Jan Pezarro, TransLink vice president customer service and marketing, wouldn't comment on the negotiations, but said that Translink is completing a review of the current proposal.

"We're interested in it as a holistic program, and that's what we're looking at from on our side," she said.

AMS Coordinator of External Affairs Nathan Allen said that U-Pass cards would probably cost between $18 and $25 a month. Students will not be allowed to opt out.

Once UBC and TransLink have completed negotiations, the university will present a proposal to the AMS, which will, in turn, negotiate with the university to determine the costs of the plan. A referendum will then be held to approve an increase in student fees.

Meanwhile, Jackson raised concerns about the transit infrastructure's ability to serve the number of students who may, if the plan goes through, start riding the bus.

"The disturbing thing about the whole system is that if people actually get on the bus, then the price has to go up...it sort of banks on the fact that everyone's going to pay for it and we're going have 20 per cent ridership at any given time.

"Certainly everybody couldn't hop on the bus at the same time—there wouldn't be enough buses."

Questions also remain about certain details of the plan, such as whether part-time students will be included. Jackson pointed out that the AMS wants to have them in the plan, while TransLink doesn't.

The drive to create the U-Pass comes from the document which governs all development on campus and the surrounding areas.

The Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) is the civic planning authority for Electoral District 'A,' the area that UBC and parts of Pacific Spirit Regional Park lie on.

The GVRD adopted the Official Community Plan (OCP) in 1997 in order to be consistent with the Livable Region Strategic Plan that governs the rest of the city.

The OCP states that UBC will need to undertake measures to reduce single occupant vehicle (SOV) travel from 1996 levels by 20 per cent as part of its mandate to take "vigorous action to restrain single occupant vehicle use."

A report released this summer by Lovegrove and Todd Litman, a member of the Victoria Transport Policy Institute, says that the objective of the UBC TREK program is to reduce the SOV traffic levels 20 per cent below 1997 levels by 2002.

A similar plan began in September at the University of Victoria (UVic), where students pay the equivalent of $11 a month. But Jackson said that the UVic program's low cost to students can't be replicated.

"Victoria has an underutilised system...it doesn't cost [BC Transit] any more," said Jackson.

"We've got an overburdened system where we actually have to add buses, no matter what," he continued. In order to accommodate the expected increase in demand if the U-Pass goes through, TransLink will be forced to add 60 buses to the system.

The 1997 benchmark cites 46,000 daily SOV trips to UBC, 19,000 transit trips, and 2,700 cycling trips. The 2002 targets would reduce the percentage of SOV trips to 30 per cent from almost 44 per cent.

Lovegrove's report states that although the program may seem unfair because "it forces students who continue to drive to subsidise other students' transit passes," drivers will still benefit from reduced traffic and parking congestion.

Allen noted that people who ride the bus currently subsidise those who drive, for example through road maintenance costs.❖

Petter unveils new interest relief plan

by Nicholas Bradley

The provincial government announced a new student loan interest relief plan which, according to Advanced Education Minister Andrew Petter, gives BC the most comprehensive student loan and interest relief program in the country.

The program, which begins November 1, will provide up to $5.1 million of debt relief in its first year for students who have graduated from university or college but are unable to find work. Students who qualify on the basis of financial need will be exempt from paying the monthly interest on their loans for six months.

Petter noted that student organisations, in consultation with the government, had marked interest-relief as a priority. And so far, this plan has met with the approval of student leaders.

"Any help students can get on their student loans, particularly paying off the interest, is going to be important," said Mark Veerkmap, BC chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Before Petter announced the program Saturday in Vancouver, he told members of the student media that the goal of this program is to ensure not only that post-secondary education is accessible, but that students are able to find relief from debt both before and after they graduate.

An estimated 9,000 students will benefit from Petter's interest relief program. The cost of the program, Petter said, will eventually drop due to the government's other debt reduction plans, which are designed to reduce the total number of students in need of relief.

The initial $5.1 million figure was determined through estimates of how many students will qualify, and their average debt loads.

"This is a program that will be costed according to the pressures that drive the program," said Petter, who noted that the program is not contingent on the support of other provinces or the federal government.

But Veerkmap explained that despite provincial programs, the lack of a national student debt-relief program is "a gaping hole in financial assistance for students."

"The real, fundamental problem with student loans is the size of the principal, which you borrow before you graduate, and that's what makes the interest payment so high, and that's what makes the debt payment so high," said Veerkmap.

"The 60 per cent portion of the loan that is federal has no debt reduction provisions in it that are substantial enough to reduce the principal of that loan. And that's where the focus needs to be."

The federal and provincial governments are currently negotiating a harmonisation agreement for debt-relief programs. Students would get one loan with very similar programs for interest and debt-relief.

Petter, who will attend meetings this week in Victoria with other provincial ministers of education, said that the new plan will strengthen BC's position when it comes to negotiating with the federal government.

"I hope we can gain agreement to push very hard on the federal government to restore [Canada Social Health and Transfer] funding, and post-secondary funding."

Petter also said that the provinces will again be able to lobby the federal government at an upcoming meeting of federal and provincial labour market ministers.

"What we in BC want to do is profile the things we have done, make it clear that we're committed to do even more, but if we don't have a national commitment and a national strategy, that far from being able to do more, we will be under increasing pressure that may make it difficult for us to even hold our ground."

Petter used the program as an opportunity to attack the provincial Liberals, insisting that access to education is key to economic development.

"To the extent that the Opposition party doesn't share that view, they're the ones setting us up for a fall, and we've to work bloody hard to make sure that they never get the opportunity to push us into that fall."

Neither Petter nor Veerkmap was concerned that the debt relief programs would be in jeopardy if the NDP doesn't win the next election.

"I can't be reponsible for an Opposition party that sems to think that cutting taxes for corporations and big business is a greater priority than keeping student debt levels low, or seems to think that taxes are a greater burden than student debt through high tuition fees," said Petter.

Because this program has been on the federal agenda for so long—and because student debt is a very public issue—Veerkmap explained, the BC NDP government's programs are not in danger.

Liberal party Advanced Education Critic Reni Masi could not be reached for comment.

This program is the latest development in the government's post-secondary education strategy.

It follows a debt relief plan for third- and fourth-year students announced by the NDP government in July, which extended BC student grants to senior students, sparing them up to $7,200 of debt collection.

The government has created 16,000 spaces in post-secondary institutions in the last three years. During the past two years, each of these spaces has been accompanied by $7,000 in extra government funding.

The spaces are allocated based on demographics and the capacity of various institutions, and go to both universities and colleges. 3,000 spaces were created this year.❖

UVic dumps shares

by Tasha Marsden
the Martlet

VICTORIA (CUP)—The University of Victoria (UVic) has dumped its shares in West Fraser Timber, one of several lumber companies responsible for clear-cutting the part of BC's northern coast environmentalists have dubbed the "Great Bear Rainforest."

According to UVic's most recent quarterly investment report, published June 30, the university has sold the 5,000 shares it owned in the logging company, which has students optimistic about the future of "ethical" investments on campus.

Patti Pitts of UVic's Communications Services said that the decision to pull out of the company was made for economic reasons, but student leaders are taking part of the credit.

"If it's true that they've divested, it's probably due to student pressure and I'm delighted," said Kari Worton, UVic Students' Society director of academics.

Along with political science student Tim Harvey, Worton collected student signatures this past April for a petition demanding action on the West Fraser investment.

And although this campaign is over, students say that their efforts to pressure the university into ethical investments are alive and well.

As part of a 10-point assessment of the campus, the student-driven UVic Sustainability Project (UVSP) includes research on the university's financial investments.

Co-ordinator Lyndsay Cole hopes that with proper research, she will be able to offer recommendations on questionable investments.

"Some of UVic's investments are very nebulous," said Cole.❖

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Growing the ideal tree

by Eric Jandciu

Genetic engineering techniques could change the face of the forest industry, according to a scientist at British Columbia Research Inc. [BCRI], who emphasises the importance of biotechnological advances in the field.

David Ellis said in a lecture given last Thursday at the Vancouver Museum that the forest industry increasingly relies on growing trees as a crop rather than using timber and fibre products from forests.

He stressed the distinction, however, between forests and tree plantations. "Intensively growing trees," he noted, "is much like growing a field of corn, but it is not a forest. [I am] not an advocate of growing wild forests like this."

During his lecture to an audience of roughly 50 people, Ellis discussed the advantages of growing perfectly straight lines of trees as crops.

He noted, for instance, that these trees are easier to manage and are more amenable to farming techniques when it is time to harvest them. The trees also grow to a harvestable height after only ten years, compared to the 60 to 100 years that it takes in the wild.

Genetics underpins Ellis's ideas. Two healthy looking "parent" trees are cross-bred, yielding a variety of "children"—some big and some small. The larger trees are in turn cross-bred. When the best cross has been achieved, scientists can "very selectively insert a single gene that encodes for a single trait" to make the trees even more productive.

Selective breeding was one of the main tenets behind the so-called "Green Revolution" in agriculture that began in the 1960s. The revolution included improving seeds through breeding, adding fertilisers and pesticides to crops, and constructing irrigation systems. Productivity increased between 100 and 400 percent.

"Intensively growing trees," he noted, "is much like growing a field of corn, but it is not a forest. [I am] not an advocate of growing wild forests like this."

- David Ellis Scientist

Opponents of the Green Revolution say that such farming practices have led to reduced genetic diversity in crops, increased vulnerability to pests, soil erosion, infertility, and nutrient deficiencies. They also contend that only the agrochemical industry—which includes manufacturers of agricultural machinery, dam builders and owners of large land areas—benefit from the Revolution.

Ellis said that a new "Gene Revolution" is beginning, which could potentially give trees and crops innate resistance to insecticides and herbicides by implanting them with a specific gene to control a given characteristic.

Applying herbicide to trees is most effective when weeds are young and most susceptible. However, this can't normally be done because the chemicals are also highly toxic to young trees.

Using herbicides leaves trees brown and dry. However, Ellis presented a slide which showed that spraying genetically-altered "baby" trees with herbicides yields trees that are actually healthy and green.

Ellis also cited other benefits of genetic engineering that could save the industry time and money, such as a possible 10 to 30 percent increase in the cellulose found in a tree. Cellulose is used commercially, for example, in the production of newspapers.

Cellulose contains a substance known as lignin, which helps plants and trees transport water and stand up straight. But this substance also causes the newsprint to yellow when left in the sun.

When high quality white paper is made, lignin is removed with the extensive use of chemicals. Ellis raised the possibility of encoding a single gene that would permit lignin to be removed more easily, reducing both production costs and the environmental impact.

Like the Green Revolution, the "Gene Revolution" is receiving its share of criticism. The main concern presented by members of the audience was one of safety.

The natural evolution of living organisms is a slow process. Critics argue that since genetic engineering permits the genetic make-up of a creature to change overnight, it could have potentially dangerous consequences. Activists warn against new animal and plant diseases, new sources of cancer, and new epidemics.

Dr. Sally Aitken, professor of forest genetics at UBC, says that the best safety precaution is to make genetically engineered trees sterile. She believes that the results could be disastrous if, for example, an insect-resistant tree enters a natural ecosystem. Without food, the insects would die, consequently causing problems higher up the food chain.

DAVID ELLIS: He explains the "gene revolution." ERIC JANDCIU PHOTO

Aitken also pointed out that most of the studies conducted to date are for poplar plantations. The forest industry in BC, however, is based on conifers, which, genetically speaking, are much more difficult to study. The genetic codes for conifers are ten times larger than that of humans.

According to Ellis, however, crops of genetically-engineered trees could be grown in central BC along the Fraser River on marginal farmland or converted farmland.

He also said that Canadian regulatory and monitoring practices are extremely strict, and that researchers at BCRI are trying to make the trees infertile.❖

Posters, posters, everywhere!

by Maureen Hari

They're everywhere you go—on stop signs, lampposts, benches, and fire hydrants. They're posters, and UBC officials are worried that they're taking over campus.

"Definitely, overload in terms of posters tend[s] to distract from the beauty of the campus," says David Gregg, associate director of campus planning.

Kiosks and message boards were originally put up to help students communicate with each other.

This idea, however, may have worked too well. These kiosks now commonly have ten to twenty visible posters or signs on them, plus the layers of old posters beneath the new ones.

Alma Mater Society (AMS) Vice President Maryann Adamec says that the sheer number of posters on campus drowns the message the posters are trying to convey.

"I don't think it helps the people who put up the posters to get their message out because people are so saturated with the different posters around the campus," said Adamec.

Adamec also voiced concerns about commercial postering on campus.

"I wish the university was a little more aggressive in enforcing [postering policy]. They certainly are taking steps towards removing [corporate advertisements], or at least that's what they've told the Alma Mater Society," comments Adamec.

According to UBC policy, notice boards and kiosks are there to serve students' needs. The university must approve any commercial posters.

"I wish the university was a little more aggressive in enforcing [postering policy]. They certainly are taking steps towards removing [corporate advertisements], or at least that's what they've told the Alma Mater Society,"

-Maryann Adamec AMS Vice President

Posters of any kind are not to be attached to trees, lampposts, traffic signs, or building exteriors. If these regulations are violated, the signs must be removed within 48 hours, otherwise a $2,000 clean-up fee will be charged.

