UBC Archives Serial

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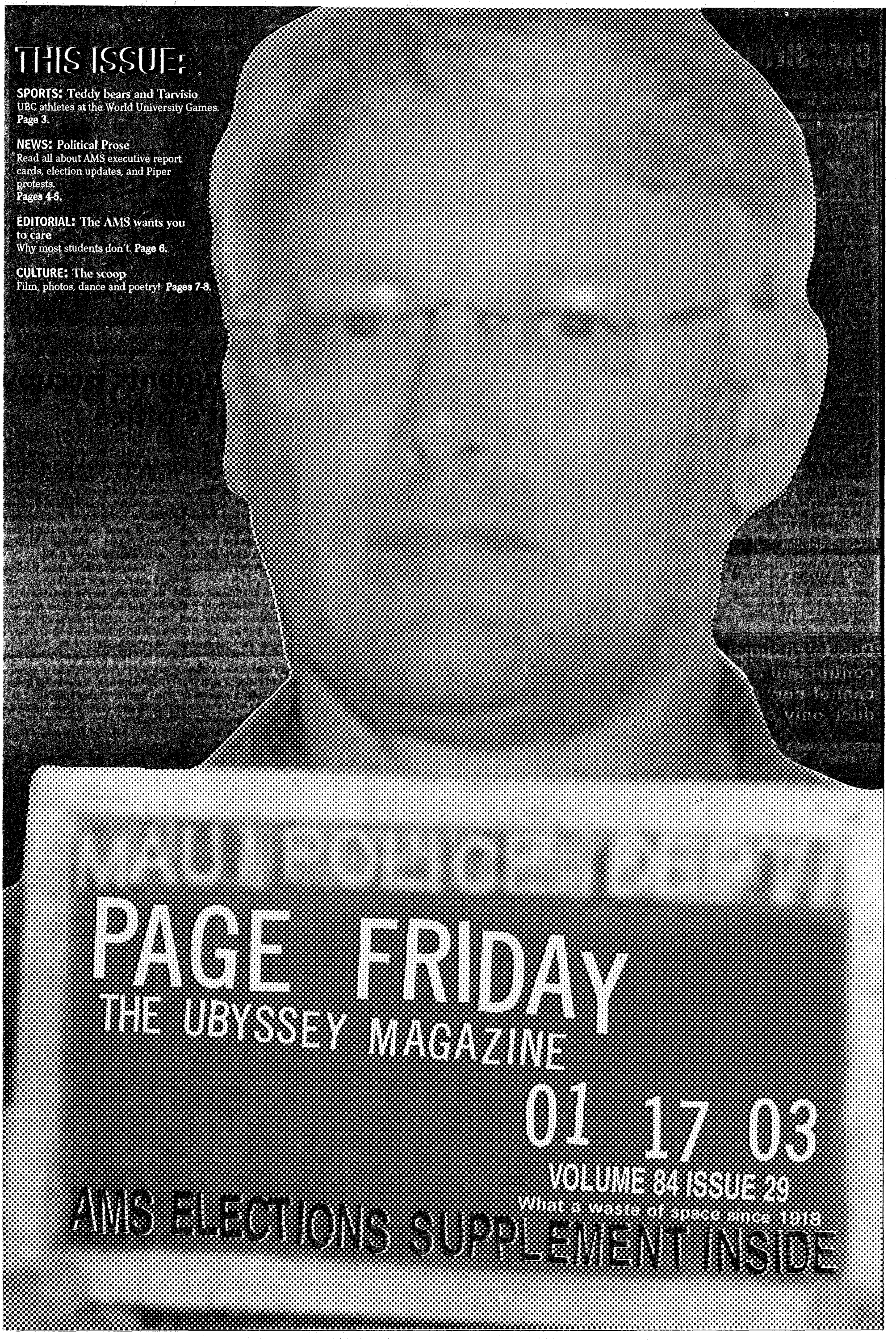

PAGE FRIDAY

THE UBYSSEY MAGAZINE

01 17 03
VOLUME 84 ISSUE 29

What a waste of space since 1918

AMS ELECTIONS SUPPLEMENT INSIDE

CLASSIFIEDS

Employment

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Announcement

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS UBC SPEAKER SERIES: Strengthening Municipal Capacity of Water & Sanitation Services in Peru. Ms. Robin Petri shares her experiences of working in northern Peru in 1999. Jan 21, 6pm, CEME 1202. Cookies & coffee will be served. All welcome.

