THE UBYSSEY

UBC'S OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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VP External hopeful may enlist CFS for lobbying

BY JESSE FERRERAS
News Staff

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) could soon hold some sway in UBC's provincial lobbying if a candidate for VP External has anything to say about it.

Stefanie Ratjen, a fourth-year political science major, is looking into involving the CFS at UBC as part of her candidacy for VP External, the AMS position in charge of lobbying municipal, provincial and federal governments about issues related to post-secondary education.

Part of her platform says that the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), an organization that brings student interests to the federal government, does not lobby provincial governments and that issues must be addressed provincially rather than at the federal level.

Her platform then states that "This is where the CFS comes in," though she does not make clear what role the group would play in lobbying on behalf of UBC students.

Ratjen said in an interview that she does not want to bring the CFS to UBC as its sole lobby group, but said she has not thought about what role the CFS would play in lobbying activities with British Columbia's government.

> *Students need to have a stronger voice at the provincial level.*
>
> STEFANIE RATJEN,
> *AMS VP External Candidate*

She added that she wants to see a "well-organized" coalition advocate on behalf of BC students.

"Students need to have a stronger voice at the provincial level, this is the level where shit gets done," she said. "This is where tuition funding programs are allocated, this is where the decision-making structures at the university take place."

"People realize that CASA is not effective on a provincial level. The CFS as a union does lobby on a provincial level. That being said, in recent years, a lot of student unions in Canada and in BC in particular have not been happy with the CFS."

The CFS was founded in 1981 and is Canada's largest

see "VFX" | PAGE 03

KELLAN HIGGINS PHOTO / THE UBYSSEY

2 Girls, 1 Tent: Richa Misra and Anita Bernardo hope to raise $10,000 in order to build a library to help educate children in Nepal.

Live-in week at the library

Students camp out with tent in UBC library

BY COLLEEN TANG
News Writer

Two UBC students are living in Koerner Library for ten days in an effort to raise awareness and money for literacy efforts in third world countries.

Anita Bernardo and Richa Misra hope that in combination with other students from the charity DREAM (Discover the Reality of Educating All Minds) at Queens, Memorial, and Laurentian universities, they can exceed their $20,000 target, which will go towards building five libraries in Nepal.

"It takes about $4000 to build a library in Nepal. So we're each hoping to raise $5000 at least," said Bernardo, who along with Misra pitched her tent in Koerner last Friday.

Bernardo and Misra said they found out about DREAM on Facebook.

"The head of Queen's DREAM, John MacDonald, made a group request to UBC, Memorial...and the people who responded are basically the volunteers at those universities," explained Bernardo. Videos were shown as well to demonstrate how students could do "live-in" events at their universities. MacDonald then spoke to staff at Koerner Library to explain how the process would work and arrange a spot for Bernardo and Misra to camp out.

The other eight members of UBC's "DREAM team" have been bringing the girls meals, said Misra, and are starting a bottle drive for additional funding.

> *We feel really connected, all libraries do, by our mission around literacy.*
>
> LEONORA CREMA,
> *Head of Borrower Services*

The library staff at UBC has also shown their support. "All the librarian staff has been really supportive. They just love this idea," said Bernardo.

"The first morning [Leonora Crema, head of borrower services at Koerner Library] woke us up with coffee and cookies. It was so nice," said Misra.

"We were really excited to hear about the project," said Crema. "First of all, full credit to the students for taking this on and having this idea," she said.

"I think we feel really connected, all libraries do, by our mission around literacy. We just feel it's really important to...

see "Live-in" | PAGE 03

Critic calls on AG to review UBC's investment policies

BY JOE RAYMENT
News Staff

Bruce Ralston, BC's NDP finance critic, is calling on the Auditor General to review UBC's investing policies following an $18 million on-paper loss connected to the subprime mortgage market.

The loss is tied to a $122 million investment in "asset-backed commercial paper" (ABCP) which is a type of fund that makes money by collecting interest on many debts collected into one entity. The entire $122 million investment is currently frozen.

"What is the obligation of UBC...when investing public money to follow directives, guidelines, or the considered investment advice of the BC Investment Management Corporation?" Ralston asked in his letter to the Auditor General.

"What due diligence did [UBC] do? That's basically my question," said Ralston. "Where are they getting their advice from and why didn't they at least pick this up, in terms of their investment choice? I mean, generally, what I've been told is, people who did a little more careful analysis just decided that a little extra return wasn't worth the huge extra risk."

> *Where are they getting their advice from?*
>
> BRUCE RALSTON,
> *NDP Finance Critic*

Many public institutions avoided excess risk by taking the advice of the BC Investment Management Corporation (bcIMC) to avoid the type of fund UBC invested in, now termed "non-bank backed" (ABCP), in favour of more stable funds backed by

see "Critc" | PAGE 02

BRUCE RALSTON

CALENDAR

EMAIL US EVENTS AT FEEDBACK@UBYSSEY.BC.CA

22 TUESDAY — Politics
AMS Candidates' Debate
Time: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Where: SUB Conversation Pit

23 WEDNESDAY — Talk
Writing About War:
By People Who Have been There
Time: 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Where: Main Lecture Hall, Sing Tao Building, 6388 Crescent Road

24 THURSDAY — Talk
Commercialization: A Campus Debate
Time: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Where: SUB Room 207/209

25 FRIDAY — Band
Bend Sinister
Time: 10:00 pm - 2:00 am
Where: Richards On Richards (1036 Richards St.)
$10

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Giant monster decapitates liberty | PAGE 12

UBC took excess risk: NDP critic

from "Critc" | PAGE 01

major Canadian banks.

The bcIMC was set up in the 90s by the NDP to oversee the finances of public pension plans. It is obligatory for for public pension plans in BC to follow the advice of the bcIMC, but not of other public organizations. "A number of other [public institutions] have chosen to use it," said Finance Minister Carole Taylor. "But it is voluntary for UBC and it's board of governors to make that decision about who will manage their funds."

If the Finance Department had warned UBC to invest differently the University would have taken the advice, said Peter Smailes, University treasurer. "It wouldn't be typical for the Ministry of Finance to comment on an investment that is rated by a third-party rating agency."

The Ministry of Finance did offer advice to the University, but not until after they became aware of the problem this fall.

UBC is currently in negotiations to restructure its investment to stabilize the fund.

REMEMBER TO VOTE!!

THE UBYSSEY

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WRITE FOR NEWS

Prof. Byers criticizes torture

Byers: "[Families] are tortured by having their loved ones returned with the spark torn from their souls."

BY AMANDA STUTT
News Staff

Professor Michael Byers chokes up at the word "torture."

Byers, a UBC political science professor and Canada Research Chair in Global Politics and International Law, spoke to an audience Saturday at the UBC Woodward Centre and condemned torture as a "most heinous act."

Byers is an active member of the B.C Civil Liberties Association and he is lobbying for a proposed "Prevention of Torture Act" that aims to protect Canadian citizens from torture.

MICHAEL BYERS

He used the example of Maher Arar, a Syrian-born Canadian citizen who, while attempting to return home to Ottawa from a business trip via JFK International Airport in New York, was arrested by US authorities and extradited to Syria on suspicion of terrorist activities.

Arar received no protection from the Canadian government, and was subjected to torture and solitary confinement in a tiny cell while imprisoned in Syria.

RCMP commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli was forced to resign in the wake of the Arar inquiry, which exonerated Arar completely.

Byers said that torture victimizes families as well.

"They are tortured by having their loved ones returned with the spark torn from their souls," he said.

Byers is concerned about the "complicit manner" in which Canada's highest level of government reacts to in response of reports of torture of Canadian citizens when dealing with countries that are known internationally for torture tactics employed against alleged "terrorist suspects."

Byers said a major problem is that the laws that govern 'torture' are ill-defined. The scope of torture is unguided, and thus the laws are difficult to enforce because they are rife with ambiguity.

He noted the absurdity of the legal stipulation stating that an act of torture can only be carried out "by an agent of the state."

According to Byers, this reveals "trivialities of domestic legal systems."

"Torture is not a state-like act, and cannot be manifesting the sovereignty of the state," he said. "Torturers are not above the law."

He also pointed to the case of Omar Khadr, a Canadian citizen who was captured by U.S. forces in Afghanistan in 2002 on suspicion of killing a special forces soldier. He was fifteen years old.

Instead of being returned to Canada to face charges, Khadr was taken to Guantanamo Bay, the notorious US military prison in Cuba and held without trial. It has been alleged that prisoners have been tortured by US agents while imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay.

"Every other country has repatriated [their] citizens from Guantanamo Bay, except Canada. We are letting him rot there" said Byers.