Meanwhile, some campus officials think that students are to blame for excessive postering.

"Our biggest offenders are our students who put their posters on lampposts [or] anything that seems to be around," says Gregg.

Not only are those posters an eyesore, states Shelley Vandenburg, UBC waste management supervisor, but because workers are paid nearly 20 dollars an hour to pick up litter and clean up poster, they also cost students money that could be used to buy new desks, renovate buildings, or finance scholarships.

"That money's coming out of the core funded budget," says Vandenburg. "If administration has to pay costs to do [cleanup], then there's not enough money to do other things that might benefit students."

Other universities across Canada face similar problems regarding posters and signs. One response from UBC Waste Management Operations is to raise awareness among student populations.

Vandenberg reports that her office has hired a student to work on "trying to come up with an educational campaign to try and make people more aware.❖

news • • •
meets every tuesday @ 12:30

CBS questionnaire "discriminatory"

by Simon Grant and Matthew Kayahara
the Peak and the Fulcrum

BURNABY (CUP)—When Women's Studies major Angela Hold learned that a blood donation clinic was coming to Simon Fraser University (SFU), she thought she would do her part and give blood.

"There's been so much hype about how there isn't enough blood," she said. "And with the clinic being on campus it was super convenient."

But Hold had no idea that her bisexual male partner made her ineligible to donate blood under current Canadian Blood Services (CBS) regulations. She didn't find out until she read the pamphlet while waiting in line.

"I figured if I talked to the lady, and let her know that I know the extensive histories of pretty much every one of my partners, they'd let me give blood."

She was wrong. After reading Hold's questionnaire, which said she slept with a bisexual, the nurse on duty refused to allow the SFU student to donate blood.

Meanwhile, students at the University of Ottawa (UO) raised concerns about the CBS questionnaire—which all blood donors must complete—during a recent blood drive.

"[The questionnaire] perpetuates the stereotypes of HIV and AIDS being a 'gay-only' disease," said Jason McCallum, co-ordinator of the Pride Centre at UO. "The questionnaire is designed to suit public opinion and not medical fact."

In past years, Carleton University, the University of Toronto, Guelph University and York University have all wrestled with the controversial section of the questionnaire. Carleton only recently allowed blood drives back on campus, while York banned them last year.

The issue has become so widespread at Canadian universities that the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), Canada's largest student lobby group, is circulating a petition opposing the issue.

"The questionnaire not only leads women to believe that they are less at risk, but it puts the nation's blood supply in further danger by denying that anal sex among male-female sexual partners is quite common," reads the petition.

Back at SFU, Hold says that she was shocked that the screening process doesn't distinguish between protected and unprotected sex, and simply excluded anyone who had had sex with a gay man.

"I don't think that's just being cautious," she said.

"I think they're being cautious with a homophobic slant, and that's different."

A spokesperson for the CBS office in Vancouver declined to provide Canadian University Press with a copy of the pre-donor questionnaire. A nurse with the CBS similarly refused to provide *the Ubyssey* with a copy.

Nevertheless, Ina Jusufovic, CBS communications co-ordinator, defended the screening process.

"We're not there to preclude people who are specifically homosexual," she said. "What we need to do is preclude high-risk activities. [And gay sex] has been indicated through scientific study to be a high risk activity for HIV, so we are required to ask that question."

Jusufovic admits the gay sex question is very controversial, but advised people like Hold to "picture yourself as a recipient in a hospital."

"Don't you think you would want us to provide the best supply possible?" she asked.

But Hold insists that CBS is only harming its own supply when the screening process turns away healthy blood such as hers.

"I'm positive that I don't have AIDS," said Hold.

"I've had regular AIDS tests, I know the extensive sexual histories of my partners, and I don't shoot up. My blood's great, but they're not going to take it."

She also suggested the questionnaire was discriminatory, noting it focused on gay male sex, but ignored lesbian sex, while "in my experience with women, there's a lot of blood exchanged."❖

New regulations for CiTR

by Chris Bodnar
Ottawa Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP)—The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) is preparing to release updated regulations for the country's 43 campus and 50 community radio stations.

"The commission is trying to streamline the regulatory process," said Annie Laflamme, a broadcast policy analyst at the CRTC, which is responsible for regulating and supervising Canadian broadcasting.

"I believe for campus and community radio this will be some kind of relief."

The CRTC is currently looking at several proposals that would change the rules for campus and community radio stations—such as lifting some restrictions on radio advertising, granting low-power beginner stations start-up licences, and increasing on-air Canadian content to 35 per cent. The CRTC is expected to make its ruling this fall.

"The new CRTC proposed policies are quite favourable in a lot of ways," said Fiona York, president of the National Campus and Community Radio Association (NCRA) and station manager of Halifax's CKDU. "They really seem to acknowledge our mandate and they respect the campus and community model."

But Aaron Nakama, interim station manager at UBC radio station CiTR, says that it's too early to be so optimistic. "It's kind of doing more harm than good to speculate what [the regulations are] going to be before they actually come out."

Nakama and CiTR program coordinator Anna Friz met with the CRTC last year, but is hesitant to say how effective the consultation has been.

"There's been two years of feedback given to the CRTC, so it's going to be interesting to see what feedback that all campus stations in Canada gave them over this two-year period is going to come into the new policy."

Others in the campus radio community believe the proposed changes will help the industry grow.

"It might be a chance to get some new stations," said Barry Rueger, station manager at CKCU, the radio station at Carleton University in Ottawa. "Most radio growth is in small towns at the moment."

Rueger adds that the proposed developmental licenses will help groups with few resources establish radio stations.

But Nakama says that a policy set out by the CRTC in 1998 is doing exactly the opposite: making it harder for campus stations to get space on the airwaves.

The 1998 commercial radio policy allowed commercial companies to own more than two stations in the same market, a move which Nakama says threatens the smaller stations.

"There was outrage from the campus sector in that respect because there's limited frequencies left."

Nakama added that stations such as Simon Fraser University's CJSF will be constrained because of the competition for frequencies.

Meanwhile, CFCR, an independent broadcaster in Saskatoon, is facing that exact problem—the station serves a relatively small market where available frequencies are becoming saturated with commercial stations. Rawlco, a large Canadian corporate radio broadcaster, has a virtual stranglehold on the radio dial in this Prairie city of 200,000. And they have now applied for an additional license, this time for a top-40 station.

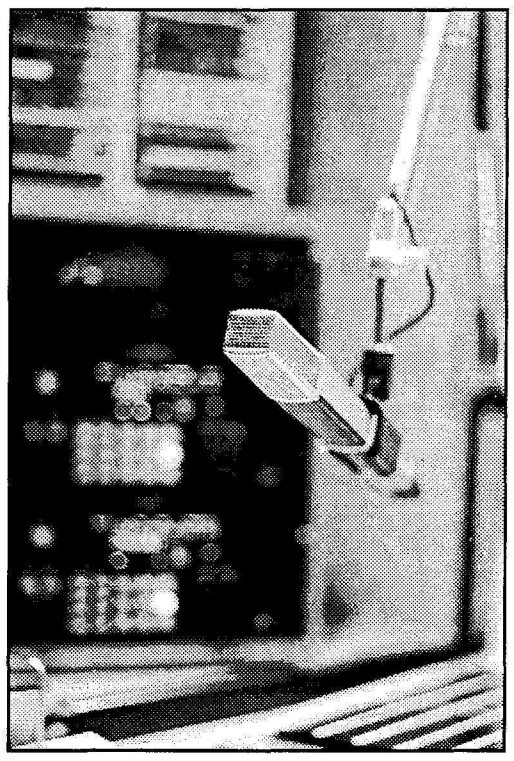
After the University of Saskatchewan student union shut down its campus radio station, CFCR emerged from the ashes as an independent radio broadcaster in the city.

"People that listen to us are people that totally dislike mainstream radio," said Phil Sapieha, CFCR's station manager, who doubts that a new station would affect his listenership.

Nevertheless, Sapieha admits the big network stations have something his station simply cannot afford—statistics.

"Most of the advertising goes to the big stations because they can back up their marketing by waving around their listenership stats."

From the CRTC's perspective, dropping the advertising restrictions for community radio stations and lowering them for campus stations will allow these stations to maintain a more stable financial resource, says radio analyst Laflamme.



CiTR: The UBC radio station will have to adjust to new CRTC regulations. TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

And Nakama says that what was problematic for commercial broadcasters in the 1998 policy could be beneficial to the campus stations.

"I know the commercial radio broadcasters were pissed off in many ways about the fact that their [Canadian Content] levels were going to be increased" over a three-year period. Nakama added that campus stations already fulfil this requirement.

But NCRA president York warns against complacency once the new regulations are in place.

"It still means that we have a lot of work to do to further our goals, and that we shouldn't see the regulations as an end result but as a position to go forward and pursue more ideals and more goals."

At the same time, Carleton's Rueger says campus and community radio stations need to boost their image in the eyes of both regulators and politicians.

"Campus radio has no profile," he said. "There are 50 or 60 English stations in Canada, but they have no profile in Ottawa or in the government ministries."❖

—with files from Nicholas Bradley

Academic plan draws criticism

by Eric Jandciu

Class sizes, financial cutbacks, and the quality of instruction head the list of concerns raised by Science students at a meeting held last Thursday to discuss UBC's new Draft Academic Plan.

According to Julyet Benbasat, a member of the Academic Plan Advisory Committee and associate dean of academic curriculum, the committee, in drafting the new plan, wanted to "see whether there were new things that [the university] wanted to do...Perhaps expand on some of the old ones, scratch some of the old ones and bring in some new ones."

But students were more intent on asking the panel of faculty, administration, and student representatives about basic issues regarding the quality of their education.

"Will the plan bring back my labs?" asked a fourth year cell biology and genetics major who has been forced to travel to another university to get a year of valuable lab experience before continuing on to graduate school. The panel assured her that hers is not the only department that has been faced with tough financial times and loss of laboratories.

Some students were confused about how proposed "learner-centred" classes could be possible when classes are so big. Vice President Academic and Provost Barry McBride explained that the university would keep trying to reduce class sizes through new, innovative methods which make use of all the instructional resources available, such as Information Technology (IT) Services.

"We'll do it!" responded an excited Dean of Science Maria Klawe after an integrated sciences and biochemistry co-op student suggested using fourth year students that have taken a course the previous year to teach the course the following year for credit. Many panel members indicated that this is the type of creativity the committee is looking for.

But UBC administrators shared some of the students' concerns.

"It's not accepted by anyone altogether," Benbaset continued. "I have parts of it that I love and there parts of it that I'm not so crazy about."

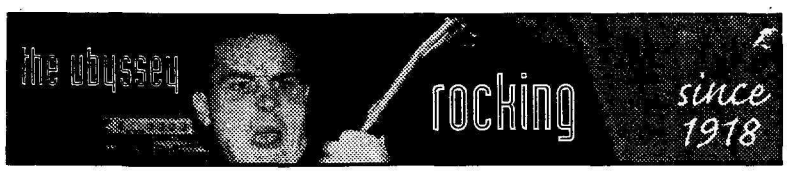
Students also suggested ways of improving the instructor evaluation process and restructuring the credit system. McBride said that perhaps taking five 3-credit courses each term is not the optimal way of doing things.

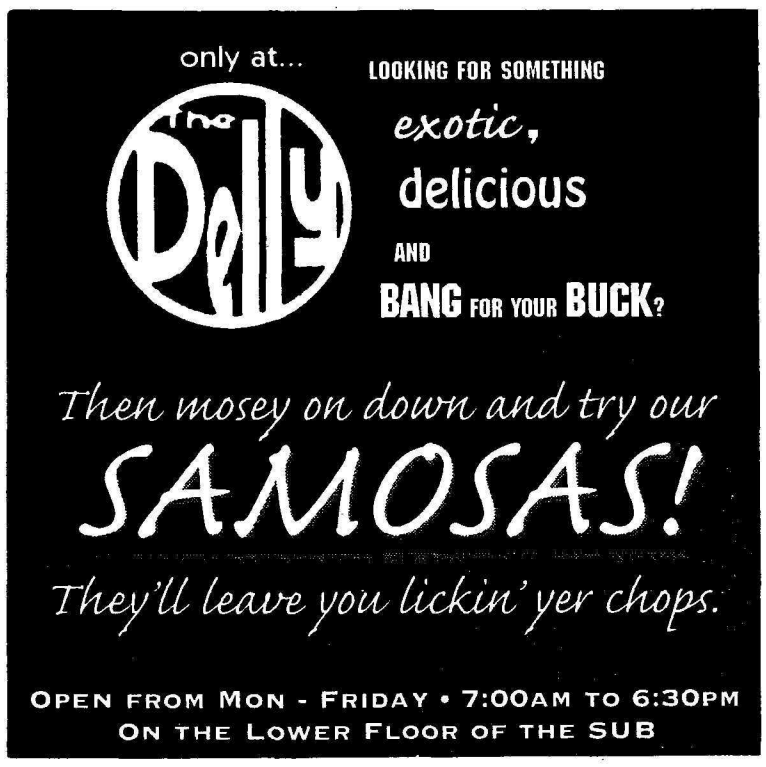
However, it is unclear where the funding for change will come from. McBride said that many of the changes require no funding and will need only internal reallocation of funds.