BIRDWALK ON CAMPUS EVERY TUESDAY. Meet at the Flagpole (above Rose Garden, by Chan Centre) at 12:30pm. For info or to get on mailing list, contact Christina: struik@interchange.ubc.ca.

UBC'S 3RD ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE. SAT. JAN 18, 9:30am-4:30pm. Register at The Pendulum Restaurant. $10 incl. lunch buffet. Contact Fiona 604-225-2249.

DEBATE: DOES GOD EXIST? WED. JAN 22, 7pm @ Hebb Theatre. Brought to you by Campus Crusade for Christ & the Humanist Society of UBC.

FOR CLASS STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALIST WAR! Defend Iraq Against US/Canadian Imperialism! Defend the Palestinians Against Zionist State Terror! Jan. 21, 5:30pm, SUB Rm. 211. A Spartacus Youth Club Class Series. Readings/Info: 604-687-0353

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MARXIST-LENINIST STUDY GROUP: THE U.S.-LED DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN against the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea and What Lies behind it. Tues. Jan. 21, 4pm, Buch B330. Everyone welcome.

AIESEC'S COASTAL CONFERENCE 2003: FEB 1-2, Vancouver. Workshops on business & leadership skills + 2 nights of wild parties. ~$50. Contact: Nema at buterluv@hotmail.com. www.cus.commerce.ubc.ca/clubs/aiesec

Callboard

FEMALE SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT & VIOLENCE: WE ARE LOOKING FOR WRITTEN & VISUAL ART for a late February exhibit by survivors of sexual assault. Questions? Email Aurora at aurora@interchange.ubc.ca.

CASTING CALL FOR SHORT DRAMATIC FILM. Lead male role 23-30 yrs old & supporting female 22-25 yrs old. Auditions on Jan 25. 4-day shoot. Some pay. For appointment & info, call Stephanie Gossett at 604-221-7734 or email at antilinpictures@hotmail.com.

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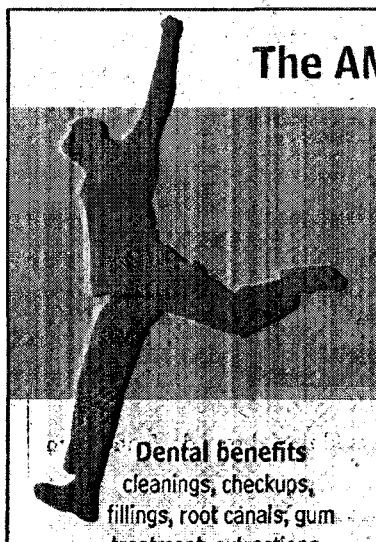
Due to circumstances over which we have very little control and a situation of substantial import which we cannot now describe, next week *the Ubyssey* will produce only one issue. But it will be full of love.

The AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan



You're covered

As a student at UBC and a member of the Alma Mater Society (AMS), you're covered by the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan.

Dental benefits
cleanings, checkups, fillings, root canals, gum treatment, extractions, and more...

Health benefits
prescription drugs, travel insurance, psychologist, medical equipment, ambulance, vaccinations, and more...

Vision benefits
eye exam, laser eye surgery

For a complete list of benefits, visit **www.studentcare.net**. More information is available in the Reference Guide - available online and sent to you directly by mail.

The Plan is a valuable service provided by your student society and is designed to fill the gaps left by provincial medicare and a parent or spouse's plan.

Coordinating benefits
If you're covered by another plan (i.e. a parent or spouse's employee benefit plan), you can combine this plan with the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan to maximize your overall coverage and eliminate out of pocket costs.

Family enrolment
If you are a new student starting in Term 2, you can enrol your family (spouse and/or dependants) by completing an Enrolment Form and paying an additional fee, over and above your fee as a member of the AMS/GSS. Common law and same sex couples are eligible. Forms are available at **www.studentcare.net**.