According to Byers, the U.S is one of the most notorious agents of torture. He pointed to the Abu Ghraib scandal, in which documented footage of Iraqi prisoners being taunted and tortured by American soldiers was released to the public.

> *Every other country has repatriated [their] citizens from Guantanamo Bay, except Canada. We are letting [Khadr] rot there.*
>
> MICHEAL BYERS, *UBC Professor*

"Everyone knows the risk of torture in U.S hands", said Byers.

There is currently a controversy in Ottawa over a federal government manual that named the US as a possible site of torture, with specific mention of Guantanamo Bay.

The Canadian government is now calling this a "mistake," and Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier publicly denounced the report as "mistaken."

"One of the most hurtful things [Prime Minister] Stephen Harper ever said was when he accused people like me of caring more about about the prisoners than we care about Canadian soldiers. And anyone saying that is unfit to govern my country," Byers declared.

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EDITORIAL OFFICE
Room 24, Student Union Building
6138 Student Union Boulevard
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
tel: 604-822-2301
fax: 604-822-9279
web: www.ubyssey.bc.ca
e-mail: feedback@ubyssey.bc.ca

BUSINESS OFFICE
Room 23, Student Union Building
advertising: 604-822-1654
business office: 604-822-6681
fax: 604-822-1658
e-mail: advertising@ubyssey.bc.ca

BUSINESS MANAGER *Fernie Pereira*
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This is a story about Gerald Deo. Sort of. It actually has more to do with Jesse Ferreras and Boris Korby, but bear with me for a bit like Brandon Adams did and it'll all be okay. You might even enjoy yourself as much Levi Barnett did. Does. Whatever. No need to be a Matthew Jewkes about it. Or is that Matthew Hayles? I just can't remember.

Alright, so maybe Jordan Chittley is the real hero here. I mean, that's how I told the story to Kellan Higgins. And it's not like any of the Trevor Melansons in the audience objected. Or, I mean hell, Colleen Tang and David Zhang told me that they thought it was the best thing I'd ever done. Better even than that time Justin McElroy and Joe Rayment ended up in Arkansas back in September. Turns out, Amanda Stutt was responsible for that little disaster, and if I've said it once I've said it athousand times, those boys oughta be thankful that Charlotte Nobles showed up when she did. Cause I heard it straight from Marie Burgoyne who heard it from Celestian Rince that they were gonna be run outta town. And that aint no joke now. Even James Johnson agrees with me.

So anyway, Tracy Fuller was talking to me the other weekend, and she said that, getting back to that whole Gerlad Deo thing, she said that Isabel Ferreras was with him when it happened. And that's gods own truth. Kasha Chang couldn't have said it with more truthfulness.

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Classifieds

announcements

DINE OUT VANCOUVER
with the UBC Food Society Club @ Romano's Macaroni Grill Tuesday, January 29th, 7pm. Our 3-course meal reservation will include oodles of noodles, splashes of tomato sauce, and a hint of chocolate. Members won't have to pay taxes and tips. Non-members welcome too! foodsociety@gmail.com

announcements

THE REVOLUTION BETRAYED:
Trotskyism vs. Stalinism. Defend the workers' states of China, North Korea, Cuba and Vietnam. Part 1 of a 5 part Spartacus Youth Club class series. Wed. Jan 23 at 6pm, SUB room 212.

DINE OUT VANCOUVER
with the UBC Food Society Club @ Chilli House Thai Bistro Friday, Febraury 1st, 7pm. Our 3-course meal reservation will tantalize your taste buds with spice, sweetness, and saltiness in between! Members won't have to pay taxes and tips. Non-members welcome too! foodsociety@gmail.com.

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Live-in Soliloquy

We're going to live in Koerner library. For ten days. You may ask why? How? When? What? Did we run out of student loan money? Are we bribing the librarians?

It all started with a nefarious little website called Facebook. Once upon a time, two girls, Anita and Richa, two lovely maidens from UBC, were invited to join a little group called Live in for Literacy. The duke of Queens University sent out a message across the kingdom of Canada, seeking volunteers to live in libraries to raise funds to build more school libraries elsewhere. Specifically, libraries in the faraway land of mystical Nepal. A land where nearly three quarters of the citizens are illiterate.

Both of us have always nurtured the dream of living in a library ever since we set eyes upon the magical library scene in that epic motion picture Beauty and the Beast. You know which one we're talking about. So when we received the message, our hearts leapt with joy, not only because it fulfilled our wildest dreams, but also because little kids in Nepal would gain the literacy that has so strongly moulded our own lives.

This noble self-exile to the land of books commenced at 10am on the eighteenth of January and will end exactly ten days later. In conjunction with three other universities—Laurentian, Queen's, and Memorial—we hope to raise more than $25,000 for Room-to-Read, the organization that has taken it upon themselves to build the school libraries.

The noble proprietors and librarians of UBC Library have generously contributed $1000 to our honourable enterprise. As we embark upon this mission, we feel excited but a little nervous about potential book monsters and other nighttime residents of the library. Do visit us often during our sojourn in the library, bringing us and the children of Nepal spare and not spare change. And cookies.

—Anita Bernardo and Richa Misra

KELLAN HIGGINS PHOTOS / THE UBYSSEY

Students hope to fight illiteracy in Nepal with Koerner camp-out

from "Live-in" | PAGE 01

promote people's ability to read and get access to information," Crema added.

Crema said literacy has always been an issue that many librarians across Canada aim to promote.

"Our library and the librarians in Canada are very connected to improve the level of literacy. It's something that affects the lives of people very directly, the inability to read, the inability to find information that helps them in many areas of their lives so it's absolutely a world-wide problem, even here in Canada."

> *All the librarian staff has been really supportive. They just love this idea.*
>
> ANITA BERNARDO, *Student camper*

She added that she hopes Bernardo and Mirsa's efforts at UBC will raise student awareness of literacy problems around the world.

"We're at a very high level of education and we may not realize all those people who don't have that level of knowledge and that access to those tools that they need, so I'd say the awareness on campus isn't quite that strong, and that's what's good about this effort right? It's bringing that effort here on campus."

For those who want to donate to DREAM but can't make it to the library to see Bernardo and Misra in person, you can chip in at liveinforliteracy.com.

"They [the CFS] are severely restricted in their success provincially..."

from "VFX" | PAGE 01

student organization. It was formed in order to give student unions a voice at both national and provincial levels. It counts among its membership the University of Toronto Students' Union, the Concordia Students' Union, and the union at the University of British Columbia in the Okanagan.

The organization is well-known for campaigns including the "National Day of Action" against tuition fees, but more recently has drawn fire for allegations of corruption and elections meddling in various student unions.

A forensic audit into the Students' Union at New Westminster's Douglas College reported that the BC branch of the CFS made three loans to the union totaling $200,000 between 2005 and 2006. This is alleged to have occurred while the college refused to remit payments to the union due to allegations of financial mismanagement.

The audit said none of the loans were approved by the union and were not properly authorized.

In 2007, the Simon Fraser Students' Society (SFSS) held a referendum in which students voted to leave the CFS. A preceding report by a SFSS working group said the organization had allegedly interfered in student elections when it backed "sympathetic candidates" in those elections.

STEFANIE RATJEN

FREEMAN PORITZ

SFSS President Derrick Harder questions whether the CFS can even lobby the provincial government effectively to begin with.

"They are severely restricted in their success provincially due to the either apparent or real partisan nature of the organization," he said. "The CFS has significant influence when a New Democrat government is in power, but has less influence when a Liberal government is in power and I think we've seen this over the past four or five years."

"I think the CFS has been significantly reduced in their lobbying capacity since the Liberals were elected."

Brendon Goodmurphy, the current VP Academic, said the AMS would have to hold a referendum if it were to join the CFS and that its bylaws would have to change to accommodate the organization.

"One of the CFS policies requires that your bylaws are in line with their bylaws, and they have some pretty strict requirements," he said.

Freeman Poritz, Ratjen's rival in the race for VP External, said the AMS should look for ways that CASA could lobby on a provincial level.

Whether CASA could lobby provincially is open to question—its website says that the organization is devoted to lobbying at federal and inter-provincial levels.

Taking a STAND against Darfur

PETER HOLMES PHOTOS / THE UBYSSEY

The UBC STAND (Students Taking Action Now, Darfur) chapter discussed obstacles to a successful resolution to the situation in Darfur with MP Hedy Fry (Liberal—Vancouver Centre) on Thursday at the Michael Smith Labs. The crisis in Darfur, in western Sudan, will be entering its fifth year this March.