Other potential sources of revenue are the federal and provincial governments, external sources, and a new fund called the Academic Opportunity Fund.

McBride noted that BC is currently $56 million behind other provinces due to the provincial government's tuition fee freeze.

Work on the Plan began last October by a committee of 38 composed of faculty, students, alumni, library services, IT services and other units on campus.❖





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they support both plans.

"We based our [proposal] on the survey results that we did three times, and students wanted both plans," he said. "Over 80 per cent were in favour."

The AMS and the Graduate Students Society [GSS] surveyed roughly 1,100 students over the past year in three separate surveys, which asked students about the type and price of coverage they desired.

But Chuck Paltiel, Managing Consultant for the Statistical Consulting and Research Lab at UBC, says it's difficult to make reliable generalisations from a voluntary survey.

"It's really hard to say that results in that type of survey [a voluntary survey] are valid."

He said choosing a random sample that targets specific groups would provide a more accurate view than a self-selecting survey.

Marshall did say the AMS plans to look into negotiating a deal that would allow students with dental coverage to opt out of the entire plan, but no compromise has yet been reached. Marshall denied that the referendum process was too far along to change the deal.

The difficulty that students at UBC wanting to opt out could face if the referendum passes was raised by AMS councillors earlier this month. SCN Pacific Director Kristin Foster said that because the dental plan is "the greatest chunk of the plan we're providing," the medical and dental plans had to be packaged together.

Bukhman also defended the current opt-out rules, contending that if students were given the choice to opt out of either the health or dental plan, it would result in a roughly five to ten per cent increase in the plan's price because of the greater risk it would provide to insurance brokers.

Candace Hofmann, a psychology student who helped put together the proposal, said having two separately-administered medical plans would be "administratively a nightmare."

But when *the Ubyssey* asked Greg McKellar, information officer for Queen's Alma Mater Society, if having separate health and dental plan is difficult, he said, "No, not really. They're separate, they're distinct, and we treat them that way. There are a few minor administrative problems with the Registrar's Office, but that's really an internal thing." At Queen's, the health and dental plan are administered by different insurance companies.

In addition, the potentially high opt-out rate of is a barrier to more flexible opt-out rules. At schools with more flexible rules, opt-outs have been significant, which Bukhman claims would raise the cost for students still in the plan.

The reason that the UBC plan is more expensive is because it is a joint undergraduate and graduate plan.

At UVic, an estimated 50 per cent of students opt out of the offered health plan because they have equivalent coverage, said to Morgan Stewart, chair of the UVic Students' Society.

At the Western Ontario, between 33 and 44 per cent of students opt out each year. Thirty-two per cent of students at the University of Toronto are expected to opt out this year, and at York, opt-out rates range from 12 to 16 per cent. Roughly 15 per cent of McGill students opt out, and 30 per cent at Concordia.

Foster said SCN expects roughly 17 per cent of UBC students to opt out, but that they are prepared for up to 33 per cent.

Bukhman says the level of opt-outs varies at different schools due to education levels.

"In our experience, with proper and good education and fact, the level of opt-outs goes down," said Bukhman.

Marshall also noted that students at UBC who would like to opt out for financial reasons could apply to be compensated for the plan costs, due to a $100,000 bursary that will be set up for this purpose.

And Bukhman says that students won't likely opt out if they understand what the plan offers.

"There are a lot of diseases that are still quite prevalent today that frankly they don't want to be passing the receipts to their moms and dads. It's awkward and most insurance plans aren't really designed to operate with the level of privacy that they really should," he said.

Bukhman says the reason that the UBC plan is more expensive is because it is a joint undergraduate and graduate plan. He added there is not a direct comparison between provinces.

The cost of health coverage is generally more expensive for graduate students than for undergraduates. At McGill, undergraduates pay $144.60 compared to $181 for graduates. At Concordia, undergraduates pay $153 for coverage, compared to the $168 graduate bill.

Bukhman said a "graduate plan is always much more expensive because the grad students are older, they have more families, they have more dependents, and they use the plan more."

This disparity in cost raises the question of why UBC has grouped these two characteristically different groups under the same plan.

Marshall says the reason lies in the representation of students in student government. He points out that at schools like McGill and Concordia the graduates and undergraduates are represented under different associations, while at UBC, the GSS is a constituency of the AMS.

Marshall acknowledged that the price would be cheaper for undergraduates if they had a separate plan, but said the cost can't be avoided.

"I'm not going to discriminate against grad students because they are AMS members as well, and I don't discriminate against the students I represent."

When asked by *the Ubyssey* if the plan would be cheaper for the roughly 26,000 undergraduates if they were not grouped together with the roughly 6,000 graduate students, Bukhman replied "Yes it would," but added, "if there was a plan that separated men and women, the plan for men would be cheaper...it's all how you divide it."❖

COMPARING STUDENT PLANS

	UBC	UVic	Western	U of Toronto	Concordia	McGill	York	Calgary
Annual cost per undergraduate student	$168 (health and dental)	$94 (health only)	$91.40 (health only)	$123.12 (health and dental)	$153 (health and dental)	$144.60 (health and dental)	$117 (health only)	$96.50 (health and dental)
Annual cost per graduate student	$168 (health and dental)	n/a	n/a	n/a	$168 (health and dental)	$189.05 (health and dental)	$229 (health and dental)	n/a
Undergraduate plan opt-out rules	opt out if have both health and dental coverage	opt out if have health coverage	opt out if have health coverage	health plan opt out if have health coverage dental plan opt out for any reason	opt out of either plan for any reason	opt out of either plan only with equivalent coverage	opt out if have health coverage	opt out of either plan for any reason
Graduate plan opt-out rules	opt out if have both health and dental coverage	n/a	n/a	n/a	opt out if have both health and dental coverage	opt out if have both health and dental coverage	opt out if have both health and dental coverage	n/a

Cancer scare in Toronto

by Kelly Pedro
the Excalibur

TORONTO (CUP) - York University students sitting and eating on the grass have a lot more to worry about than ants after chemicals in a herbicide used on campus lawns have been linked to cancer.

Weed and Feed, a herbicide to fertilise the grass at York, contains 2-4D, a chemical some environmental groups believe may lead to cancer, and which the Canadian Cancer Institute has linked to leukaemia in children, as well as various respiratory and skin diseases.

But university officials insist they are not threatening students.

"Safety is number one," said Bob Smith, superintendent of Grounds and Vehicles at York. "We do not want to cause harm or injury to anybody."

Moreover, some groups who study pesticides say 2-4D is safe. Donald Page, executive director of the Industry Task Force II on 2-4D in the U.S., says studies show the substance is not harmful.

A 1992 University of Guelph study sent volunteers to areas where the herbicide was sprayed. A urinalysis found no 2-4D levels in their bodies.

Page said that only trace amounts of 2-4D remain in the body, but Thelma MacAdam, chair of the Environmental Committee for Health Action Network Society, says the toxin can still be harmful in small doses.

And Janet May, pesticide campaign director for the Toronto Environmental Alliance, says even minute amounts of 2-4D affect the human reproductive system causing low sperm counts and other hormonal difficulties.

Last year, Environment Canada found parts of 2-4D in Toronto's water.

But a 1994 Health Canada report, produced by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), found 2-4D could not be linked to numerous types of cancer.

In response, May says the study is merely a reflection of how close Health Canada works with the PMRA. Pesticides are now regulated through Health Canada, whereas previously they were a subsidiary of agriculture.

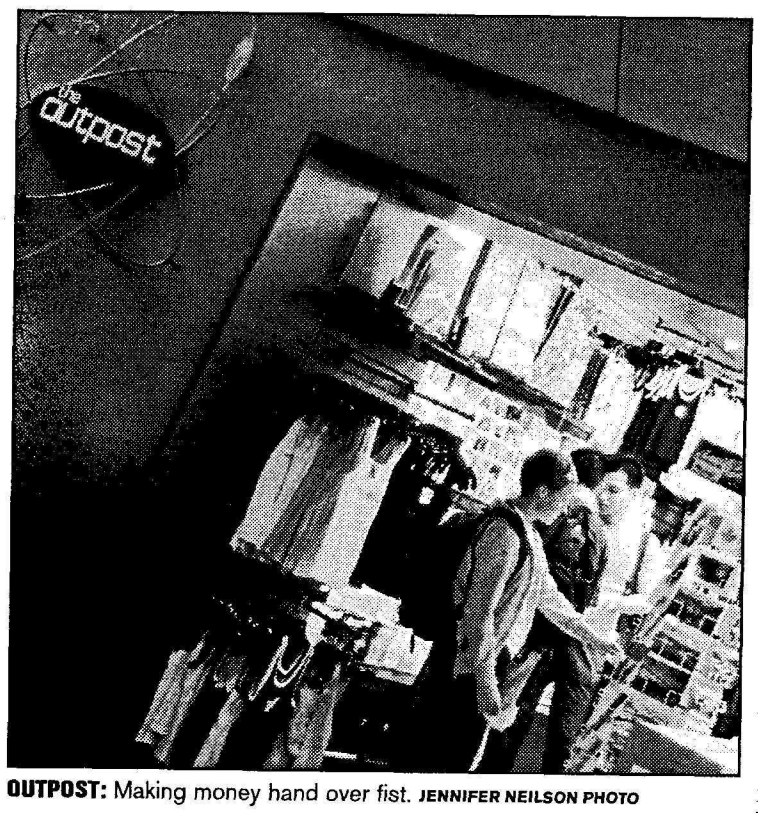
"It's business as usual," said May. "They don't want to take the chemical off the market."

Antony Simpson, a PRMA communications officer, denies this, and says pesticide exposure falls below the minimum standards set by Ottawa. But the true toxic line for 2-4D has yet to be drawn.

Dr. Len Ritter, executive director of the Canadian Network of Toxicology Centres, says 2-4D is neither the safest nor most dangerous pesticide. He concedes there is evidence to prove both sides.

According to May, however, reports from the U.S. indicate some people suffered chemical skin burns after coming into contact with grass fertilized with 2-4D.❖

Outpost posts a profit



OUTPOST: Making money hand over fist. JENNIFER NEILSON PHOTO

by Sarah Morrison

Business as usual at the Outpost has put last year's Thunderbird Shop controversy at the back of the Alma Mater Society (AMS)'s mind.

"Financially, it's been doing very well," said AMS Director of Finance Karen Sonik, stating that the Outpost posted a surplus of $115,000 in its first year.

In comparison, during the 1997-98 fiscal year, the AMS received $64,000 in rent from the Thunderbird Shop, the privately-owned predecessor to the Outpost, while UBC received $17,000 in licensing fees for the Shop's use of the Thunderbird logo.

The Thunderbird Shop had been in business in the SUB for 25 years before the AMS voted not to renew the store's lease in 1997. A referendum was held on the issue, and although over three-quarters of the students who voted supported extending the lease, the Yes vote failed by falling 73 votes short of quorum.

The AMS replaced the Thunderbird Shop with the Outpost, a similar, AMS-owned business, on the main floor of the SUB.

"It was purely a business decision," stressed Sonik. "It was nothing against the Thunderbird Shop; it's just a question of what's best for the students. The AMS is not separate from the students. We provide the services for the students, so the more money that we have, the better we can do that."

Though the AMS doesn't yet have any long-term projections for the Outpost, Sonik expects that the store will increase its profits in the future as it gets a better idea of what students want.

"In terms of product line, we're still looking at what there's demand for; that's just a process we'll be doing every year," she explained.

"We're hoping to do a survey on our commerical services and get students' input on what's needed and what they would like to see in the store."

According to AMS General Manager Bernie Peets, students are happy with the Outpost's selection.

"It's been very positive from the customer point of view. They like what we're doing, and we've had a lot of good comments from our students and customers in general," said Peets.

Peets noted that the Outpost has also boosted Subcetera's profits. Because the Outpost doesn't sell candy or cigarettes, sales of these items have gone up at Subcetera.

"We didn't really feel there was any need to have two stores within fifty feet of each other selling the same product."

But not all UBC students are impressed by the AMS's venture into the retail business.

"It seems to me a bit more crowded in there...I was in there recently, and the service did suck, I must say. I don't know if it was disorganisation or what, but I was looking for help and I couldn't find it," said student Angela Kruse.

"I noticed that basically what they did was change the store a little bit, but everything else was the same," said student Dawn Leung.

"The type of merchandise is pretty much the same. They might have different types of pens or different types of whatever else they have, but it seems pretty similar."❖

Internet slow to hit Totem residence

by Alex Dimson

In the rush to connect the world to the information superhighway, sometimes a pothole slows everything down. At UBC's Totem Park residence, such a pothole has left students without Internet access and has the university scrambling to fix the problem.

Totem Park residents expected the wiring to be completed when they moved in in September, giving them a direct connection to the Internet. Instead, they have spent three weeks without access—a service they pay $20 a month for.