Change of coverage
Additional enrolments and opt outs are **only** for new Term 2 students, and **must** be completed between Jan. 6 - 27, 2003.

Fee
The cost of the Plan is included in your student fees. It covers you for the whole school year, from September 1, 2002 to August 31, 2003 or from January 1 - August 31, 2003 for new Term 2 students.

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??! Media quizzed protester and physiotherapy student Marika Schwandt over the occupation. MATT FREHNER/THE GATEWAY PHOTO

U of A students occupy president's office

by Shawn Hildebrandt
THE GATEWAY

EDMONTON (CUP)—More than 20 protesters crowded into University of Alberta President Rod Fraser's office in a peaceful occupation last Friday to protest proposed fee hikes and differential fees, and to demand a meeting with Fraser to discuss tuition issues.

The group, an unaffiliated coalition made up of students from U of A, Grant MacEwan College and other concerned parties, occupied the office at 4pm. The demonstrators met no opposition as they walked directly into Fraser's office, and remained in dialogue with representatives of Fraser for the duration of their stay.

Fraser's representatives were presented with a list of six demands, which included "that the Board of Governors delay the tuition decision until more study has been conducted into the impacts of differential tuition, and that President Rod Fraser attend the upcoming Students' Union tuition forum."

But after only two hours, the demonstrators agreed to decamp once a representative agreed that Fraser would attend the student union's Monday tuition forum, and when Campus Security informed them that they could be arrested for occupying the office.

Fraser kept his promise, spending over an hour talking at the forum with students about the administration's stance on issues such as travel expenditures, differential tuition, class sizes and government funding of post-secondary education.

The demonstrators had anticipated a prolonged standoff, bringing large supplies of food and water, and sleeping bags and bedrolls.

The demands arose out of a belief that the proposed tuition hikes would create a crisis in accessibility preventing students from middle- and low-income families from attending post-secondary education.

"The list of demands was compiled to bring attention to the fact that tuition is rising exponentially, while the university administration continues to spend money recklessly on salaries, travel and furniture. And I think we've accomplished that," said Kirsten McCrea, spokesperson for the group.

"We never went in there thinking all our demands would be met, and the fact that they're agreeing to this meeting between student representatives and Dr Fraser is a huge concession. But let me add, it's only a start," she said.

But Fran Trahearne, senior advisor to the president, said the protest was surprising considering Fraser has been arranging appointments to speak with students on tuition for weeks.

When the student union began running a campaign at that time calling on Fraser to discuss tuition, Trahearne said Fraser had instructed his administrative staff to make the time for students. Six students have taken him up on the offer so far, though about 15 have visited Fraser in the office.

"Just to be fair to the students, up until about two weeks before last Friday, as a matter of normal course, the president wasn't available on the issue of tuition, because it's [University Vice-President, Academic] Doug Owram's concern," he said.

He suggested since the tuition decision is ultimately that of the Board of Governors, a body that is largely independent from the administration, the students might have more success lobbying the members of that body.

Although Fraser is an integral part of the process that develops the tuition procedures, Trahearne said "it would be a misunderstanding to think the president would take a remarkably different view than one of the vice-presidents. It would never be too safe to be carrying forward a view that your boss doesn't agree with." ❖

EVENTS

UBYSSEY Weekend

It's peace march time again! Jan. 18, 1pm
Palestine Solidarity Group and November 17th Peace Coalition are holding an anti-war rally in conjunction with actions taking place around the world. Meet at Vancouver Public Library Square, (350 W.Georgia), march to Vancouver Art Gallery. ❖

Italian invasion

by Sarah Conchie
SPORTS EDITOR

Eighteen-year-old Alexandra McLean wants to be a singer. She also happens to be one of three world-class skiers from UBC who are competing in Tarvisio, Italy, January 15-25, along with two talented UBC hockey players.

First-timers all, these five varsity athletes share more than a love of snow and ice. They're all bringing their homework with them, none of them have lucky socks, (although McLean has a teddy bear) and, not surprisingly, every one of them is thrilled at the prospect of representing Canada at the 2003 World University Games.

Dave Penner, the UBC men's ice hockey captain and star defenceman, is probably curled up in a small village hotel room right now, studying—but he didn't really want to take his books with him.