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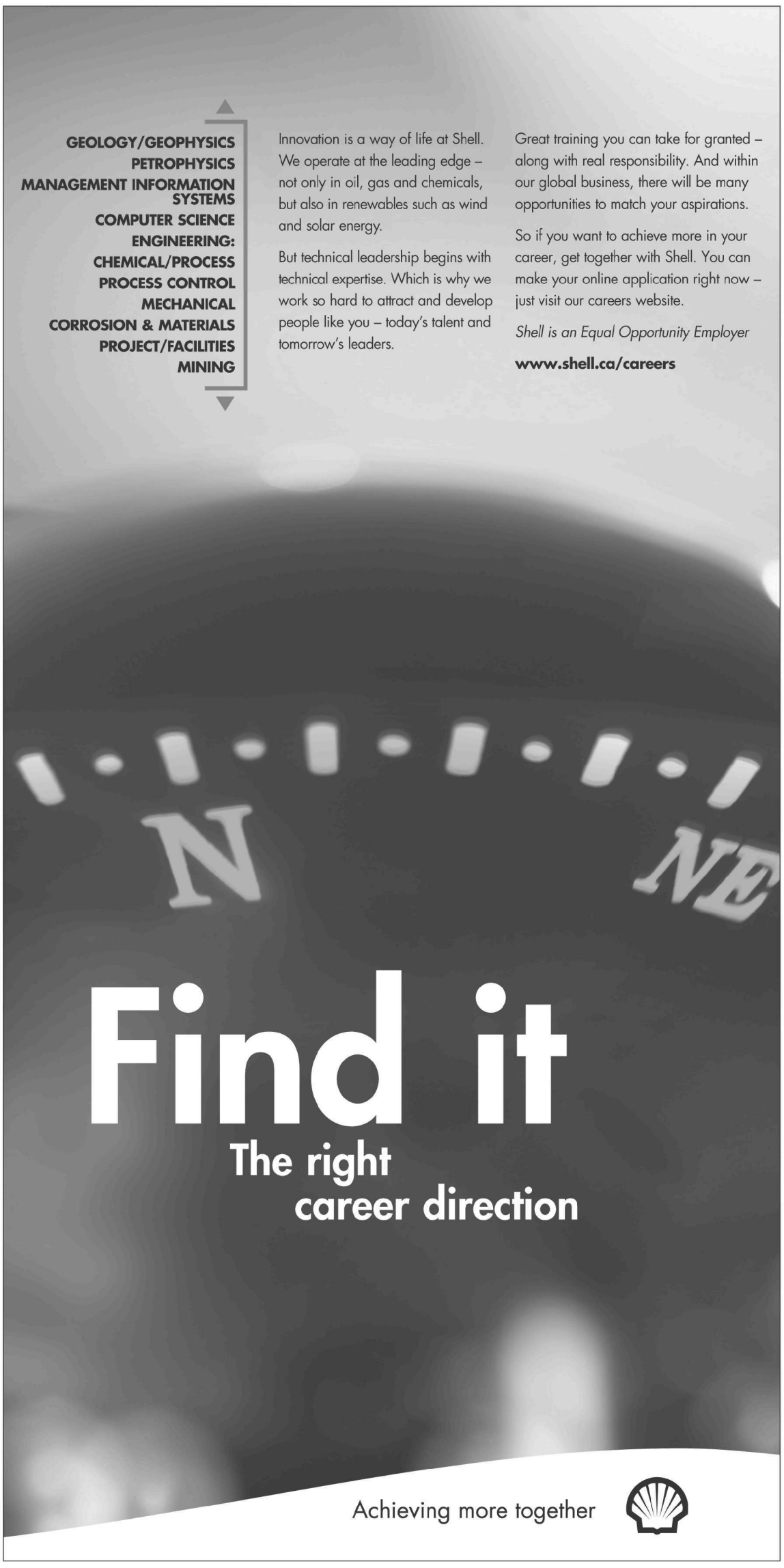

A Shorter Road to Medschool

A three year curriculum for medical students would save government money, reduce debt, and speed the training of Canadian physicians. Preliminary studies indicate that the shorter program doesn't reduce competency, but many doubts still remain.

By Caroline Lee
The Gateway (University of Alberta)

EDMONTON (CUP) – The Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ) is trying to figure out if Canada's medical schools should operate on a three- or four-year program.

Currently, most Canadian universities endorse a four-year medical curriculum. Exceptions are the University of Calgary and McMaster University, where three-year programs have been adopted.

With a lack of evidence to suggest that one medical curriculum is superior to the other, the CMAJ asked whether the extra year is necessary in an editorial published in the journal's Jan. 1 issue.

"The CMAJ is saying that it's time somebody looked to see if there is any difference between graduates of the three-year and the four-year programs," said Dr. David Rayner, associate dean of undergraduate medical education at the University of Alberta.

Implementing a three-year medical curriculum nationwide would result in an average reduction in government spending by $170,000 per student. According to the CMAJ editorial, it would also reduce student debt by $2181 at Université Laval, or $16,862 at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Tom Feasby, dean of medicine at the University of Calgary, said that another advantage to the three-year program is that medical students gain an extra year of independent practice at the peak of their intellectual and physical competency.

He also said that it would help address the doctor shortage, by graduating medical students earlier and boosting entry into the workforce.

> *It's a shorter curriculum in what is part of a very long process to becoming a practicing physician.*
>
> Dr. Tom Feassby,
> *University of Calgary dean of medicine*

"It's a shorter curriculum in what is part of a very long process to becoming a practicing physician. A lot of people think that if you can get out one year earlier, that's an advantage," explained Feasby. "If physicians, on the average, practice one year longer, there would be a 3-4 per cent increase in [their] working [lives], in theory."

Current three-year programs don't display any deficiencies in quality compared to four-year programs, said Feasby.

Feasby said that medical students graduating from the University of Calgary are among the most highly valued physicians in Canada. On the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Exam, these students perform at par, if not better than the mean of Canadian medical students.

"On the part one exam, [which tests] factual knowledge, our students perform at the mean of the country, so they do as well as other schools. For the part two exam, [measuring] clinical decision-making skills, our students finished in the top three," Feasby said.

"We [also] do surveys of specially training program directors to collect statistics across the country. We ask how our students compare to the average students they have. Two thirds of the time they rated our students as above average."

However, Aaron Knox, the president of the University of Alberta Medical Students' Association, believes that the four-year program has some distinct advantages over its three-year counterpart.

> *With the three-year program, you get forced very early on to say, 'I'm going to go for this specialty' and focus all your energy there.*
>
> Aaron Knox,
> *President of the Medical Students' Association, University of Alberta*

He said that while medical students at the University of Alberta have a four-month break, students at the University of Calgary only have two weeks. He also noted advantages to being allowed more time to explore the various fields of medicine before deciding on a specialty.

"I really cherish the summers off. It gives us opportunities to work, to research, to travel, to shadow, to think about what we want to do and to diversify our interests. There's a lot more freedom to do things in the summer," Knox said.

Rayner emphasized that while the editorial put forth some provoking questions regarding medical education, there needs to be more direct comparisons and data collection done before either system is deemed superior.

For students, though, having the choice of either program might be the best option.

"The ideal situation is one of choice. I don't think all medical schools should be a three-year program or that all medical schools should be a four-year program. People go into medicine for different reasons and they enter into the field at different periods in their lives. [It depends on what] scenario is best for you as an individual," Knox concluded.

Artwork behind Koerner library stairs changes dramatically

KELLAN HIGGINS PHOTO / THE UBYSSEY

The Art of Seeing Without Being Seen, by BC artist Althea Thauberger, is Koerner Library's newest display. Replacing Jack Shadbolt's mural *Emergent Image*, Thauberger's work shows members of the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own), as well as armoured reconnaissance and a public affairs officer. Illustrating the importance of military reconnaissance, the seven displayed in Thauberger's work are simulating a training exercise in what is supposed to be an Afghan village. The work is part of EXPONENTIAL FUTURE, an exhibition currently on display at the Belkin Art Gallery.

Live-in for Literacy
Bar Night
Fundraiser @ the Royal
January 25th
Doors open at 8
For tickets email royalfundraiser@live.ca
Tickets are $9 and VIP (no line)
A UBYSSEY event
For entries before 11, ticket cost funds Live-in
after 11 tickets only allow entry

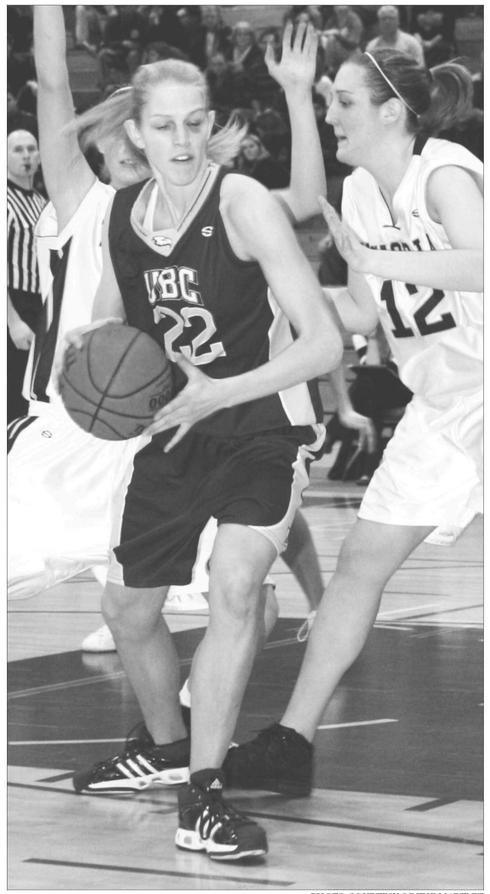

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MARTLET

UBC Forward Leanne Evans scored 12 points and made a game-high seven rebounds in Friday night's game against the Vikes in Victoria.