Despite getting an early start on the project, when UBC's Information Technology (IT) department set out this summer to wire the residence for the Internet, they ran into problems that slowed the installation.

Susan Mair, a manager with the Campus Connectivity Project, a division of ITServices, blames the delay on recent changes in the building code which forced the reconstruction and relocation of the closets that store ResNet equipment.

"If I want to check my e-mail I have to go to the SUB, and the computers there are always full," complained Caroline Sniatymski, a first-year Arts student living in Totem.

But according to Mair, students will be compensated for the inconvenience. Roughly sixty-six cents per day without Internet access will be deducted from students' October or November housing bill.

Students living in the campus' other junior residence, Place Vanier, were plagued by similar installation problems last September.

But Totem residents shouldn't have to wait much longer for Internet service.

Mair says that the Dene and Nootka houses should be connected sometime this week, with the remaining four houses scheduled to go online within about two weeks.

She also said that the problem was limited to Totem Park.

Once the Totem problems are solved, ITServices will continue its plans to wire the campus for the new millennium. Installation is already underway in the Gage residence towers.

Despite a shortage in the housing budget and the immense difficulty of wiring the three high-rises, Mair expects the project to be completed by September 2000. As long as they avoid any more potholes, that is.❖

Take back the night empowers women

by Helenna Santos

Marching through downtown Vancouver with hundreds of other women shoulder to shoulder was an experience I know I will never forget. Take Back the Night transported me to a place where women were able to walk down the street without fear, a place where women felt safe in the company of other women without feeling the need for male protection. All around me were mothers, daughters, sisters, business women, housewives, and students.

Run by the Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter, Take Back the Night is a march that protests any form of male violence against women and the oppression of women in today's society. The main purpose of the rally is to stand up for women everywhere who have been abused, raped, murdered, and discriminated against, while giving them and others an outlet to voice their concerns.

The event commenced at 7 pm outside of the Vancouver Art Gallery on Georgia Street side with various women's organizations bearing signs such as "No Means No" along with an array of pictures of raped, kidnapped, and murdered women. The events of the night moved smoothly with various speakers taking center stage including well-known radical feminist Andrea Dworkin who stated that "rape, prostitution, and battery need to end, [and] in no way should our society continue to support the subordination of women."

Following Dworkin, the march began. We took to the streets in a demonstration demanding the right for women to walk alone without fear. Many wore lavish costumes, walked on stilts, or carried banners high overhead. Mega-phone holders chanted slogans such as "Hey Mister, get off my sister," and "Women Unite, Take Back the Night!" Spectators who had questions were handed flyers and women were encouraged to join in the march.

Traditionally men have been unwelcome in the march as the rally has been intended to empower women to feel safe on their own without depending on men. Thus, many women believe that male participation would defeat the purpose of the protest. Others disagree, such as Students for Choice organizer Erin Kaiser who states, "I believe that Take Back the Night is a great show of empowerment and a wonderful thing for women to do, but in order to realistically fight oppression we need both men and women to band together."

Regardless of this debate, being among so many women who came together for one common cause was an empowering and inspirational experience.❖

I went to Niagara falls with my mom, my dad and it was a special trip. It was fun and we went to Canada's wonderland and I went on the water-slides. They were scary, but my brother made me do it. He made fun of me a lot until I went and then I went down the biggest one. It was fun.

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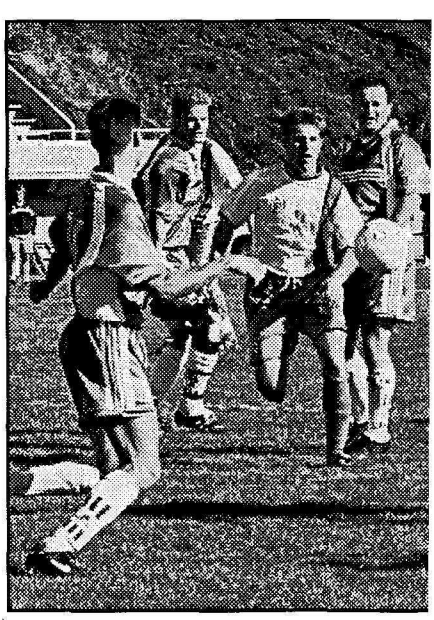
T-Bird men pu in the win c

by John Little



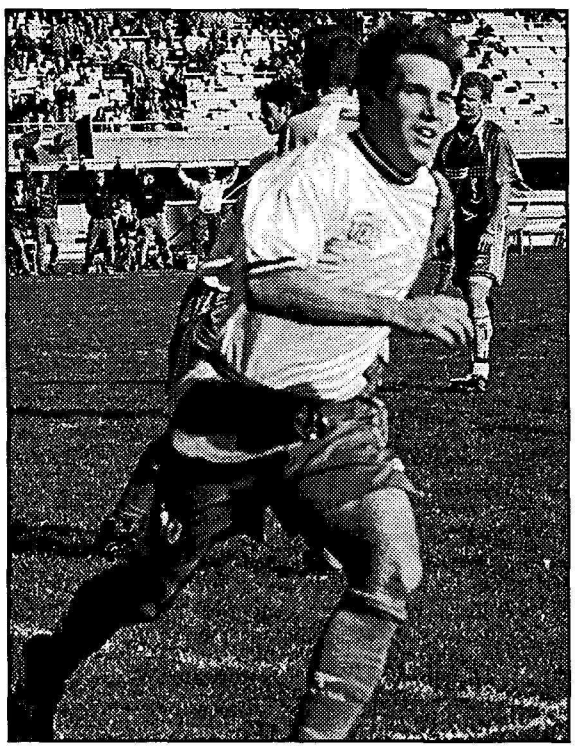
EGADS! HE'S COMING OUR WAY: The Din offence. TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

The UBC men's soccer team was hardly tested this weekend as they racked up victories on Saturday and Sunday at Thunderbird Stadium against the Calgary Dinosaurs and Lethbridge Pronghorns respectively.

For UBC, this weekend's games would echo the weather of Friday night. Just as the wind knocked down trees all around campus, the T-Birds knocked around their opposition with their physical play at forward and their aggressive defense.

Saturday, the Birds at times looked as though they were playing a high school team. Calgary's much smaller forwards and defenders were often unable to control the ball when any pressure at all was put on them by their comparatively gigantic opposition.

Birds' newcomer Adam Plummer, a transfer from Caribou College who was named last week's Canada West Player of the Week, opened the scoring early in the first half as he soared over two shorter Calgary defenders to head home a perfect cross from fourth year midfielder Aaron Keay. The two teams traded sparse chances for much of the first half until Calgary evened the score at 1-1. A bad giveaway by Steve McCauley and



GOOOOAAAALLLL!!! Midfielder Aaron Keay surges triumphantly after scoring. TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

an unlucky ricochet off UBC's goalkeeper, Julian Phillips, resulted in this empty net goal for Calgary's lone threat, forward Rajiv Mathur.

Ball control and ground-based soccer was not to be the order of the day.

"The weather and the team today dictated more of the play than us, and we didn't play our game at all," said Keay.

Calgary played a safe but boring style where they attemped to kick the ball away any time there was danger. They packed the 18-yard box on free kicks and corners and, despite many UBC chances, they managed to hold the score even throughout the second half of play.

Their stingy defensive style couldn't plug the dam forever though, and the T-Birds breathed a huge sigh of relief when Keay finished off a brilliant UBC rush by putting home a loose ball with less than two minutes to go in the game, making the final score UBC 2, Calgary 1.

After the dramatic victory, T-Birds' head coach Mike Mosher was looking ahead to the n "Tomorrow with and run as much tages is that they thing we can exp

And exploit it the score was 3- Iain Shepherd, st year at UBC—an were again evide both games, had up for a header repairs, he retu showed some to elbow from an goalkeeper. He th penalty shot.

It's not often UBC pushed the they were a bunc

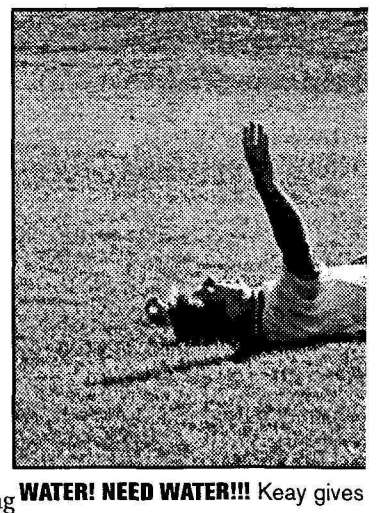
Plummer and finished off the s This score could of Thunderbird Blair Manifold a midfielder/defer whose quick feet ing made him a s

UBC outclass remains to be se teams like the U ranked team in t the second ranke

Injured star C fielder of the 199 al championship

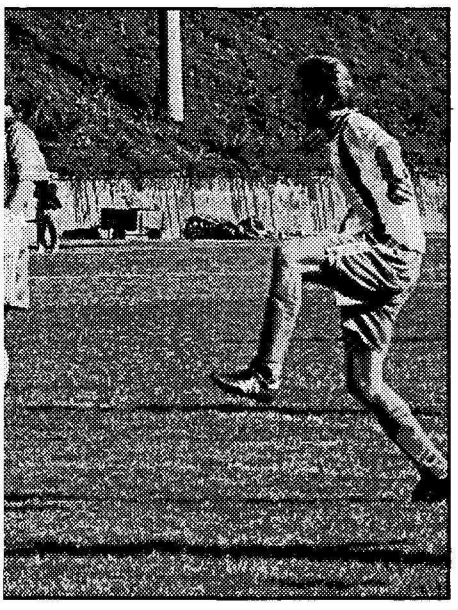
"We brought really help this y some good expe able in the leagu they develop as a they start playin good chance of

If the Birds p they did in the have a shot at another shot at t



WATER! NEED WATER!!! Keay gives

ut two column



Dinos try in vain to hold back the Birds'

e next day's game against Lethbridge: vith Lethbridge, I don't think they'll kick uch as these guys. One of their disadvan- hey try and play and I think that's some- exploit."

it it they did! Playing against Lethbridge, 3-0 at half-time on goals by midfielder l, striker David Wong—both in their first -and Keay. UBC's toughness and strength vident in this game. Plummer, a force in ıad his head split wide open while going ler in traffic. After leaving the game for eturned in the second half. Keay also e toughness when he shook off a flying ın ineffective and frustrated Pronghorn e then avenged the foul by scoring on the

en one can call a soccer team tough, but the Lethbridge Pronghorns around like unch of little kids in a playground.

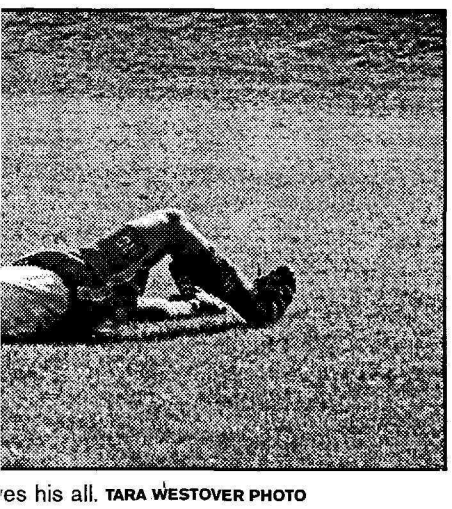
and first year midfielder Joseph Marello ıe scoring to bring the final score to 5-0. uld actually have been worse as a number rd players had strong games. Defender d and Shepherd played well, as well as efender Kasra Asrar Hahighi, or "Kas," eet, good ball control, and accurate pass- ı a standout in both games.

assed its opposition this weekend, but it seen how they will play against stronger University of Victoria, currently the third in the CIAU and the University of Alberta, nked team.

r Chris Franks, a fifth-year returning mid- 1997 team that was robbed of the nation- hip, best sums up this year's squad:

ght in about four or five players that will is year. A lot of players from last year got xperience and they'll feel really comfort- igue now...I think a lot will depend on how as a team. As the year goes along, I think if ying well together, then we have a really of winning."

s play as tough throughout the season as their home-opening weekend, they will ıt winning the West and possibly getting at the national title. ❖



es his all. TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

UBC dominates Dinos

by Vincent Lam

KICKIN' IT UP A NOTCH: Birds' striker Lianne McHardy unloads on the Dino defence. TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

It was windy. Man, was it windy.

The women's soccer home opener on Saturday proved to be as much of a challenge against the elements as it was against their opponents, the University of Calgary Dinos. With a decisive 2-1 win over Calgary on Saturday, the Birds found themselves playing a different game with the cool fall temperatures and relentlessly strong winds.

"Wind is the worst element to play in for a soccer game. Absolutely." said newly appointed Birds' captain Gillian Hicks. "Snow, rain...anything is better than wind. It alters the way the ball moves."

In the first half, the Birds knew what they needed to do: they had to take advantage of being with the wind and put up a few points early in the game.

Taking that mindset, the Birds came out of the nest attacking. After some excellent offensive pressure, the Birds finally converted. A technically sound corner kick by Kristine Jack during the 12th minute of play in the first half allowed the ball to find defensemen Courtney Matheson, who after some nifty footwork in the crease, blasted a shot that left little chance for Dino goalkeeper Taryn Swiatek.