Penner is one of the team's defensive pillars; a tall 26-year-old from Fort St. John's who has a shy smile and a penchant for mathematics. He's also in his fifth and final year of a mechanical engineering degree, and that means, along with his skates, stick and Team Canada jersey, the fifth-year defenceman packed his hefty texts all the way to Tarvisio.

For a man who's been on the road since his early teens, it doesn't seem like such a stretch. "It takes some good time management skills, but it's something I've been doing all along," Penner says nonchalantly. Leaving his team—a squad that needs to win every remaining game to make the playoffs—however, isn't as easily shrugged off. "That's probably the toughest part of this," Penner confesses. "We have a legitimate shot at making the playoffs, and I'm in my final year and we've never made playoffs here and it's been our goal all along. So to set that as a goal and then all of a sudden, to say, 'Okay, guys, now you're own your own,' that's really tough. But you want to represent your country, but at the same time, you want to be there with the team."

His UBC teammate and fellow Team Canada traveller, Nick Marach, agrees. "[Four games] is a pretty big chunk, but I don't think anybody would turn down an opportunity to play for their country in a chance like this. It comes around once every four years, so I'm certainly not going to say no on that grounds." Marach may be a rookie on the UBC bench, but he's been a powerful presence in BC hockey leagues for several years. He's played with the Vancouver Giants, done the Okanagan circuit with the Kelowna Spartans, and now skates front-and-centre for the Birds under former Giants coach, Milan Dragicevic. History is important to Marach in his studies as well—he's planning on getting a degree in the field. "We'll see where it takes me," says Marach of his future at UBC. "Whether hockey takes me down a certain path or academics takes me somewhere else." For the moment, however, he's merely interested in taking a few walks in the Italian countryside. "I haven't really travelled that much before—maybe I'll walk around some of the towns...see some of the countryside."

Trevor Bruce, on the other hand, would much rather skateboard than take a walking tour. The 21-year old downhill skier has been on the international circuit for years, but this will be the first time he wears the UBC logo. It could be a difficult few days, despite his experience. The blond, genial Bruce smiles ruefully when I ask him why his ankle seems a bit tender. "Uh....it was a skateboarding mishap. I was riding my longboard a few days before school started, and tore two ligaments in my ankle, so I was on a cane for the first month of school." Bruce has also crashed on the hill a few times. He takes it much better than his family members do. "My mom came up to watch a race, and the guy before me broke his leg, so she hasn't come back to watch me since." Bruce laughs. "I had a big crash on TV, and I won't let her see the tape. I'm still her baby, I guess."

While his mom may not be in attendance, Bruce will have no end of support. For some reason, European fans love the Canadian athletes, often giving them the biggest cheers. That doesn't mean, however, that European snow conditions are equally friendly. "A lot of times in Europe, they just take out the fire hose and spray it down to ice, and you could skate on the course," says this year's team manager, Paul Boskovich. "Some guys do it for show—strap on skates and skate around on the finish line." Boskovich, a world class skier in his own right, has been to Europe ten times. "It's a whole different game," he asserts. "Ski racing is life—when you go there, everything's just a little bit more intense, more crazy." Bruce agrees. "Like, the chocolate wrappers have ski racers on them. They know who's who, and it's always televised."

The media attention won't faze Bruce, however, who says he focuses his nerves by 'tuning' his skis. "I spend a lot of time on my skis," he admits. "I probably spend up to four hours tuning my skis before a race—" Boskovich cuts him off with a mischevious laugh. "It's because he's flirting with the girls the whole time," he jokes. "He spends about half an hour on his skis and three and half hours helping out the ladies." Seriously, though, Bruce is packing more than an abundant supply of wax for the games. "Yep...a second suitcase filled with books—it's gonna cost me a fortune in overweight." He says he has to. "I'm gonna be in the pub, pretty much, but at least if I bring the books—you know that mental game—I'll feel much better about it."

"I'm the only engineer in first year that's also a varsity athlete—no disrespect to the engineers, but they're always complaining about the lack of athletes..."