Women's B-ball claws back to drown Vikes in Victory this weekend

Haggarty leads team in front of hometown fans

BY JORDAN CHITTLEY
Sports Editor

The UBC women's basketball team clawed their way back from an 11 point deficit to defeat the University of Victoria 55-45 in Victoria Friday evening.

The T-Birds were led down the stretch by fifth-year player and Victoria native Cait Haggarty, who looked sluggish after the ferry ride, but was energized by her hometown crowd in what may be her last university game at UVic's McKinnon Gym.

"I think the second half was pretty impressive," said head coach Deb Huband. "I thought the first half we just couldn't buy a basket, we were really cold offensively, we had really low energy and in the second half we stepped it up and were able to execute a bit better and play hard."

> *I thought the first half we just couldn't buy a basket.*
>
> DEB HUBAND,
> *Women's Basketball head coach*

After some back and forth play to start the game, the T-Birds began to open up the lead, taking a six point advantage. But then the pace began to quicken and the Vikes closed the gap. The T-Birds went into the first break with a two point lead. The Vikes kept pressing in the second quarter and not only closed the gap, but took a lead thanks to a couple big baskets by Vike player Michelle Lee and some foul calls that left Huband rolling her eyes. Leanne Evans brought the game to a deadlock again when she went for the net and had the easy layup.

After being even, UVic took the lead, forcing the T-Birds into an uncomfortable position, playing from behind. UBC was forced to take quick, forced shots, none of which were dropping. The Vikes opened up their lead at the end of the half to take a 27-20 lead into the locker room. One may not need stats to show that the T-Birds had a rocky half, but two of their leading scorers, Erica McGuinness and Devon Lisson, went 1-9 from the field, combining for only four points.

The Vikes came out of the locker room with the same intensity that they went in with, increasing their lead to as much as 11 halfway through the third as the T-Birds were continuing to force shots.

But only three minutes into the second half the T-Birds began to move the ball more to gain opportunities from inside the paint. This allowed them to claw into the lead and get it down to three. While lead scorer in the first half Leanne Evans didn't take a shot during the third quarter, McGuinness was showing her form scoring eight.

The T-Birds finally tied it up at 39 and then took the lead with seven minutes left in the game as part of their 20-8 run through the second half. The run was capped off with a three-pointer by Devan Lisson, who finally decided to get into the game. The T-Birds began to fly away halfway into the final frame, taking the lead by five on a Cait Haggarty layup that was the result of a two-on-one after a fast transition. This forced the Vikes to call a timeout, but the timeout couldn't switch the momentum. The Vikes were unable to stop the T-Birds, especially Haggarty who couldn't miss from three point land, knocking back two from behind the arc. Those points not only put the T-Birds well ahead, but helped Haggarty be the top scorer for the T-Birds tied with McGuiness each with 14 points.

"We play to get better every day," said Huband. "We have a bunch of league games ahead of us where we want to do that and we have to be the best we can be come the middle of February and hopefully into March."

With less than a month until the playoffs begin, it is looking like these two teams will tip off in the first round with UBC having home court advantage for all three games. The T-Birds' next games will be a two-game series against Trinity Western in Langley next Friday and Saturday evening.

FRIDAY

UBC Thunderbirds	vs	Vikes (University of Victoria)
55		45

Dyck returns from injury to lead team past Vikes

Men's B-ball claims top spot once again in division, possibly home court advantage in divisional finals

BY JUSTIN MCELROY
Sports Writer

It was the biggest game of the regular season, and Chris Dyck showed up to play despite the tendonitis in his knee that had kept him sidelined for much of the past three games. He played almost the whole game, providing some necessary leadership to give the T-Birds a 79-76 win over the Vikes Friday night at McKinnon Gym in Victoria.

Facing a tenacious UVic squad in front of a screaming, standing-room only crowd, the T-Birds managed to regain their lead at the top of the Pacific Division, climbing to a 14-4 record. The series tie-breaking win also ensures that, should UVic and UBC be tied at the end of the regular season, UBC will retain home-court advantage if they meet in the divisional finals.

"I'm just really excited that we played as a team, for the first time in a while," said head coach Kevin Hanson. "I thought we passed the ball well, I thought we defended well."

It didn't take long for the 2200 raucous UVic fans to get into the game, as a quick 6-2 run to start sent the fans into a standing, stomping frenzy. UBC rebounded quickly however, and the first half was a contentious affair, one that saw the Thunderbirds and Vikes trade leads continually throughout. With two minutes to go in the half and UBC down by one, the T-Birds went on a 9-3 run, punctuated by a long three-pointer by Dyck, silencing the crowd and giving UBC a 38-32 lead, one which they would never relinquish.

But the story of the game was the return of sharpshooting guard Chris Dyck to the lineup. Dyck lit up the scoreboard, pacing the team with 25 points, making 9 of 19 shots.

It wasn't just his scoring that made a big difference. Dyck's presence in the lineup and leadership communicating on the court took pressure off of his teammates. His ability to evenly distribute the ball led to a return of the deep, balanced scoring that has been a hallmark of the team this year.

While UBC led for the entire second half, UVic would not go away easily. Led by the play of power forward Tyler Hass, who paced UVic with 21 points and 6 rebounds, the Vikes kept the game close, cutting the lead to two points with 2:23 to go in the 4th quarter.

But it was one of the beneficiaries of Dyck's return, Kyle Watson, who had 12 points and seven rebounds, which sealed UBC's victory. His driving layup with just over a minute to go in the game extended the lead back to six points and put a win out of reach for the Vikes.

"The last couple we were really lacking leadership on the court, so I wanted to come back and verbally communicate...and play more as a team," said Dyck. "I didn't want to come in and start shooting a bunch of shots. I knew I would be a bit rusty so I wanted to come in and share the ball because I knew they focus on me defensively so my focus was to find those guys."

> *I'm just really excited that we played as a team, for the first time in a while.*
>
> KEVIN HANSON,
> *Men's Basketball head coach*

The win should restore UBC's confidence, which had been sagging after a series of mediocre games to start out 2008. Going into Trinity Western this weekend, the team is back to where it wants to be, atop the Pacific Division, and is looking forward to the playoffs, which begin in just four short weeks.

FRIDAY

UBC Thunderbirds	vs	Vikes (University of Victoria)
79		76

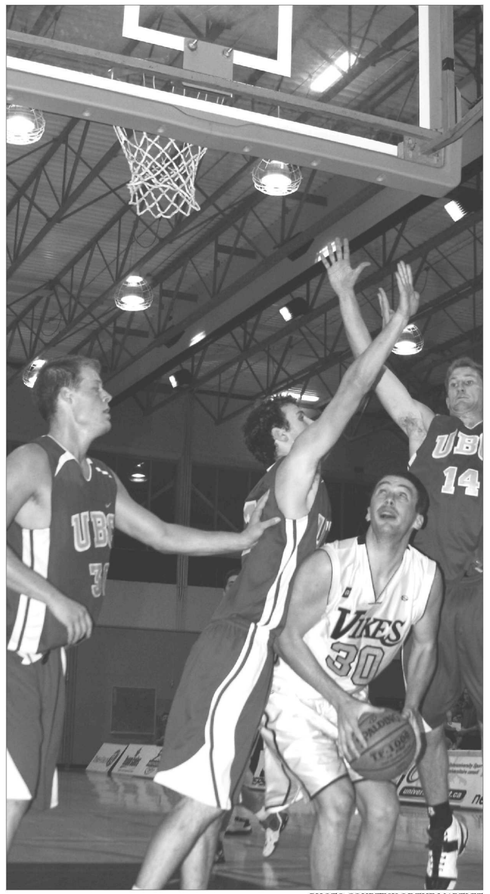

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MARTLET

UBC's Bryson Kool, Matt Rachar, and an unknown player do their best to block UVic's Rob Kinnear during a game at UVic over the weekend. UBC won 79-76.