However, the Dinos bit back later in the same half during the 18th minute of play to tie up the game at 1-1. A floater from the top of the crease by Dinos midfielder Kelly Matheson just mananged to squeak under the crossbar while just being out of reach of Birds' goalkeeper Sian Bagshawe.

Being against the wind in the second half would prove to be a formidable task but the Birds' stretched out their wings and prevailed. In the beginning of the first half it was the Birds' defense that would strike first. An early breakaway in the second half by Dinos player Herna Chengkalath was stopped short by Matheson, who would incidently, earned Player of the Game honors. Matheson led the team to victory and, overall was pleased with the performance of her teammates.

"We were aggressive and were playing with a sense of urgency...we played with a bit more pep in our game. We sometimes tend to sit back a little, but today we came out really strong," said Matheson.

The Birds added another goal in the 63rd minute of the game when midfielder Lianne McHardy, struck from point blank range, again leaving little chance for the Dinos goaltender.

The T-Birds displayed their physical presence throughout the game but got a little carried away at one point. In the 72nd minute of play, UBC defensemen Veronica Lie, literally tackled her opponent to the midfield and, for her efforts, was given a red card.

In the dying minutes of the game, U of C began an aggressive offensive attack, but it would be the Birds' defence, led by goalie Sian Bagshawe, who would strike once again. The first of two brilliant saves by Bagshawe came late in the game when Dinos player, Tammie Wilson, sped past a Bird defender on the side and kicked a shot at a sharp but deceiving angle. It looked to be in, but an excellently judged save by Bagshawe ensured that it wasn't. The second brilliant save came with just six minutes of regulation play left when a point blank shot was tipped away by the Birds' keeper.

"Sian had a couple of great saves to keep us in it...and keep us from ending with another tie," said Hicks.

Despite the horrendous weather and a slurry of injuries, which has put players like Sarah Cunnigham and Kim Spencer out of commission for the next little while, the Birds still managed the wind. I mean win. Well, both I guess.❖

T-Bird women lasso Pronghorns

by Naomi Kim

The women's soccer team had no reason to lose on Sunday—so they didn't. Although the weather was chilly and fans scampered down to the few benches that held a glimmer of sunlight, the Birds finished their perfect home opener weekend with a 2-0 win over the Lethbridge Pronghorns.

"Lethbridge isn't the greatest team," said second-year forward Roz Hicks about the only team in Canada West that has yet to see a win. "But we played well. We have more wins than we did the whole last season, so we're pretty happy about that." Last year's Birds finished the season 2-2-6—so far this year, they're 3-1.

I think the fact that we do get three wins out of four, that's a good start. At least we're not getting all those ties again.

- DICK MOSHER
UBC SOCCER HEAD COACH

The final score did not indicate the extent of UBC's dominance; they ran circles around the Pronghorns, who could not come together as a team. The Birds seemed hesitant to get to the ball early in the first half, but as the game wore on, UBC controlled the ball, made sharp passes and switches, and physically controlled the game while the Pronghorns could only sit back and watch their fifth-year goalkeeper, Michelle Ratkai, keep them in the game.

"I was pleased with what we created today, not very pleased with how we finished," said UBC head coach Dick Mosher. "We should have had a few more [goals] and put this team to rest in the first half rather than making it a close game like it was."

Indeed, the sound of balls dinging off the crossbar was sprinkled throughout the game as the Birds rushed up to outside of the goalkeeper's crease for most of the game, but just could not get the ball in the net. Then, rushing towards the goal in the 49th minute, Roz Hicks faced the Pronghorn goalkeeper alone and put the ball to rest in the left corner of the net .

UBC kept up the pace and Lyndsey Burkinshaw headed in a cross, just over the outstretched fingertips of a surprised Ratkai in the 88th minute. And that was enough to give the Birds their third win of the season.

"I think we've got a lot more in us than we showed today," said Mosher. "We've just got to keep working on finishing. We're working hard in practice and the girls know we've just got to score a few more goals. I think the fact that we do get three wins out of four, that's a good start. At least we're not getting all those ties again."

Even with the loss of players such as Sarah Cunningham, a 1998 Canada West all-star who played every game last season, and Kim Spencer, who had two goals last season, the Birds have been able to pull through.

"We have nineteen players who can play...We do end up shifting positions and it's nice to choose players," said Mosher. "Replacements for injuries have done remarkably well so far and we haven't missed a beat...but we are also looking forward to [the injured players] coming back."

"I thought [we] were entertaining to watch," laughed first-year goalkeeper Nicole Wensink. The rookie proved herself in her first start as a Thunderbird, even though—due to UBC's fine defensive performance—she didn't see much action.❖

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SUB	9am-9pm
Koerner Library	9am-9pm
Woodward	9am-9pm
Buchanan A	9am-5pm
Forestry Centre	9am-5pm

Poll stations operating Sep 29-Oct 1:	
Bookstore	9am-5pm
Scarfe	9am-5pm
Totem	5pm-9pm

Poll stations operating Oct 4-5:	
Angus	9am-5pm
Civil/Mechanical Eng.	9am-5pm
Gage	5pm-9pm

Poll stations operating Oct 6-8:	
Graduate Student Cntr.	9am-9pm
Chemistry	9am-5pm
Vanier	5pm-9pm

NOTE: All polls will close at 5pm on Fri, Oct 8 (there will be no night polls)

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UBC football Birds crush Calgary 43-9

by Bruce Arthur

CALGARY—UBC's much-ballyhooed offence finally broke out while its defence pitched a near-shutout as the T-Birds crushed the 1-3 University of Calgary Dinosaurs 43-9 Saturday afternoon at McMahon Stadium. It was the Birds' first victory in Calgary since September 6th, 1991.

The Birds, now 3-1 and tied for second place in the Canada West, started slow, missing two field goals in the first quarter and struggling to click offensively—after fifteen minutes, the Birds led only 1-0. But UBC's conference-leading defence, led by defensive end Tyson St. James, harassed Calgary quarterback Lincoln Blumell and the rest of the Dino offence into a miserable performance. Blumell finished the first half only 5-of-14 for a measly 59 yards, and the entire Calgary offence managed only six first downs.

"That was Thunderbird football," said fifth-year Birds' linebacker Nathan Mellalieu, whose parents traveled from Vancouver to see the game "Winning and having fun."

The offence picked up in the second quarter, led by fourth-year quarterback Shawn Olson. Olson had his best game of the season, completing 20 of 32 passes for 316 yards and 1 touchdown, as well as running 8 times for 51 yards and another major. Olson directed the Birds' first touchdown drive with long strikes to wideouts Dan Delong (for 31 yards) and Brad Coutts (17 yards) before sneaking in for a one-yard score to make it 12-0. UBC ended the half with a 16-0 lead, and had scored four different ways: a single, two field goals, a touchdown, and a safety.

After intermission, UBC's defence kept carrying the game: Calgary's lone point in the quarter came on a 54-yard punt by Jimmy Hartley that bounced through the end zone. UBC managed only a field goal, and headed into the final quarter with a 19-1 lead. But UBC's suffocating defence finished with four sacks and four forced fumbles, and hit Blumell several times as he released the ball.

But the fourth quarter was all Thunderbirds. With the Dinos fading and the Birds in a rhythm, a star may have been born in first-year tailback Julian Radlein. The 6'2", 222-pound back rumbled all over a tired Calgary defence for 125 yards and one touchdown on 10 impressive carries. Radlein showed impressive speed, strength, and poise, and in so doing may have staked a claim to the job as a true fullback in UBC's offence.

"Looks like we've got 'The Prince,'" smiled second-year left guard Bob McNeill, alluding to star tailback Akbal "King" Singh's nickname.

Singh also had a terrific game, with 84 yards on the ground and 110 in the air, and UBC's ground game rolled up 284 yards and four touchdowns. UBC racked up 24 straight points in the fourth until a late Calgary drive netted the Dinos a ten-yard touchdown run with 31 seconds left.

UBC returns home to face SFU in Shrum Bowl XXII at Swangard Stadium Saturday night before hosting the 3-1 University of Manitoba Bisons and the 4-0 University of Saskatchewan Huskies the following two Fridays. The defending champion Huskies are currently ranked number one in the CIAU and handed UBC their only loss to open the season, a 28-20 decision at Saskatchewan's Griffiths Field. ❖

BIRD droppings

CROSS-COUNTRY

The Birds had trouble with registration in their first NAIA meet and resorted to running as individuals to avoid disqualification.

On the men's side, David Milne finished the invitational race in 36th place at a time of 26:16. In the open race, Byron Wood finished in 8th place (26:28) and Jay Dolmage finished 13th (27:03) out of the 143 men.

On the women's side, Jenn Wakely finished 43rd (20:07) out of 135 participants.

Head coach Marek Jedrzejek was pleased with the overall results, but said that in "another two to three weeks, we should be in much better shape." The cross-country team is working towards the NAIA Championships on November 20.

FOOTBALL

Shrum Bowl XXII, the annual football grudge match against Simon Fraser University, will take place at Swangard Stadium on Saturday, October 2. UBC won last year's Shrum by a score of 13-10.

MEN'S HOCKEY

The men's hockey team played their first of two exhibition games this weekend as they played host to the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT). Despite a quick start Friday night on a goal by new Bird winger Fraser Renaud, UBC played catch-up most of the night as SAIT tied the game in the first period and later went on to grab the lead. UBC's Jason Deleurme made it interesting for the last six minutes of the game, but the T-Birds were still edged 4-3.

WOMEN'S FIELD HOCKEY

UBC started their first Canada West Round Robin Tournament game in Edmonton with a 3-1 win over the University of Calgary. Newcomers Mo O'Connor and Wieske Van Zoest made their marks in their debuts as T-Birds with O'Connor scoring two goals and Van Zoest adding the other goal.

On Saturday against the University of Victoria, a possible threat for UBC in their quest to defend their national field hockey championships, the Birds came to a 1-1 tie with O'Connor scoring the only UBC goal.

On Sunday, goalie Ann Harada shut out both the University of Manitoba and the University of Alberta to bring the Birds record to 3-0-1. Colleen Jackson (2), Lesley Magnus (2), Steph Hume, Dallas Plensky, Genevieve Adams and Wieske Van Zoest scored against the hapless Manitoba Bisons in the 8-0 rout. Van Zoest scored again in the game against the Alberta Pandas, this time the game winner, for a final score of 1-0.

The Thunderbirds will host the second Canada West Tournament at Livingstone Park on October 8 to 10.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

On Wednesday night, the Thunderbirds played in the eleventh annual Challenge Cup against Simon Fraser University. The game was close and ended in penalty kicks, with UBC finishing up 3-2. This was the eighth straight Challenge Cup victory for the Birds. Roz Hicks was named the player of the game.

Tainting the victory was the loss of fourth-year midfielder Kim Spencer who, in a freak collision with the SFU goalkeeper, had her face fractured in five places. She will be out for at least four weeks.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

The T-Birds played to a fifth-place finish at the Cougar Invitational, a preseason tournament hosted by the University of Regina, this past weekend.❖

Take out the paper and the trash, so the art therapy program has some cash

THE ANNUAL GARBAGE CAN ART CONTEST
at Granville Island
Sept. 26

by Andrea Winkler

Nobody wants to take out the trash, but what if your garbage can was white and fuzzy with a duck head on top? Just think, garbage day would be so much more enjoyable.

For 13 years Children's Hospital has put on the *Annual Garbage Can Art* Contest. Anyone can enter, all you need is a garbage can, some art supplies, and an imagination. This year's first prize went to Laura Gibson who produced a beautifully painted angel because, "even angels have garbage".

The contest was situated in the Public Market Courtyard where passerbys were able to view the artists at work from 10 until 3. The Irish band Blackthorn accompanied the event, setting an upbeat tone.

The artwork ranged from serene wildlife scenes, and intricate treasure maps to witty environmental statements by none other than "Vincent Van Garbage". After the five hours were up, the auction began, with all proceeds going to the art therapy program at Children's Hospital.

What would you do with such a decorated garbage can you ask? Suggestions included children's toy storage, that ever handy conversation piece or the perfect gift for that "hard to shop for" special someone. The Garbage Can Art Contest was a fun way to spend the afternoon and it was for a good cause. So, next year, book it off and check it out, or, if you're feeling creative, enter the contest.❖

TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

THE CUP
At the Vancouver Int'l Film Fest
Oct. 2nd

by Ryan Landels

The Cup is the comic tale of a group of soccer-obsessed young monks who make it their sole goal in life to obtain a television to watch the World Cup. The film also marks the impressive debut of Bhutanese lama Khyentse Norbu's directorial talents. Showcasing the acting abilities of the real life monks who make up the cast, the film is centred around a true story almost too good to be true.

By providing a unique perspective on the changing face of Buddhism, the film enlightens viewers while entertaining them all the same. *The Cup* paints a portrait of contemporary monks as sports fans willing to step over their own shrines to get their hands on a satellite dish.