Actually, the UBC engineering department is almost overrepresented at the games this year. Luke Heckrodt, a modest 20-year-old and one of the top six cross-country skiers in the country, is in his second year of electrical engineering. A member of the UBC Nordic ski team, Heckrodt has been carving up the powder ever "since my dad skied around with me in his backpack...basically forever." He's taking his first world university competition very seriously, having flown to Italy several days in advance, in order to get over the jet lag. Having never raced against European skiers of such calibre before, Heckrodt admits that the stakes are higher, but is characteristically undisturbed. He simply hopes for "good waxing, good facilities, and a good race." Like everyone else boarding a plane for the games, Heckrodt had to finance his own trip, (with a $250 grant from the AMS making a tiny dent in the $4000 price tag) ultimately raising the cash through family and friends.

Alexandra McLean had a similiar dilemma. Soon after she heard that she was named to the 2003 team as an alpine skier, she started working the phone lines. "This is one of the reasons I've been so busy of late," McLean explained to me over the phone from her permanent home in Whistler last week. "I phoned a lot of people."

It worked, and after a posh soirée at the Whistler Mountain Ski Club, with a complementary dinner by IGA, McLean took to the microphone and indulged her other greatest passion. She sang three different songs, and raised over $2500 towards her travel costs.

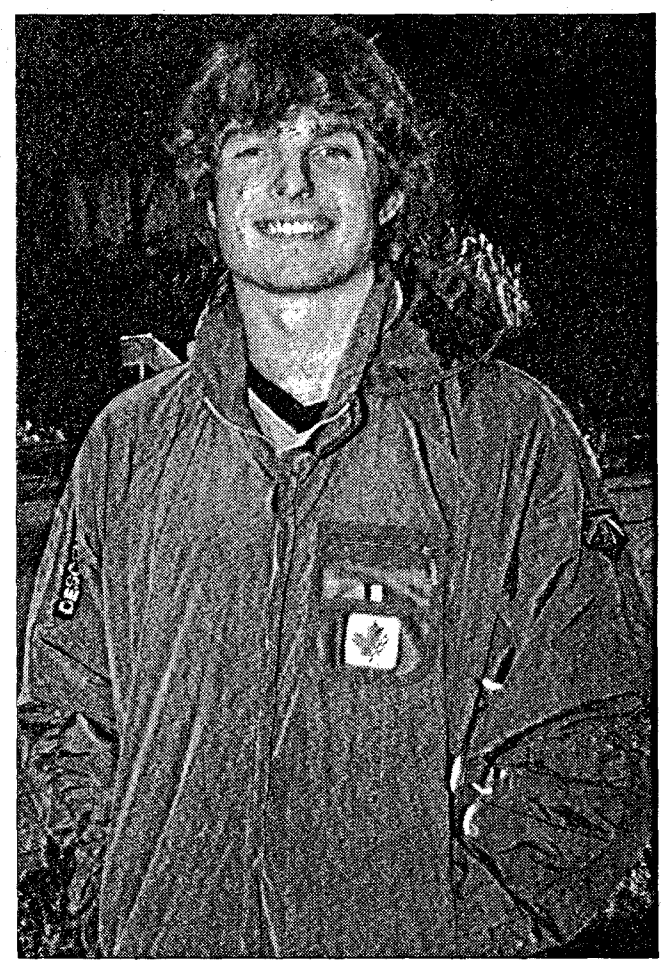
For almost five years, singing was a luxury. Deciding to race at 13, McLean moved up to Whistler when she was 16 to train full time. Now a first-year student with an intended Biology major, she's also a part of the campus choir. But she's not the type to frolic on the mountainside humming a light verse or two. Alpine skiing, which usually involves going 120km per hour down an icy slope, is still her favourite pastime. She even remembers some of her most spectacular crashes with ease. "I've had a couple of really huge ones. Downhill is scary that way—you're going 100 and some [km]s an hour and it's steep and icy and all of a sudden you're a mess and every thing hurts and oh, god," McLean pauses for breath, "but I find it hasn't limited my runs after. I am a really mental skier, one of the reasons I'm good at downhill."

"It's almost more visualising than actual skiing," McLean continues. "If you know all the terrain, the bumps and the turns and the shadows, then you're able to get over crashes better."

And as for that aforementioned teddy bear? "It's a little bear that wears a red, knitted sweater with a heart in the middle and it's toffee brown colour." McLean admits cheerfully. "It's pretty little...For awhile I took it up the hill in my backpack, I don't know, especially when I was away for a long time."