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Up Next:

Men's Basketball
Jan 25-6* at Trinity Western @ 8pm

Women's Basketball
Jan. 25-6* at Trinity Western @ 6pm

Men's Hockey
Jan. 18-9 at Manitoba

Women's Hockey
Jan. 18-9 at Saskatchewan

Men's Volleyball
Jan. 18-9 vs. **Alberta** @ 8pm

Women's Volleyball
Jan. 18-9 vs. Alberta

games in **bold** are played at UBC
*can be heard live on CiTR 101.9 FM

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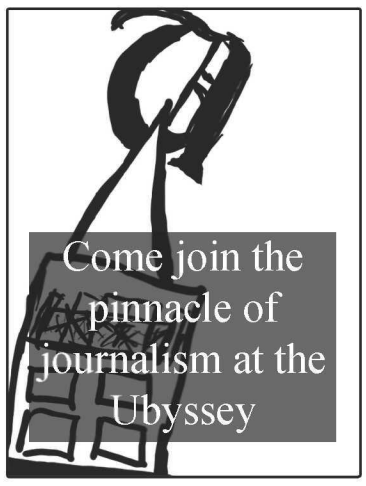

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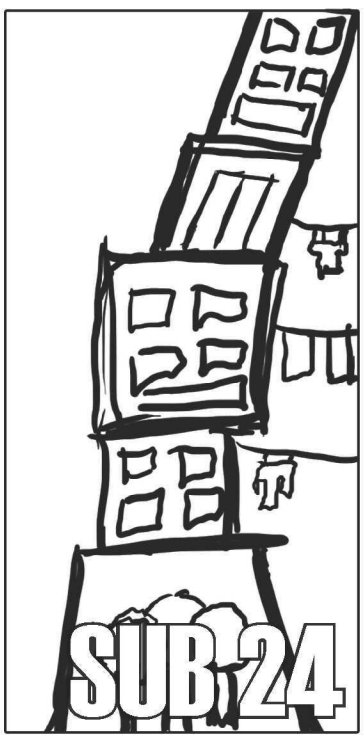

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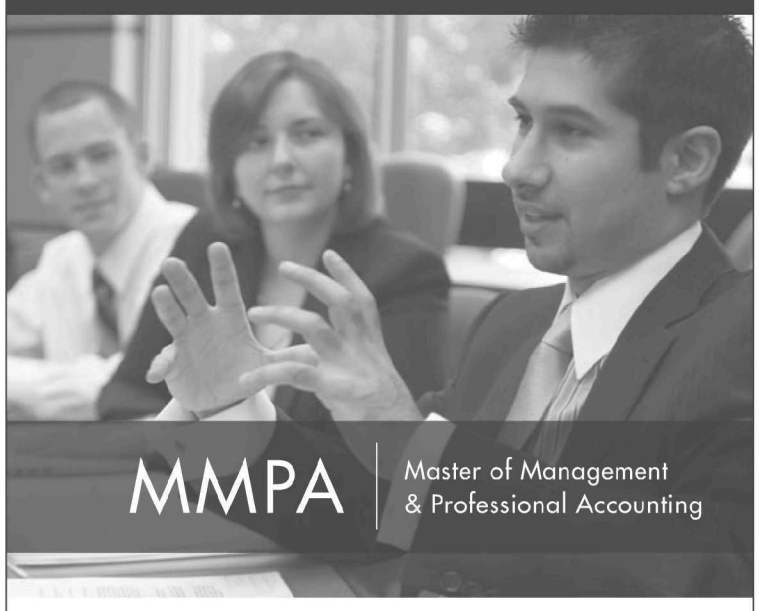

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It's Alive
IT'S ALIVE!
FRANKENSTEIN at UBC

Presented in association with the PuSh Festival at Vancouver East Cultural Centre until January 26

BY CHARLOTTE NOBLES
Culture Writer

From the mind of award-winning director and playwright Jonathan Christenson, also the artistic director of Catalyst Theatre, emerges an eerie, hauntingly emotional, musical adaptation of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Part of this year's PuSh Festival, *Frankenstein* will be running until January 26 at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre. The show is performed by a cast of eight award-winning actors, most of whom are University of Alberta BFA acting program graduates, including Vancouver's own Nick Green and Tim Machin.

Christenson's adaptation of *Frankenstein* brings to life a true-to-the-book version of Shelley's popular, often misrepresented, novel. The performance is an upbeat, fast-paced, musical re-telling of the relationship between Victor Frankenstein (played by Andrew Kushnir) and his physically hideous Creature (played by George Szilagyi). It was a deliberate decision by Christenson to tell the emotional side of Shelley's novel, which is frequently overlooked. In his adaptation, Christenson was determined to stay away from the "boo factor of horror movies," and sought to encourage the audience to take another look at the stereotypical monster of our childhood nightmares that we are perhaps too "ready to dismiss as different or grotesque." Christenson's production reveals the sensitive, deeply traumatized side of Victor's Creature, and one cannot help but feel sorry for this lonely being in search of a friend. No, this is not your traditional Boris Karloff monster story.

The story is mainly told through darkly-humoured narration from actors dressed in tattered clothes that are disturbingly similar to surgical gowns and caps. The show tells the story of Victor Frankenstein's life growing up in the loving atmosphere of Frankenstein Castle. After the accidental death of his mother, and subsequent death of his father, Victor becomes determined to discover immortality, despite the warnings from his cousin and future bride, Lucy, as well as his "faithful friend" Henry. Victor then sets to work in his university lab in Ingolstadt. After bringing his creature to life, Victor is tormented by the realization of what he has done and his newfound responsibility for the damage caused by his creature. When confronted by his creature in the mountains of Switzerland, Victor is forced to see how his neglect has inflicted irreparable damage on his poor creation, who then vows to become Victor's "secret companion."

> *Christenson's production reveals the sensitive, deeply traumatized side of Victor's Creature...No, this is not your traditional Boris Karloff monster story.*
>
> JONATHAN CHRISTENSON, *Director and Playwright*

Nick Green both opens and closes the show by demonically calling for "blackout!" This powerful and terrifying opening grabs the audience's attention with its cold, bony fingers and doesn't let go for the two hour performance. The costumes and set design are simplistic in colour and construction, but intricately detailed in an eccentric Tim Burton style that fits perfectly with the dark and quirky humour of both the dialogue and the music. Performances by Nick Green, as both a narrator and as Henry, and also by Andrew Kushnir are outstanding, and they each draw the audience further and further into this intriguingly dark tale.

All features of this production are exceptional, and the delivery of this emotional story is unlike any I have seen. Even those who are not normally fans of musicals will love *Frankenstein*, and those who already are musical aficionados will have plenty to be excited about.

Out with the Old, in with the new: Goriot, that is...

OLD GORIOT
Presented by Theatre at UBC
at Chan Centre TELUS Studio Theatre
Until January 26

BY TRACY FULLER
Culture Writer

PHOTO COURTESY OF UBC THEATRE

The fifth-annual PuSh International Performing Arts Festival arrived in Vancouver last week, promising 19 days of "groundbreaking theatre, dance, music and various hybrid forms of performance art both from afar and from just around the corner."

The festival has venues located across the city and two of the festival's 24 performances are playing on-campus this week.

The first is an adaptation of Honoré de Balzac's landmark 19th-century novel *Old Goriot*: a key novel within the author's *Comedie Humaine*, a multi-volume fictional portrait of French society during and after the revolution.

"It's an old story. It happens all the time," says Madame Vauquer, the mistress of the boarding house that gathers *Goriot*'s cast of characters.

And she's right. But don't write-off this production just yet. Although nothing particularly surprising occurs in the plot, director James Fagan Tait's production of Balzac's 174-year-old novel is masterfully acted and staged.

Injecting life into an old story is no new feat for Tait. In recent years he has successfully staged his own versions of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*.

Commissioned this time by Western Gold Theatre, a company whose aim is to direct theatrical light on Canada's aging population, Tait's adaptation questions the aftermath of ambition, the infidelity of youth, and the fate of the aged in the end.

Old Goriot jaunts deftly through the mess of stories presented by Tait's 18 actors. Although everyone assembled at Madame Vauquer's communal table has a tale to tell, the play's focus follows the lives of three men.

Monsieur Goriot, played with tragic finesse by Richard Newman, is a man we pity and fear because of who he is and and who he may be. A blind devotion to his daughters ruins him, and yet the ungrateful wenches remain Goriot's sole source of happiness. Blinded by the idea of *bonheur*, the old man enjoys none of it himself.