There is, of course, another side to the film. One also sees the hilarious situations the monks get into. These are interspersed with montages communicating Zen-like nuggets of wisdom. The clash between old and new is again emphasised through the relationship between Geko (Neten Chokling), the enforcer of tradition at the Chokling Monastery, and Orgyen (Orgyen Tobgyal), his cheeky and enterprising young adversary.

Aside from this slight detraction, it's obvious why *The Cup* took the Sundance Film Festival by storm, and that an extra show has been added. A simple tale that provides a reassessment of one's priorities in life, *The Cup* is a definite gem at this year's VIFF.❖

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April 14 Minnesota Timberwolves

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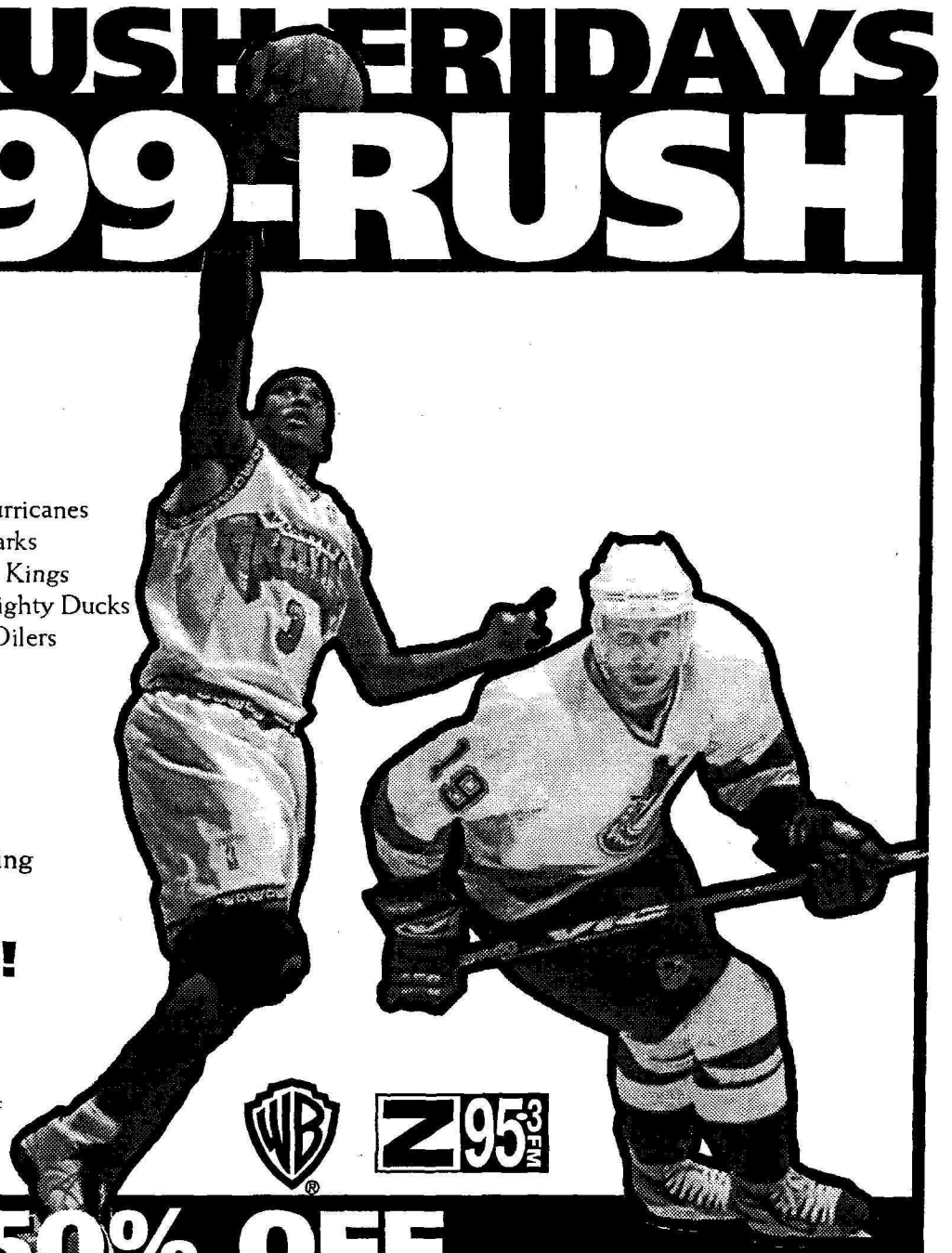
October 15 Carolina Hurricanes
January 28 San Jose Sharks
February 25 Los Angeles Kings
March 24 Anaheim Mighty Ducks
April 7 Edmonton Oilers
*November 5 vs Florida is unavailable.



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referendum '99

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This year the AMS is asking students whether or not they want a student health and dental plan? Whether or not they support an AMS Student Services Fund? And whether or not they support a comprehensive harm reduction strategy for drug users?

The following are some of the frequently asked questions of the health & dental plan.

WHY A HEALTH & DENTAL PLAN?

A growing number of important health care services are not covered in our public medicare system. For many students, paying for these services can lead to financial hardship; others cannot afford them at all.

In order to help students pay for the health care they need, student health programs, covering 400,000 students altogether, have been put in place at universities across Canada, including: McGill University, the University of Toronto, the University of Western Ontario, Queen's University, the University of Calgary, and the University of Victoria.

The AMS and the GSS are now trying to institute a similar student health and dental plan for students at UBC. UBC students will, through this plan, obtain health and dental coverage at the group plan rate, which is much lower than the cost of individually purchasing health or dental insurance.

HOW MUCH DOES THE PLAN COST?

Coverage for the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan will cost **$14 per student per month**. This means $168 for September - August. If passed by referendum, the plan will go into effect in January 2000, and be pro-rated to August at $112. The cost of the plan would be included in student fees.

WHAT DOES THE PLAN COVER?

The following is a brief description of some of the coverage offered.

HEALTH BENEFITS:	
• **80% of the cost of Prescription Drugs**, including: *Oral Contraceptives, Insulin, Anti-depressants, Asthma medication*	• Refractive laser eye surgery: approximately 40% of cost
• Dental Accident: unlimited coverage	• Ambulance: unlimited coverage
• Vaccinations: up to $150/ year	• Counselling Services: up to $300/ year
• **Vision Care:** $75 every 24 months for eyeglasses or contact lenses	• Out of Canada Travel Insurance: up to $1,000,000

DENTAL BENEFITS:	Insured coverage(plan pays):	Optional Dental Network Coverage:	Total coverage in Network:
Diagnostic & Preventative(2 check-ups per year)	70%	+20%	90%
Minor Restorative (Fillings)	70%	+20%	90%
Oral Surgery (Wisdom Teeth)	50%	+20%	70%
Endodontics (Root Canals)	50%	+20%	70%
Periodontics (Gum Treatment)	50%	+20%	70%
Major Restorative (Crowns)		20%	20%
Annual Maximum	$750	no max	$750+

***All amounts are a percentage of the Provincial Fee Guide for General Practitioners.*

WHAT IF I'M ALREADY COVERED?

Students already covered by a supplemental health and dental plan (e.g., a parent's employee plan) will be able to **opt out and receive a full refund of fees.**

WHO WOULD BE COVERED UNDER THE PLAN?

All undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in degree programs would be automatically covered by the plan. Students will also be able to enroll their dependents and spouses (including same-sex and common-law spouses) by paying an additional fee.

The following are some of the frequently asked questions of the AMS Student Service Fund

WHY A STUDENT SERVICES FUND?

The AMS runs several services which are of use to students - that means you! These services include:

- Joblink - the only student-run campus employment centre in Canada;
- Rentsline - helping you find the best room or roommate at the right price;
- Safewalk - keeping you safe on campus,
- SpeakEasy - a peer support & information centre;
- Tutoring Services - helping you make the grade;
- Used Bookstore - providing affordable, quality used textbooks
- Volunteer Services - giving you a chance to serve your community and learn valuable job skills;
- The Advocacy Office - advocating on your behalf
- CiTR - award winning student radio;
- Aquatics Centre - take a dip in the pool

DETAILS OF FUND

The fund will be an additional $9 in student fees which will be allocated to AMS Student Services. **Refundable upon request!**

SERVICES THAT WILL BENEFIT

Although all AMS Services will benefit from this fund a few will receive special consideration to help them along.

SAFEWALK

Safewalk works in collaboration with others to make UBC a safe campus. Increased funding will help them achieve their goals by:

1. Allowing Safewalk to become a fully funded, professional service of the AMS.

2. Maintaining a consistent service to after dark - 7-days per week. Expanding hours to accommodate the new Pit Pub hours (2am closing).

3. Providing salaried positions for Safewalkers, ensuring reliable service and an increase in student paid positions.

4. Developing new campus safety initiatives and establishing outreach programs to help create a safe campus environment.

THE AQUATIC CENTRE

Increased funding will guarantee more free student swims.

CITR

Last February CiTR achieved a majority vote (2/3rds voted YES!) in a referendum, but they fell short of the 3300 students needed to affect a change (quorum). By voting for the Student Services Fund you will be providing much needed funding to the campus radio station. **Top five reasons to vote.:**

1. CiTR Radio provides a place for students to create fresh, bold and innovative radio programming for UBC and the surrounding area.
2. CiTR is an award-winning radio station and is recognized around Canada as one of the best campus radio stations.
3. CiTR provides student jobs and valuable career training. Some of their DJ's have gone onto careers with the CBC, BBC and other major media outlets.
4. Increased funding will ensure that UBC students will continue to have access to the Vancouver Radio Waves!
5. This funding will enable them to take on new projects such as RealAudio broadcasting.

FUTURE ENDEAVOURS

Funding will help the AMS to take on new Student Services projects such as:
UBC TV - a campus wide television station serving the students of UBC

For more details on referendum please please visit us on the web www.ams.ubc.ca

what's going on at the ams ?

27—30 AMS Volunteer Fair

Volunteer Services proudly presents its annual Volunteer Fair. If you're looking for volunteer work, the SUB Concourse is the place to be from September 27-29. Over 30 organizations will be attending, so don't miss this chance to find for yourself the perfect volunteer opportunity!

29 Laffs@Lunch

12:30 Wednesay in the SUB Auditorium
Featuring: Peter Kelamis

29 Pit Welcome Back Party

sponsored by Kokanee
Prizes and giveaways!

29—8 AMS Referendum '99

Voting begins on Wednesday.
Drop by the SUB for a free kickoff breakfast.
Ask questions - get answers.

Questions:
Student Health & Dental Plan
AMS Student Services Fund
A Comprehensive Harm Reduction Strategy for Drug Users.

Be informed, know the questions, come out and vote!

30 Academic Plan Forum

12:30 Thursday in the SUB Conversation Pit
Interactive learning? Research in the classroom? Co-op? Take more courses, take less?
The University reviewing the direction of academics here at UBC. Meet the authors of the Academic Plan and have your say. It's your degree!

"Wanting good play are you?"

"Maybe people will see my play and be nice to someone tomorrow because they felt good seeing my play."
—Stephen Massicotte
Actor/playwright

THE BOY'S OWN JEDI HANDBOOK
at Presentation House
Oct. 1-3

by Julian Dowling

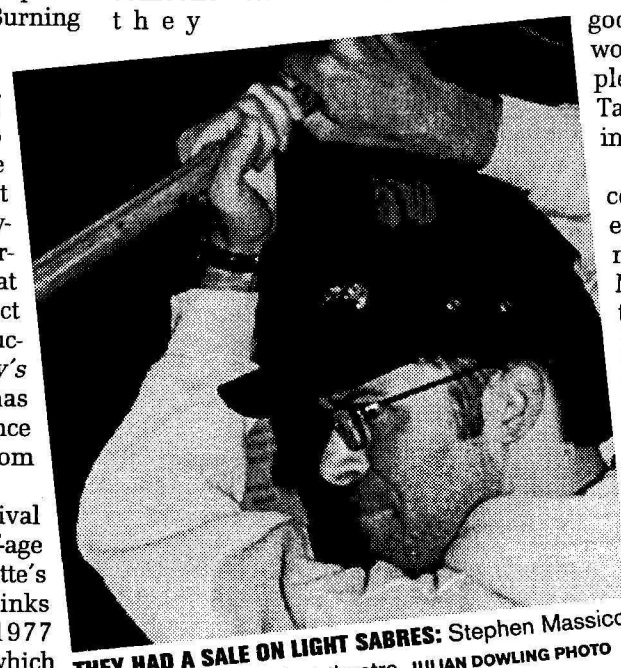
Actor/playwright Stephen Massicotte of Calgary's Burning Night Sky Productions is no stranger to the "force." A native of Thunder Bay, he went to drama school at the University of Calgary. It was there that he discovered the way to get the perfect role—write it. So what began as a class project ended up as a highly successful play. *The Boy's Own Jedi Handbook* has given Massicote the chance to tour Fringe festivals from Winnipeg to Vancouver.

Jedi, a Fringe Festival holdover, is a coming-of-age story based on Massicotte's childhood. The play links childhood with the 1977 release of *Star Wars*, which Massicotte credits as one of the reasons he became an actor.