McLean may be tucking her bear into her luggage along with her skis, but, like her fellow UBC athletes, she'll be taking plenty of skill and determination to Italy. ❖

—with files from Roger McMillan



TREVOR BRUCE is going downhill in Italy at the World Universiade this week. **CHRIS SHEPHERD PHOTO**

The WUG index

Number of countries represented: **51**
Population of Tarvisio, Italy: approx. **7,000**
Number of downhill skiers from Ireland: **1**
Number of downhill skiers from Argentina: **1**
Number of hockey gold medals that Canada has won in the Universiade's 21-year history: **8**
Number of UBC engineers competing: **3**
Number of penalties Thunderbird Nick Marach incurred in the very first hockey game vs. Japan : **2**
Number of times the Japanese goalie must have freaked out: **8**
Number of pairs of skis Nordic competitor Luke Heckrodt owns: **8**
Number of references to the importance of proper ski waxing in *the Ubyssey's* interview transcripts: **13** ❖

Schedule

Check out www.cisport.ca/wug/tarvisio2003/ for Team Canada's complete results and highlights.

Ice hockey

January 25—Bronze and gold medal rounds, 5 and 8pm

Alpine (downhill) skiing

January 18-26—Men's and women's super G, giant slalom and slalom, respectively.

Nordic (cross-country) skiing

January 23—15km event
January 26—7.5km event

Adventures in Nordic skiing

The *Ubyssey* Sports Desk just received an extensive report of the Nordic ski team's last two competitions and we are deeply saddened that we can't print the entire piece. From the lush descriptions of "daring" freeway reversals to the "expensive ski massacre," it was a rare treat.

The ski Birds did quite nicely in their first event of 2003, the BC Cup Series, Race One, up in Kelowna. Eight UBC skiers placed in the top three both Saturday and Sunday, and veteran Carolyn Daubeny reigned supreme, winning both days in the Master Women's 5km race.

The team's next event is the BC Cup Series, Race Two, which will take place atop the quiet hills of 100 Mile House, January 25-26.

No, they don't wear skirts

Back from the green but somewhat unforgiving fields of Europe, the men's field hockey team is back on home soil. They play in the premier division of the Vancouver Field Hockey League, and are currently fourth in their division, with an even 3-3 record.

The 'Battle of BC'

Although the words "cross-town showdown" have been appearing around campus ad nauseum this week, the big varsity basketball series happening this weekend at the War Memorial Gym deserves mention. The women's basketball team (9-3) will be squaring off against the number-one ranked team in the country and last year's national champions, the SFU Clan. The Birds, currently second in the Canada West division of the CIS, are the only team that has beaten the Clan this season, snapping SFU's 41-game winning streak in mid-November. Tip-off is at 6pm Friday and Saturday night.

The men are tied with SFU for the number-one spot in the Pacific division, with an 8-3 record going into this weekend's contest. Led by top scorers Kyle Russell and Corey Ogilvie, the Birds will have to cramp the style of the Clan's Pasha Bains, who currently leads the league, averaging 22.5 points per game. Watch out for kilted Clan fans to spice up the atmosphere. Games start at 8pm both nights. ❖

Candidates say pay cut will go to campus sexual assault centre

by Kathleen Deering
NEWS EDITOR

Students' Progressive Action Network (SPAN) candidates for the upcoming Alma Mater Society (AMS) election officially vowed Tuesday that if elected, each will donate 10 per cent of their wages to the Sexual Assault Student Centre (SASC) on campus.

"I think we were just going over what our commitments were to the student body," said Kate Woznow, presidential candidate, "and one was prioritising safety within the AMS."

She said safety is an important issue and she feels it has been a secondary commitment to the current executive. "[It's something] that has been talked about a lot but hasn't been addressed in any positive way," she said.

The SASC is a pilot project for the AMS and was opened in the middle of September this school year. The AMS provided Room 58 in the basement of the SUB to house the SASC, which is the only resource on campus dedicated to providing information and one-on-one help for sexual assault.

As a pilot project, it is not guaranteed a space in the SUB next year.