Eugene de Rastignac, a young man from southern France, played by the UBC's Spencer Atkinson, arrives in Paris naive and hungry to seek his fortune, fall in love, and experience the complications of life. Although Rastignac's romantic affairs cause him an adequate amount of trouble, it is his liaison with the dubious Monsieur Vautrin, played to perfection by David Mackay, which opens the young man's eyes and maligns his impoverished virtue.

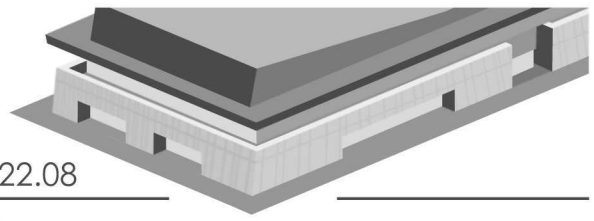
Although the play is well-acted and expertly staged, it isn't particularly "groundbreaking." Considering the PuSh Festival's mandate for provocative new pieces, this reinvention of Balzac could have pushed its boundaries a bit further.

The live accompaniment, provided on-stage by three musicians who unify the tone and transitions within the piece, and who make sounds for props and set-pieces that do not physically appear on stage, is an innovative twist. The contribution of Joelysa Pankanea's original score, though delightful and essential to the story's current theatrical incarnation, cannot speak for the creative novelty of the production as a whole.

That being said, *Old Goriot* is still an excellent play, worthy of sold-out seats and standing ovations. If the UBC theatre department can maintain the high standard it is showcasing as part of this week's PuSh Festival throughout its entire 2008 season, aspirant audience members will be lining up in droves.

ams student society | Insider

a weekly look at what's new at your student society - 01.22.08



AMS EVENTS 08 Winter Schedule

Second Show Added

HAYDEN
Norm Theatre, UBC
6138 Student Union Boulevard
Monday
February 11th, 2008
7:30pm
Tickets: Ticketweb, Zulu, Outpost

talk SEX With SUE Johanson
Feb. 7
Vanier Ballroom
7pm
$3 Donation at the door

www.ams.ubc.ca/events

AMS EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

The AMS is seeking an Executive Coordinator of Student Services for a one-year appointment from **March 1, 2008 to February 28, 2009**.

The Executive Coordinator of Student Services is responsible for providing general supervision and guidance for the AMS Service Coordinators and their Assistant Coordinators in the effective operation of the AMS Services. The ECSS is also the main point person between the AMS Executives and AMS Services and participates as a non-voting member at the Council and Executive meetings.

***Deadline for applications will be* Friday February 1, 2008.**

Please visit ***www.ams.ubc.ca/jobs*** for more information, including how to apply.

Student Elections

The 2008 Alma Mater Society (AMS) Executive Elections are coming up, and the candidates are campaigning hard, looking for your vote!

To find out about the positions, candidates and their platforms, come to the candidate's forums and hear from the candidates directly. The forums are being held on the following date and location:

Tuesday, January 22nd, *from 11:30 to 1:30 P.M. in the SUB Conversation Pit*

For more information on the candidates, look for posters and publications around campus, check ***http://www.ams.ubc.ca/***, or contact the Elections Committee at ***Elections@ams.ubc.ca***.

Online Voting takes place from the 18th to the 22nd of January through the Student Services Center Website, and **paper balloting occurs Thursday, January 24th** at various locations around campus.

Good luck to the candidates, and don't forget to get out and vote!

Islam Awareness Week

Jan 21st - 24th at SUB Main Concourse,10am - 4pm

Tues. Jan. 22: National Geographic Doc. "Inside Mecca" Two shows,1pm & 3pm (Free popcorn & pop)

Wed. Jan. 23: History Channel Doc. "Inside Islam" Two shows, 1pm & 3pm (Free popcorn & pop)

Thursday Jan. 24: Lecture & discussion on "Islam: a universal message of peace", 1:30pm (Free pizza & pop)

All events room **205** at the **SUB**

Muslim Students Association, www.msaubc.org

SUB RENEWAL — Official Commencement Celebration

Imagine Your Space

Please join your AMS in celebrating the launch of the SUB Renewal Project, an initiative to expand and renovate the Student Union Building to better meet the needs of the UBC community.

The celebration will take place on **January 24th 2008 at 7pm**

Please RSVP to ***rsvp@ams.ubc.ca*** as capacity is limited.

Financial Awareness Fair

On **January 23** and **24** in the SUB South Concourse, the AMS Finance Commission has brought together several presenters that will give you all your on-campus solutions to your financial woes.

Hosting several booths during 10am to 3pm, students can learn about how to find funding on campus, credit management tips, health and school balance, job searching tips, and volunteer opportunities to get you back on track for the New Year.

To kick off the fair, there will also be a special workshop on credit management and getting your credit back on track for the New Year in **SUB Room 212a (2nd Floor)** at **1pm – 2pm**. Other presenters include AMS Connect, AMS Finance Commission, UBC Financial Services and Awards, UBC Career Services, Credit-Wise Credit Management, UBC Wellness Centre and UBC International Development.

AMS Sweet Valentines Fair

Feb. 13-14-15
main concourse SUB

vendor products include:
jeweller, flowers, plants, candy, clothing, handbags, fashion accessories and misc. products and services.

The Ubyssey's candidate insights

President

Despite her early stint as a joke candidate, **Erin Rennie** has impressed us with her strong stance on campus life and her eloquence throughout the debates. While it's sometimes difficult to decide whether her 'bzzr' focused initiatives are serious or in jest, she promises to give a strong voice to those who are concerned about the state of liquor licenses and partying on campus–which is not an issue to be taken lightly.

Rodrigo Ferrari-Nunes promises to bring blogging and music to the AMS. His plan to create an open jam space for student musicians is interesting, but by and large he comes off as desperate and short on policy.

While we see the merit in **"Che" Allison**'s plan to further 'nationalize' AMS businesses, we're a more than a bit concerned that his opponents might meet grisly ends involving ice picks and Mexico City.

Matthew Naylor has run a fairly tight campaign–his debating was pointed and he managed to hit on many of the issues important to students. Yet despite a professional campaign and the advantage of a previous year as an AMS executive, Naylor seems to be on the defensive. Once again, worries about Naylor's partisan track record are also tarring his bid; his previous involvement with the federal Liberals has been a liability, though it doesn't seem to have negatively affected his lobbying as VP External. He hasn't found much support among his co-workers and much of his platform feels derivative. Those in the know haven't cast him in a flattering light–apparently he's huffy and isn't much of a team player.

Our endorsement for the presidential position goes to **Michael Duncan**, despite his poor showing at the debates. Duncan, who fell on his face during the first debate, then came off breathless and plastic in the second, may win largely thanks to his popularity among students. Endorsed by the last three AMS presidents and several other notable student politicos, Duncan also has been involved on campus for a long time. Ultimately his historic involvement coupled with his earnestness make him the right man for the job.

VP Academic

Poor debate showings, a limp platform, and a lack of charisma have doomed **Rob McLean**'s bid. He has repeated, ad nauseum, the phrase "more Fraser Halls and no more Chaucer Halls," but he has presented few concrete policies other than his desire to bring back the failed AMS Yardstick program. Out of the four, McLean is the person who seems to have shown the least vision for the position.

Fire Hydrant Peets has been a strong presence at this year's debates. The glorified faucet has put an incredible amount of pressure on other candidates, but we're worried that a conspicuous lack of connections will soon cause the Hydrant's VP Academic bid to run dry.

Trek Park supporters will have found their man in **Nate Crompton**. Unfortunately for Crompton, though fortunate for his cause, other candidates have embraced many of his positions regarding Trek Park specifically and university development more broadly. Those looking for someone with a strong pro-Aboriginal voice will also appreciate Crompton's record, though he came off inarticulate in the debates.

With some reservations, **Alex Lougheed** is the best candidate for VP Academic. He has been repeatedly accused of being stubborn and a poor team player, but he comes off in council meetings and debates as organized and articulate. His academic grevances database is a stroke of genius and he has an active record in AMS Council.

VP External

Intelligent and articulate, **Freeman Poritz** seems, at first glance, to be the ideal candidate for VP External. Despite this, Poritz has repeatedly fallen flat due to a complete lack of any real platform. Relying largely on his personality and the catch phrase "Put a free man in office," Poritz was a clear loser at all his debates. While his formation of a platform late in the game has given him significantly more credibility, it also serves to highlight the lack of one that dogged him before.

Stefanie Ratjen has done well in debates and comes off reasonably well on the issues dealt with by VP External. Her involvement with Trek Park and other grassroots activism is one of her greatest assets but also gives us reason to pause—this position requires not only persistence and fortitude but also a willingness to deal and compromise, something we're not sure Ratjen will do well. She has also been patently unclear on what she plans to do with the CFS. Finally, we have been somewhat surprised and disappointed with the negativity and mudslinging coming from Ratjen's campaign, which has been one of the dirtiest of this year's elections. In all fairness however, its been Ratjen's supporters who have been the one's slinging the mud, and Ratjen has wisely stayed away from the accusatory *Freeman Poritz Watch* group on Facebook (unlike fellow candidate Nate Crompton). Ultimately, Ratjen will definitely lend a distinctive perspective to a future executive, which can only be considered a positive.