"The [*Star Wars*] myth is so simple and it has everything to do with civilisation since the beginning of time. What's the oldest fairy tale? The knight rescues the princess from the castle. In *Star Wars* they rescue the princess from the Death Star. It sounds like King Arthur."

Massicotte feels that "the force," in a society that is jaded about organised religion, is something people are searching for in their own lives. "These days people are disheartened by religion so they're finding their own spirituality; be good to people and let go of anger and hatred. That's 'the force.' People really dig that. I dig it."

Nevertheless, changing the world is not a priority for the modest Massicotte. "We don't want people to quit their jobs as shark lawyers and plant rice fields in Africa; we just want them to change the way they behave in traffic or supermarket checkout lines... Maybe people will see my play and be nice to someone tomorrow because they felt good seeing my play."



THEY HAD A SALE ON LIGHT SABRES: Stephen Massicotte experiences low-budget theatre. JULIAN DOWLING PHOTO

Massicotte is full of praise for the actor who plays his younger self. "Evan Davies is a kick-ass actor. He burns the stage up with his energy. A lot of funny lines that he has improvised have now become part of the script." Several scenes, including one where Davies invents a dialogue between a Jawa and a Sandman, vary from show to show as the actors try out new lines. The third actor in the troupe, Shannon Leahy, plays several characters in the play. "[Leahy] is the girl of a thousand faces," jokes Massicotte.

Suggests Massicotte, "[*Jedi*] is a play like a movie...Film gives people entertainment, and people go out for that because they want to lose themselves. But the best film is entertaining and also enlightening. Theatre is doing clever, enlightening shows but it has forgotten the entertainment side."

Massicotte laments the loss of a lot of young playwrights to the more lucrative "dark side"—movies. "Artists that have good ideas want their work to be seen, so people like [Quentin] Tarantino make movies instead of plays."

So how can theatre companies win audiences back from the multiplex theatres? Massicotte sees contemporary plays and festivals such as the Fringe as a keys to attracting young people to theatre. As far as Massicotte is concerned, there are plenty of opportunities for young playwrights and actors in his home-town of Calgary. He works on plays and TV series like *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*.

In Vancouver, however, he doesn't think the same opportunities exist, and this is reflected in the relatively small audiences at the Fringe. "Out of all the festivals we've been to, Vancouver's Fringe festival is a strange one because it's such a big film town. [The organisers of the Fringe] have done a great job, but I think it will take a while for people to catch on."

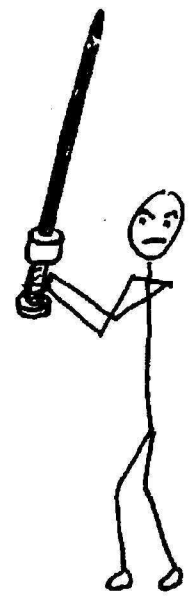
Massicotte has spent his days between shows promoting *Jedi* and relaxing on the beach. "There's always pressure to move to Vancouver, but then I could languish here for a year waiting for work whereas in Calgary I could have done six plays and acted in a few films. It's a choice you've got to make."

In the meantime, *Jedi* has done very well in Vancouver and elsewhere thanks to the *Star Wars* angle and good reviews. However, the Vancouver Performing Arts Center, where the play was performed, didn't help the success of the show. "It's on East Cordova in the grungier end of town. Some of the larger audiences don't want to come from West Vancouver to hang around East Cordova. Granville Island would be a really great place to have the Fringe, but that might cost more."

Despite gripes about the Downtown Eastside, Massicotte will be back at next year's Fringe with a new play, or possibly part two of the *Jedi's Handbook*, a play that has already been well received in Calgary. Like the children's book he is reading, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, Massicotte likes to keep things simple. He reads Kurt Vonnegut and Henry Miller, too, but he likes to keep his mind "tuned to the simplest story telling techniques."

Whatever he does next, it's bound to make us yearn for those carefree days when Princess Leia wore a gold bikini, and rebel alliances could still defeat the evil empires. May the force be with artists like Stephen Massicotte who remind us of the wonder we all felt when John Williams' music made us freeze in our seats, enrapt by a story from "a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away..." ❖

VIEWMASTER!: Not as clumsy or random as a press kit. JULIAN DOWLING PHOTO



Supercalifragilisticexpealidocious!

CHRISTINE DUNCAN AND JENNIFER SCOTT
at the Vogue Theatre
Sept. 24

by Alicia Miller

In his third Law of Motion, Sir Isaac Newton states, "for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction." This law of physics was perfectly exemplified at the Vogue Theatre on Friday night when Jennifer Scott and Christine Duncan, two outstanding, equally dynamic jazz vocalists, took to the stage.

Both highly individual performers, the women were powerful during their solo pieces and even more powerful during their duets in which they were two equal and opposing musical forces which complemented each other perfectly.

Over the course of the evening, the audience was held silently rapt as Duncan and Scott performed a solid two hours worth of music. Fortunately, the sound was impeccable and sharp enough to do justice to the vocalist's smooth-as-silk voices, dynamic scatting, and precise enunciation. Sliding in and out of octaves and riding the melodies' slippery waves, their voices had an overwhelmingly beautiful yet enigmatic quality that was never harsh despite the incredible falsetto range presented.

The band, which consisted of a pianist, saxophonist, drummer, and bassist, did not seem to be backing up Duncan and Scott so much as playing on an equal field with them. All of the musicians took turns soloing on their instruments. The constantly changing instrumentation and vocal combinations did not hinder, but rather strengthened the overall performance. Each vocalist was able to present a diversity of styles and delight the audience in different ways.

Vancouver born Jennifer Scott performed a touching tribute to a friend who had recently passed away from cancer entitled "Something to Live By." Pure and gentle in its manoeuvrings, Scott's voice carried this slow, melancholy piece ably and assuredly despite one obvious upset. Later, it was Scott who provided the audience with the most comical moment of the night when she somewhat ashamedly admitted, "I just did the first set with my shoes on the wrong feet. I just thought they were uncomfortable shoes."

Christine Duncan, a young but amazingly accomplished vocalist, is accurately described in her biography as a "musical chameleon." Indeed, her tremendous range of styles was on full display Friday night as her performances included a lusty, soul-stirring, raise-the-roof blues song entitled "Mean and Evil Blues" as well as an original folk song entitled "Princess," performed in typical Jewel-esque fashion with just herself, a guitar, and a stool.

The overwhelming musical talent of the performers was obvious throughout the night, as was the audience's appreciation of it. In fact, there is only one word that can be used to accurately sum up the experience of watching these vocalists do their thing: "wow." ❖

the ubyssey

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It started out sunny, so Lisa Denton and Erin Shaw took Cynthia Lee and Sara Newham for a picnic. Jenn Neilson and Laura Blue stopped by. David Rott and Naomi Angel were out for a drive, when they saw Jenn Gardy and Flora Graham hitchhiking. Together with Vincent Lam, John Little and Jeremy Beaulne they drove to the picnic. All of a sudden, it started to rain! Luckily Mel Streich and Tom Peacock were skating by, and saw the terrible situation. They ran for Bruce Arthur, Daliah Merzaban and Nick Bradley who brought their umbrellas, and saved the day. Then Tristan Winch and Jaime Tong showed up in their bathing suits, and they looked like they were having more fun, so everyone else got rid of the umbrellas. Duncan McHugh, Todd Silver and Naomi Kim walked by in their Goretex, looking at the frolicking crowd disdainfully. Tara Westover, Eric Jandciu and Sarah Morrison stayed indoors. Andrea Winkler and Alicia Miller played monopoly. Helenna Santos, Ryan Landels, Julian Dowling and Gabby Resch took the opportunity to make off with the rest of the picnic.

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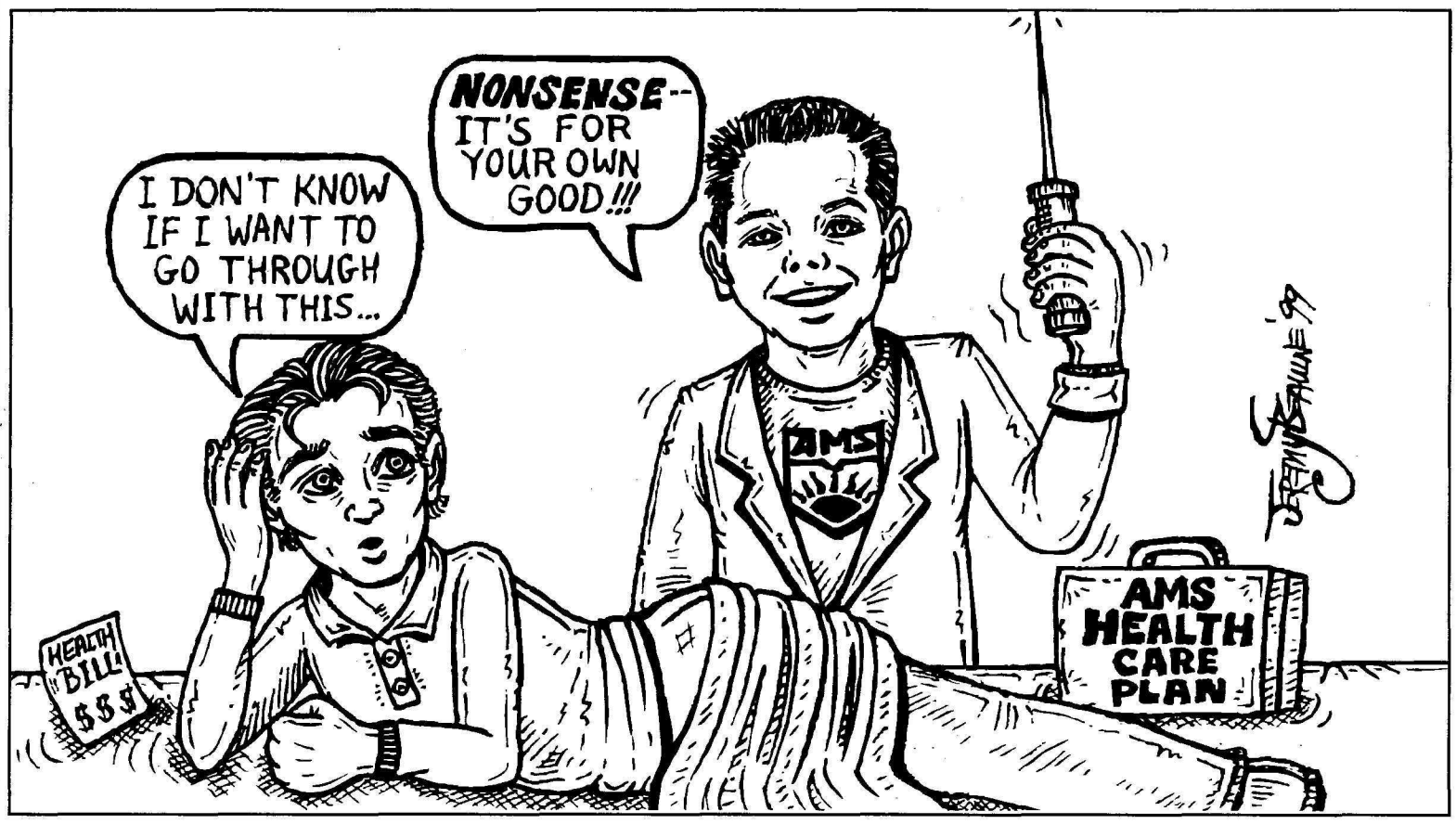

Is it a Band-Aid solution?

Since nobody seems to be asking questions about the proposed health and dental plan, one of the most important issues UBC students will face this year, we at *the Ubyssey* figured that we'd ask some of the questions for you. The lack of publicity, as well as a lack of time during which to scrutinise the plan—which will result in the largest increase in student fees in recent memory—has led to the usual high level of apathy and ignorance on this campus. So let's take a look.

For starters, it is unquestionable that UBC students should have access to health and dental coverage. Student coverage is currently an often-inadequate patchwork quilt that fails to provide some of the basic services that students need—so in a way, the referendum question on a health and dental plan is a much-needed step in the right direction.

But the devil seems to be in the details of the plan, which has holes—and particularly, a lack of opt-out holes—that call into question the value of the entire package.

The plan will cost $168 per year. If you cannot prove that you have both equivalent health and dental coverage, then you have no choice but to pay for the AMS plan. By and large, the plan provides good coverage—including 80 per cent of the cost of prescription drugs, including extensively-used birth control pills, and almost full coverage of basic dental. This is good. Coverage like that is a step in the right direction.

But just as UBC students should have access to health and dental coverage, they should also have the option to turn it down. Any plan that costs as much as this one should give students—many of whom are treading water financially—a choice. The rhetoric over the "administrative nightmares" and increased costs does little to convince us that it can't be done, since opt-outs seem prevalent at other universities across Canada.

The 6,000 graduate students also benefit disproportionately from the proposed plan at the expense of the 26,000 undergraduates. They enjoy both competitive price and coverage compared to other universities. Undergraduates, on the other hand, are slighted in both price and flexibility.