Lisa Lafreniere, the coordinator for the SASC, is the only paid staff at the centre. The SASC is funded by Innovative Projects Fund (IPF) money, outside donors, and Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW). With the funding she receives, Lafreniere is paid to work 15 hours per week, an amount of time she says is not enough to keep the centre running. WAVAW, a non-profit organisation affiliated with the centre, pays her for 15 more hours per week.

But with provincial government cutbacks, WAVAW will no longer be able to help support the centre as it has been, and the SASC may not be able to continue to provide services next year.

Lafreniere expressed concerns about the lack of communication she had with the AMS this year. Christopher Lythgo, vice president, academic, was appointed to liase with the SASC, but Lafreniere said it has been difficult to arrange a meeting with him.

Sue Brown, safety coordinator for the AMS, said she was frustrated because she felt advocates for the SASC had to fight for support with the AMS sometimes, and she doesn't understand why. "Rather than seeing Lisa's concerns as legitimate challenges to doing the work, they have reacted as if Lisa has been a hindrance," Brown said.

Lythgo said he understood there had been communication frustrations between both parties in the past, but would not elaborate why. He said he is looking forward to speaking with Lafreniere in the upcoming weeks.

Lythgo also said his personal opinion is that he would like to see more sexual assault services on campus. He said the proposal for the SASC was put forth too late this year to receive money from the AMS budget. Lythgo believes the university should put forth funding for the SASC, but said that the AMS should fund the SASC only if it was within its means. "It's a priority for students," he said, commending Lafreniere on making the centre a success.

Kristen Harvey, president of the AMS, said the AMS budget is tight, making funding services like the SASC difficult. "I would say that the executive on a whole has been supportive of the [SASC] and criticisms otherwise are false because we opened it up," said Harvey. "We chose to open it up in the space that they wanted."

The AMS allowed the SASC to do renovations at a reduced cost and allowed SASC to reside in a room in the SUB that might otherwise go to a club.

Woznow, however, said since the resource is for students and is located in the SUB, it is the AMS's responsibility to provide funding support. "We wanted to say we are so committed to this that we are willing to take a personal salary cut just to demonstrate why it is so important."

She acknowledged that some might see the offer as a campaign schtick or a conflict of interests—several members of SPAN volunteer with the SASC. But she says this connection doesn't matter. "[SASC volunteers] see first hand why this is such an important service," she said.

Lafreniere said the centre has provided services for close to 60 people. On top of that, she coordinates volunteer workers and gives talks around residences, Greek houses, and campus about sexual assault awareness. ❖

AMS execs: How have they done this year?

The Ubyssey's news analysis of the 2002/03 executive members of the Alma Mater Society

by Kathleen Deering and Chris Shepherd
NEWS EDITORS

Will student politics at UBC ever change?

Another year, another Alma Mater Society (AMS) executive elected entirely from one slate. Are there any UBC students who remember a time when the executive did not present a united front?

If this sounds familiar to you, then you must have read last year's exec report cards. As it turns out, 2002/03 was another sweep by Students for Students. Slates can be useful because the executive (theoretically) share common goals. However, too many years of effecting the same strategies and principles have left our student government lacking imagination and initiative.

This year has brought fewer giant changes for AMS executives to contend with than last year. We already knew tuition was going up again, thanks to the tuition schedule published by the university last year. The BC Liberal government was already in power and we knew they'd make more cuts to social services and decisions affecting students. Mostly the AMS had to deal with more of last year's problems that seem to be compounding and not getting better.

Kristen Harvey: President

Kristen Harvey had to deal with tuition increases last year, and she had to deal with even higher tuition increases this year. She faced the difficult task in her first few weeks in office, trying to figure out how to fight the university against massive planned tuition hikes when the tuition freeze was lifted by the BC Liberals. Although disappointingly quiet during Council meetings, she did also pledge in her campaign last year to be against differential tuition—frequently urging all constituents to stick together to present a unified front.

While we support this view, unfortunately, it happened anyway. It is doubtful Harvey could have influenced this very much—some faculties have greater costs and are willing to pay more in return for getting more.