VP Administration

There isn't much point commenting here. **Sarah Naiman** is the incumbent, and in that time she has helped renovate the Pit and set about developments for a new SUB. Students will likely have to go through a referendum on whether to pay for extensive SUB renovations by the end of the year, so if any new people were to take the job there'd be a steep learning curve. The only problem is that it took a couple of days into the campaign before people knew for sure she was running. Does she really want the job that much?

Fortunately, her only serious competition isn't up to the task. **Yian Messoloras**, currently a councillor on the Arts Undergraduate Society, has made a campaign out of blasting Naiman but offers no realistic options in her place. He has repeatedly extolled his connections in construction companies and feels that building a new SUB is a waste of money, even though it's not yet been confirmed that a new SUB will be built. He hasn't done his research, he hasn't offered any new ideas, and he hasn't won our confidence that he'll do a better job.

"Scary" Mike "The Rabbi" Kushnir, on the other hand, is an amusing candidate, though we're skeptical about the validity of his rabbinical credentials.

VP Finance

Even for a joke candidate, **Stash "Irish Courage" Bylicki** is a hoot. No one could ignore his idea to do away with Safewalk and replace them with magical centaurs. Unfortunately, this falls out of his mandate, as much as we'd like to see it happen.

Chris Diplock came off a little confrontational in the All Candidates' Meeting when he asked to postpone the campaign period by two days. He wasn't ready to campaign and due to bureaucratic lapses by the Elections Committee, he was unsure about the start date for the elections themselves. Since then, however, he has acquitted himself well. He clearly wants the job, having spoken with current VP Finance Brittany Tyson at length about the position before running. He plans to bring in more money through business revenue and sponsorships from ethical, responsible sources.

Andrew Forshner, on the other hand, doesn't have his bearings straight. He made a small gaffe in Thursday's debate when he counted Brittany Tyson among his supporters—which, well, she isn't. He's also promised to "make every student a UBC insider." Neither does he offer anything new, promising to touch up AMSLink and support what Tyson has already done with Sprouts. All valiant promises, but not quite enough to enhance his appeal.

Board of Governors

Tim Blair has a concrete platform which articulates clearly what he will do if elected. He has shown an avid interest in south campus development and will make sure the UBC Farm is included in new community planning documents next year. He's shown he's familiar with the Official Community Plan and Campus Community Plan, giving him a leg up on his competition, and has stated a concern over pollution on campus.

Bijan Ahmadian, a student senator, appears to be one of the best-qualified candidates for any position; his amazing breadth of experiences on campus and reasoned thinking would likely command the respect of the BoG and be a benefit to students.

At the same time, **Andrew Carne** has been following BoG committees in the past year and seems willing to aggressively stand for student access to needed housing on campus. Like Ahmadian, Carne is determined to improve student communication with the BoG in the coming year.

Voters are lucky to have several well-intentioned and respectable BoG candidates, any of whom is likely to be successful in their term.

Senate

We picked two of last year's candidates out of a hat, and we're very thankful not to have to do that this year. We're impressed by **Blake Frederick**, because of his much-lauded experience as Associate Vice-President Academic and University Affairs; **Alfie Lee**, because of his deep knowledge of the Senate and passion for the job; **Azim Wazeer's** poise in debates and his ideas for tackling the requirements to take the LPI and TOEFL exams; **Philip Edgcumbe's** idea to record classroom lectures; and **Alex Lougheed**, because if he doesn't get elected as VP Academic he will most certainly see his grievances database through on Senate. **Rob McLean** doesn't offer anything impressive and his decision to grab a pitcher of beer during the Senate debate brings up questions about his professionalism and common sense. Many questions have arisen from others in the AMS about **Aidha Shaikh's** contributions as a current senator and her attendance at council meetings. She wasn't present at the All Candidates' Meeting and was seen walking across the SUB concourse just a few minutes afterward, bringing up questions about her dedication to the race.

STREETERS

Streeters is a twice weekly column in which students are asked a question pertinent to UBC.

See all their full comments online at www.ubyssey.ca

Who are you voting for in the AMS elections and why?

Kristy Battersby
Electrical eng 4

Who: "Blake Frederick"
Why: "They want more accountability for the evaluation of the profs. Every year people write on for their profs but I don't think those get taken seriously."

Zacc Lim
Pharma 3

Who: "Michael Duncan"
Why: "I think he's got a nice spin on things--I think he's not conventional and he's fun to work with."

Jennie Selgrath
Zoo and Fish 2

Who: "No one"
Why: "Well, I actually looked at the ballots today, but I have no idea who anybody is so I decided not to vote."

Henrique Barbone
Honours English 2

Who: "Rodrigo Ferrari-Nunes"
Why: "I think there's a disparity of power at the UBC, a few people making big decisions, I think Rodrigo would close this gap."

Manori Ravindran
Sociology 3

Who: "Matthew Naylor"
Why: "I went through all the candidates and he just seemed to be a little--he seemed to have his act together. I read through his platform: it's pretty interesting."

—Coordinated by Isabel Ferreras & David Zhang, with photos by Gerald Deo

LETTERS

What are soldiers doing in Koerner Library?

So here I am walking into Koerner to do some calculus homework. (Read: look at jeans I could never afford on the interweb...damn trust fund students.) and then WHAM! Right in front of my poor defenseless eyes is the largest DND recruitment poster I've ever seen. Of course it isn't directly a DND poster, but it might as well be. I'm confronted with eight smiling faces of the fine men and women of the British Columbia Regiment, in full combat gear, C7 rifles included.

My first thought was what in the hell is that doing in a library?

The stack of blue papers next to the picture on the floor is only too happy to tell me. Apparently it's art. It's a photograph depicting a recreation of a training exercise. Okay, now what's it doing in a library? Correct me if I'm wrong but the point of books, learning, and literature as a whole is to communicate. To form a line of reason, so that the ugg-ugg-smash-smash way of arguing of our prehistoric ancestors remains prehistoric. And on war, to quote *Cool Hand Luke*: "What we have here...is failure to communicate." Maybe the irony's lost on me.

I'm not going to give you my artistic analysis of the photograph (Being a Science student makes me unsure I even have the right), but the old *Emergent Image* in the lobby was more appropriate for the setting. The title itself called to mind a ripening of minds and ideas. This is, well, it's a photo, a very well done photo in the technical sense, of people who are training to participate in the antithesis of reason. Get it out of our temple of thought please. Thank you.

—Max Keller
Science 1

Editor's note: See page five for photo.

Military does not control UBC IR
by Gordon C. Hawkins

I am writing this letter in order to address some of the concerns brought up by UBC students about the international relations Program. On Tuesday January the 15th, a student asked a question regarding military funding at UBC to the AMS VP Academic candidates. This question singled out the UBC IR program as a recipient of military funding, and implied that professors within the program and the Political Science department are directly funded by the Department of National Defence (DND).

This statement is completely inaccurate, and in no way represents the true reality of military funding at UBC.

It is correct however, that certain research units at UBC receive funding as part of the DND's Security and Defence Forum (SDF). The SDF is a 5 year old program that distributes funds to Canadian universities in order to build and support a strong Canadian knowledge base, foster informed public policy discussions, and enhance communication between academics and the department. This hardly seems like a sinister agenda, but since students have questions regarding the exact nature of this program it does warrant further discussion.

The only recipient of SDF funding at UBC is the Centre for International Relations and the Liu Institute for Global Issues. Our organization [the International Relations Student Association, or IRSA -ed.] receives monies from SDF through the Institute to organize various learning opportunities for students as part of IRSA's co-curricular program.

Under no circumstances has money from the SDF fund ever been spent on the delivery of academic curriculum at UBC, since all of the funding for course development and delivery comes from a combination of student feeds and general government funding. SDF funds are spent on enhancing the extra-curricular learning experience for UBC students and in no way are used to further a particular agenda or point of view that benefits the Department of National Defence.

In fact, as a person who directly oversees the expenditure of a small portion of UBC's annual SDF grant, I can attest to the fact that organiza-

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LETTERS

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tions receiving SDF funds are in no way influenced by DND and experience no restrictions on what SDF funds may be spent on (as long as they are spent in a responsible way that benefits students here at UBC).