Students need a plan, no question, but nagging questions persist. Why is this plan being rushed through? Most students will have no clue what this referendum is about; to give students only September—the most overwhelming month of the year—to learn about this plan is absurd. Despite claims that planning has gone on for months, why does it feel as if this plan is being rammed down our throats? The fact that serious campaigning won't begin until referendum week not only gives little time to weigh the merits and drawbacks of this proposal, but ensures that any opposition will have very little time to fully mobilise.

In addition, why is their such a rush to have the plan operational by January 2000? The optimist in us would like to think that the date is a coincidence, but the cynic in us notes that AMS elections fall in late January, 2000. It may be a stretch, but in the vituperative world of student politics—and Council has been plenty vicious this year—any election edge is a good election edge.

So if you plan to vote in this referendum, do yourself, and every student that will ever be covered by this plan over the next year and a half, a favour: Inform yourself about the plan: the details are posted on the AMS's website (www.studentcare.net/ubc—but keep in mind that it's a site put together by the company that stands to make a lot of money from your saying yes). Know what you're getting yourself, and future students, into. Ask yourself whether you really want a plan that doesn't give people the chance to get out of it, whether you've been given enough time to decide, and whether this is the best plan that UBC students can get. Some coverage is better than no coverage, but a bad deal is still a bad deal.

We're one of the largest (and therefore potentially most profitable) universities in Canada, and we should command one of the best plans. But take it seriously, and give it a lot of thought. This is a big, big deal. Don't make a half-assed decision if this is, in your best opinion, a half-assed deal.❖

Letters

Response to Arthur

Joyce Arthur's article belittling Christian anti-abortionists brings to mind the recent shooting at the church in Ft. Worth. Her hatred towards those who believe the Holy Bible is obvious. She thinks Christians do not have the right to publicly express their views, but of course she upholds that right for sodomites and pro-choice baby killers.

She tries to make an image of women laying in their own blood after trying to murder their children. She tries to make an issue of a baby-killing abortionist laying in his own blood. Why are they so different than the children they murdered? One way, the babies they murdered were innocent and deserved to be protected. The baby-killers themselves deserved no protection and needed to be stopped.

Reverend Donald Spitz
Director, Pro-Life Virginia

Unfair to Suharto?

Finally, in retrospect we see what the ideal security arrangements for APEC would have been. Protesters should have been relegated to MacInnes field and forced to pay 15 thousand dollars per day for security, to keep people (read Suharto's thugs) from beating them up. After all, they did accuse him of horrible things like genocide, didn't they? That is just sooo offensive.

But wait a minute, abortion is not like that. It's okay to say Suharto is genocidal because he killed lots of East Timorese for profit. It's okay for us to kill a human being when we might otherwise have to (of all great tragedies) take jobs below our ability, or pay for DAYCARE! It's not like anyone ever does anything to get pregnant, it just happens sometimes, so it's no one's responsibility, and if dad is too lazy to care, mom shouldn't have to either. (Less than 10 per cent of abortions are because of rape.)

It's also ok to make THEM pay to protect themselves from knife-wielding pro-choicers, mad at them for expressing their beliefs, as allegedly happened at Ohio State. After all, there is a possibility they might make someone hate somebody else. Besides, stabbing someone, or vandalising their property is okay when it's done for good causes like pro choice and not for bad ones like hatred. (We don't 'hate' Suharto, do we?) Besides, what other statutory rights are these guys going to ask for next? Free speech?

And on top of that, the displays are ugly, and might just make me think my pro-choice stance is wrong. I might have to reason! Or even try to justify my opinion! And I certainly couldn't do that.

Trevor Epp
4th year computer science

AMS dope vote goofy

by Patrick Bruskiewich

I am saddened to see that an effort is underway at UBC to push for the legalisation of a narcotic and that such an issue has drawn the attention and efforts of a group of university students at UBC. I am saddened for two reasons: first for the choice of such an issue and second for the lack of understanding of what representative government really means.

Arguing that we should legalise a narcotic and a controlled substance does not in any way help Canada. It is irresponsible.

Health and Welfare Canada has studied the effect of substance abuse on our country and they have found that, in dollar terms, it costs Canada about 5 per cent of our GNP (over $20 billion each year) to either treat substance abuse, such as drug addiction, or deal with the opportunity costs.

Looking at the criminal aspects, you see that the cost to Canada due to property and other crimes done by drug addicted individuals, amounts to around 8,000 crimes per 100,000 Canadians each year. Here in Vancouver it is in fact 50% higher than the national average, and growing at an alarming rate. The costs to Canada due to drug related crimes may exceed the Health and Welfare cost estimates.

I have seen this first hand. My wife and I have had four property crimes occur in and around our house this past year. If you add the incidents with our immediate neighbors, we have suffered through over 12 property crimes in three families in twelve months, including a car theft. The car was later found by the Vancouver Police Department. They determined it had been used as a "drug den". In dollar value the property loss and damage of these 12 crimes in three homes exceeds $20,000.

I invite the members of the AMS governing body to spend a weekend riding around Vancouver in the back of a police cruiser as the overtaxed and underappreciated Vancouver police respond to the hundreds of property related crimes that occur each and every week due to drugs.

The most stupid thing about arguing whether we should legalize a narcotic and a controlled substance is that you are arguing to increase the supply of a substance that is already causing harm to Canada. Please explain to me how any intelligent and compassionate individual can support such a position?

My second concern has to do with what is a lack of understanding of what representative government really means. The AMS governing body, I think, should take a step back and look closely at what they are saying and really ask themselves whether they understand what their roles and responsibilities really are.

What representative government means is that we elect people to a specific governing body with specific responsibilities. We do not elect people to junior bodies, such as student government, to deal with matters that are the responsibility of senior levels of government. Nor do we give these junior levels of government powers to represent anyone in those matters which are the responsibilities of the senior levels of government.

The issue at hand, that of legalising a narcotic, is an issue relating to the Criminal Code of Canada. We elect members to our Parliament in Ottawa to act on our behalf on issues relating to the Criminal Code.

While we are free to express our views as individuals on matters such as the Criminal Code of Canada, we must be careful when we start to think that election to a junior governing body gives us a right, a power, and a mandate to represent people on matters that are the responsibility of senior levels of government.

It becomes even more precarious when the matter at hand has nothing to do with the powers and responsibilies of the junior governing body. The AMS governing body is elected to deal with the day to day operation of the AMS, and issues like post-secondary education and the services offered to students at UBC, and not with issues like the Criminal Code.

If any member of the AMS wishes to represent people in Vancouver-Quadra on matters like the Criminal Code, they are welcome to resign their seat on the AMS council and run for Parliament. If they are fortunate enough to be elected to Parliament then, and only then, will they have a mandate to represent a constituency of people in Vancouver-Quadra on matters like the Criminal Code.

—Patrick Bruskiewich
Graduate Student, physics

DEPRESSED?
OPTION

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Write one! SeeTom!
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Pro-choicers deny students forum?

by Ted Gerk

Joyce Arthur's diatribe against Christianity and members of the pro-life movement begs a response.

I will dispense with the reminder how "atheism" is responsible for the deaths of millions in the former USSR and other "atheist" paradises...and how "tolerant" the atheists who run China are of those who hold opposing viewpoints. Not to mention the reality that Hitler might have been a baptised Catholic, but he certainly never practised the Roman Catholic faith...choosing to reflect ideals and views of religion closer associated with those who also cling to atheistic dogma.

But beside that, Joyce once again neglects to talk about the real issue....the humanity of the unborn child. Now Joyce might think that an unborn baby is just a blob of tissue...and that is her right (after all, there are still folks who think the earth is flat).

But may I remind her and your readers that a university is supposed to be a place where folks can debate and discuss opposing viewpoints. The only ones opposed to a debate are the ones afraid of losing...or leading an APEC member nation.

So here's the challenge. Joyce and you folks who wave the pro-choice banner: acknowledge the fact that the people who attend university are mature individuals who are old enough to make up their own minds on issues. They are intelligent enough to wade through the gobs of information they receive each day and are best in a position to decide for themselves what is factual and what is not.

The Students for Choice group and the BC Pro-Choice Action Network believe in anything but choice. They wave the banner of "choice" as long as you agree with them.

Their contempt for your ability to decide for yourselves is reflected on Joyce Arthur's website (in an article she took off the web in embarassment).

She writes, "In North America, the "debate" over abortion happened decades ago in our courtrooms, and the anti-choice movement lost. The debate is over–the task of the pro-choice community now is to protect and enhance the legal right to abortion, and educate people on the necessity of legal abortion."

So there you have it. The pro-choice movement has declared the debate over. Case closed. You silly students out there who thought you paid tuition to learn, debate and make up your own minds on issues have had it decided for you.

Arthur doesn't even believe in having democratic votes on abortion!

The current members of BC's pro-choice movement exhibit far more qualities associated with brownshirts and the Nazis that any pro-lifer standing there with a sign. Offended by the analogy? How about the commissars of the former Soviet Union? The NKVD and KGB used similar tactics in their quest to stifle unpopular opposition. (I should know...many members of my family perished in labor camps in this "atheist" paradise.)

The point is this. Students for Choice and the BC Pro-Choice Action Network are terrified you will see the GAP display and talk with a GAP staff member...and, horror of horrors might change your mind on the abortion issue.

And that is what this is all about, because beneath the pro-choice rhetoric lies a fascist disrespect for the human and democratic rights of a large part of humanity.

The fact they won't even take part in a public debate demonstrates how far their contempt will go...but Hitler's henchmen and Stalin's goons never were any good at accountability either. And they didn't believe in the public's ability to make up their own minds either!

—Ted Gerk
Pro-Life Action Network

Pro-life supporter outraged by editorial

by Florence Woo

I am outraged by the editorial that appeared in *the Ubyssey* on Friday, September 24 (GAP: a word of advice, and a word of caution). Without giving us objective facts, the author tells us how to react to the Genocide Awareness Project display, which hasn't come to the campus yet. "Their tactics are ugly ... and they want you to react in just as ugly a way," the author writes, and urges students to "voice [their] displeasure... [and] call their displays offensive and disgusting." The display is labelled as "promoting hatred" and "putting the safety of UBC students at risk."

The editorial, I feel, is either misinformed or prejudiced, or both. People who believe that pre-born life should be protected do not necessarily promote hatred; in fact, they advocate the love and respect for all life. Those who go to extreme measures to force others into this belief, even if they call themselves so, are not true pro-lifers. The media often focus on the shootings of abortionists, but have you ever seen coverage on the efforts of pro-life groups bringing counselling and material help to women with unwanted pregnancies? The image of pro-life people is vastly distorted, and this editorial does nothing to inform the public intelligently.

As for the safety of students being at risk, if the pro-abortion people do not initiate conflict, who will be at risk? If students do not hinder the freedom of expression by tearing down displays, who will get sued? This argument based on safety issues is surely flawed. If you jump off the Clock Tower and break a bone or two, you cannot say that the Clock Tower "puts the safety of UBC students at risk," either.

I agree with Keely Bright (Perspective, same issue) that unwanted pregnancies reflect deep social problems. These problems cannot be solved while pro-lifers and pro-choicers keep yelling at each other across the centre line, and yet closing their ears when the others are speaking. What we need is an exchange of information and ideas, and to allow people to make an informed choice. We do NOT need emotional and prejudiced pieces of rhetoric to tell us what we have to do.

—Florence Woo
4th year linguistics

Opportunities for Student Volunteers

Consistent with the intention to strengthen UBC's links with the community as outlined in Trek 2000, student volunteers are wanted to assist in health and social service agencies, schools and community centres in Vancouver's downtown eastside. Volunteers must commit to working a minimum of three hours once a week from November 1999 to April 2000. Orientation sessions prior to placement and ongoing support during placement will be provided.

These volunteer placements will give students insight into health and social issues, opportunities to develop valuable skills, and experience relevant to future employment.

Please submit a brief resumé along with a one-page statement indicating the type of volunteer work you would like to do, and the reasons for your interest, to:

Dr. Herbert Rosengarten
Executive Director
President's Office
University of BC
6328 Memorial Road
Vancouver, BC
V6T 1Z2

Please mark envelope "Student Volunteer Programme".

Applications will be accepted up to Friday, October 29th, 1999.

Some examples of possible placements:

- STRATHCONA AND RAY-CAM COMMUNITY CENTRES
  Volunteers needed to assist with after-school tutoring and homework progress. Students fluent in Chinese, Vietnamese or Spanish would be especially useful to work with ESL students at both these centres.
- SOS
  A storefront society providing settlement and orientation services for new immigrants is looking for volunteers to help adults improve their English skills.
- ST. JAMES CHURCH
  Volunteers required for the literacy programme at local schools to read to students on a one-on-one basis.
- FIRST UNITED CHURCH
  Volunteers needed to perform a variety of tasks interacting with community residents in the provision of services.
- SHEWAY
  Sheway provides support for pregnant women and young children and is looking for a student volunteer is needed to help in a variety of tasks.
- TRIAGE
  Triage is an emergency shelter for men and women with mental health and substance abuse problems. Triage seeks volunteers to interact with clients.