The assertion that UBC professors are funded by SDF is also inaccurate. Only four out of roughly 40 instructors associated with the UBC political science department and international relations program are on the staff of the Liu Institute and the Centre of International Relations. While I am not aware of the exact payroll arrangements of professors who teach in the political science department and work with the Liu Institute/Centre of IR, it is clear that this circumstance is limited to a severe minority of all instructors.

The simple fact remains however—military money is being spent at this university. Some students still may have an issue with this program. However, I would ask those students to take a close look at the programs being researched at the Liu Institute: disarmament and non-proliferation, protection of civilians and children in conflict, peacekeeping studies, and international justice and reconciliation. This only represents a small portion of the Liu's research agenda; however it is hard to believe from this short list that our Defence Department is truly benefiting from research that seeks to reduce the chances of conflict and violence in today's world.

UBC benefits from this funding in many ways, from the capability to invite engaging speakers to campus to the holding of events and symposia that encourage free discussion about the issues facing Canada today. UBC students can choose to take advantage of these opportunities or not, but they can be assured that the SDF funding in no way infringes on their academic freedom since there is no bleeding of the funds into academic programs. I encourage those students who are still skeptical of the SDF program to participate in some of the events organized by the Liu Institute and the Centre for International Relations on campus. I am confident that they will find an environment that is informative, open, and encourages the expression of all viewpoints.

Gordon C. Hawkins is the President of the International Relations Students Association.

Submit a letter to the Ubyssey and see your writing in print. Letters to the editor must be under 300 words. Opinion pieces know as "Perspectives" range from 300 to 750 words.
asdf

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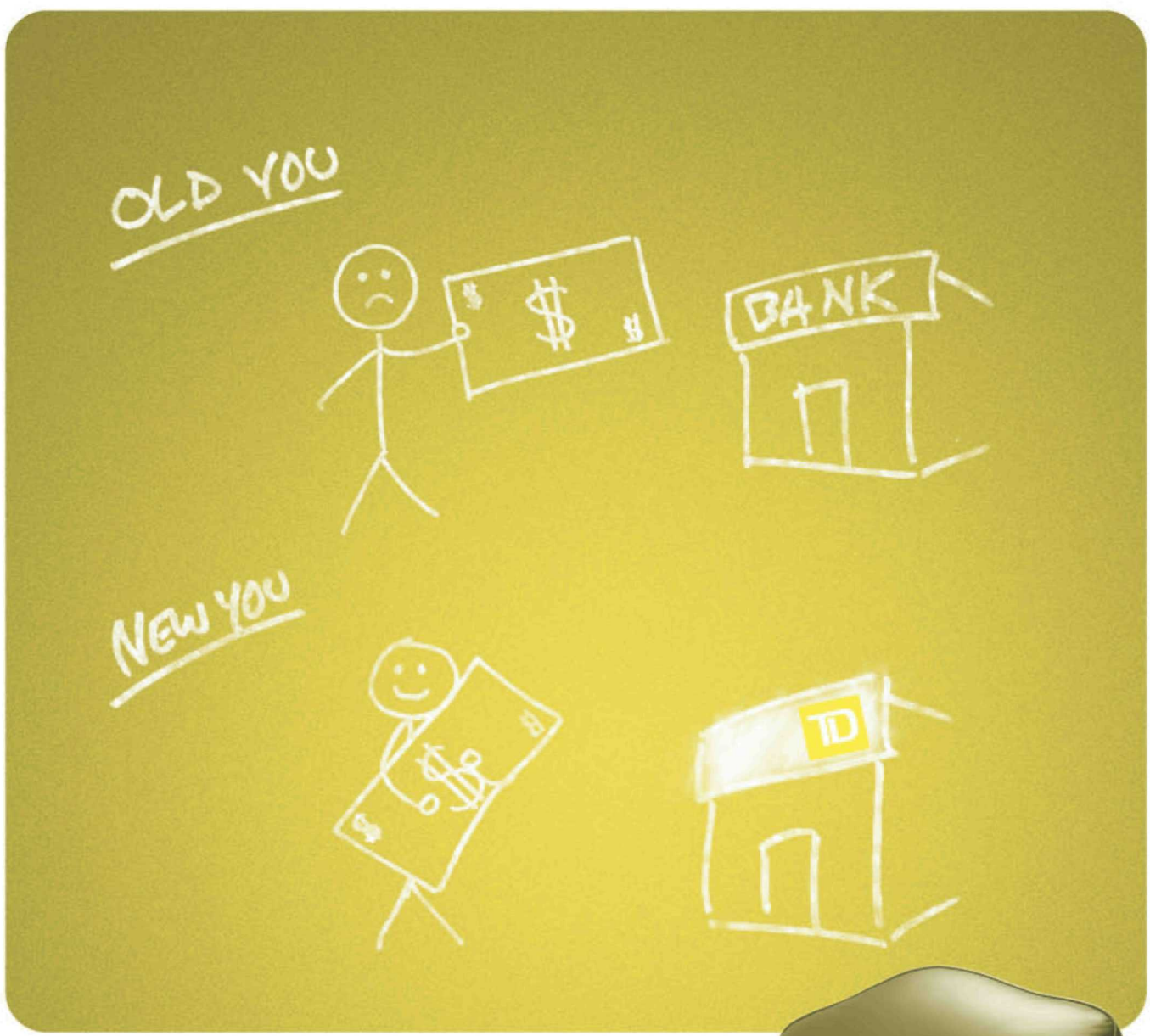

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THE UBYSSEY

There Will Be Blood

This century's Citizen Kane?

By Trevor Melanson
Culture Staff

Every once in a while, there comes a film so great that it urges the viewer to inform their friends of such a masterpiece. And on even rarer occasions, one watches a film so awe-inspiring that trying to remember having seen a better one seems an impossible task.

Paul Thomas Anderson's latest masterpiece, *There Will Be Blood*, falls into the latter category. It tells the story of a misanthropic oil baron named Daniel Plainview (played by Daniel Day-Lewis, whose performance is the best of 2007). Daniel's latest prospect, while fiscally fruitful, pits him against the local town prophet, Eli Sunday (Paul Dano).

The movie becomes more than a character piece, exploring a war of ideology between the new and the old—between capitalism and religion. Rather than distinguishing them, however, Anderson brings to light their similarities.

Familiar to that of *No Country for Old Men*, the ending is rather abrupt, and moreover, absolutely perfect. The movie also has a hefty running time, but the length is appropriate. In fact, the movie deserves no less.

Anderson once said, "*Magnolia* is, for better or worse, the best movie I'll ever make." I wonder if, after Blood, he still holds this sentiment. *There Will Be Blood* might be this century's *Citizen Kane*, and with the Oscars soon approaching, expect an increasing amount of buzz. U

Cloverfield shakes, amazes

By James Johnson
Culture Staff

If one were to accuse J.J. Abrams of anything, it wouldn't be for being an advocate of the status quo. *Cloverfield*, his latest production, follows the tradition of pushing the envelope that he established with the TV series *Lost*, or the oddly convoluted *Mission: Impossible III*. Chiefly, if *Cloverfield* is able to achieve any sustained level of success, it will be because its coy and deliberately vague viral internet campaign put people in the seats. In the absence of a strong traditional media push, the film has made no bones about putting its future in the hands of the mavens of internet opinion and nerd fandom, selectively leaking details to preferred outlets to fuel the slow burn of speculation.

Once people are in the seats, however, they may find themselves possessing one of two possible minds on the film. One may perceive themselves as the victim of an elaborate Hollywood practical joke, the kind that, like *I am Legend*, pours the entire national income of a small country into would-be blockbuster productions that ultimately tell intimately personal stories.

The alternative is to come out of the film having given as much as you got, looking past the frequently shaky but oddly innovative first-person cinematography, having immersed yourself in the moment and tried to grasp the feelings of sheer terror and confusion as the world around the characters unravels. Without revealing too much, it can be said that the plot of the film is not terribly unique in itself, as comparisons to other works flow freely.

Matthew Broderick's *Godzilla* redux. *The Blair Witch Project* on steroids. A more personal *War of the Worlds*. A compilation of cut scenes from fellow cinematic apocalyptic brethren such as the aforementioned *I Am Legend*. It wouldn't be that far a leap of logic to say that at certain moments it may be as close as we get to a movie version of the video game *Half-Life*. It is all these things, but at its core, it is the quintessential monster movie, not for the cliche monster terror, but for how it psychologically impacts the viewer.

Although we get plenty of gratuitous shots of the beast, the real enemy is our imagination. Beyond the millions spent in extravagant visual effects, the film grabs the viewer by the collar, and if they are willing, forces them by way of the film's aesthetic choice on perspective to evaluate how they would react in a crisis of unconceivable proportions. To that end, sifting back through the hype machine that *Cloverfield* was built upon, it is little wonder that the inspiration was once cited as September 11th. U

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