She pushed for the university to consult with students over tuition hikes and helped influence the creation of the tuition allocation booklet, detailing where increases in this year's tuition were intended to go toward. Consultation with the university about tuition increases has improved this year over last—and she has worked hard, with a strongly worded poster and rave card campaign, to inform students about tuition.

She did not, however, succeed in facilitating consultation between the AMS and the general student body. Although she accomplished implementing the first year of online voting for students, and chaired the committee that eventually published AMS policies online, she did little to make students care about their student union. This problem faces execs each year, and nothing ever seems to change.

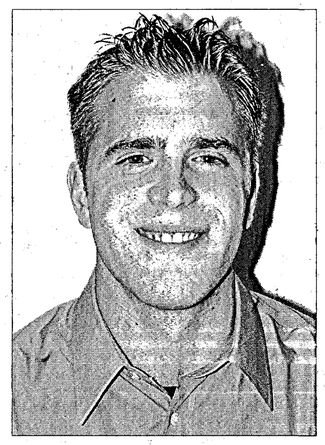
The president must act as a voice for all students, and must be the 'head' that represents almost 40,000 students at UBC. Although she claims the AMS supports the TAs in their fight for higher wages, TAs had to come to Council with an already-written motion, and ask the AMS to support them.

Nick Seddon: Vice-President, Finance

The position of VP Finance is not one of the most public offices to hold in the AMS, and as a result Seddon remained relatively unknown to students.

During one of Seddon's first presentations to council, he couldn't speak two consecutive sentences without turning to AMS General Manager Bernie Peets for help. He has markedly improved since then, and is helpful and ready with information.

One of the main initiatives he and his Finance



Commission brought to students was Financial Aid Awareness Days (FAAD). This was an helpful initiative that sought to inform students of the various scholarships and bursaries available to students along with strategies for creating a budget, dealing with debt and investing.

In light of the extreme economic strain facing students following the tuition thaw and rapidly increasing tuition at UBC this event was very timely. Unfortunately poor promotions did not generate a large turnout and we look to next year's VP Finance to continue the initiative.

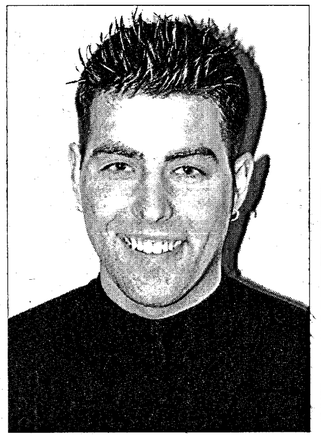
Seddon also created the Business Operations Committee, an entity designed to allow student input into the business side of the AMS, something that was lacking in previous years. Given the poor performance of several businesses in the previous years, this was a needed iniative. Unfortunately, events such as the bus strike the previous year make revenue comparisons difficult and the effectiveness of the committee cannot be judged.

Christopher Lythgo: Vice-President, Academic

As VP Academic, campus safety falls under Christopher Lythgo's portfolio. And although he readily admits that campus safety is atrocious, this past year has shown he has little interest in improving it and making the campus safer for all. For a university with close to 40,000 students, encouraging increased AMS support for the sexual assault centre on campus is at the very least a must, and he has instead been negligent regarding this pilot project. He initiated few new safety programs on campus, despite promising to do so in his campaign last year, letting others do the work.

He did seem to work fairly hard on creating a partnership with the advertising company Zoom Media, and did get the AMS what sounds like a pretty good deal. Although these ads were defaced within days of being put up in the SUB, at least Zoom Media is responsible for cleaning them. We still hate looking at them, though, and wonder if there isn't a better way to make money for the AMS than forcing corporate sponsership on us in places we can't avoid, like bathrooms.

In terms of academic issues on campus, one of the most important this year is the possible teaching assistant (TA) strike that has been discussed since



September. Although our President Martha Piper recently recieved a 30 per cent pay increase, our TAs are paid a pittance. They are so frustrated with the lack of interest shown to them by the university that they are planning to go on strike—but where has Lythgo been in support? Undergraduates will be directly affected if the TAs go on strike and Lythgo should have been supporting the TAs from day one.

Oana Chirila: Vice President Admistration

Oana Chirila's position requires her to deal with anything that goes on in the SUB, and is not the most difficult position on the executive. However, she has worked hard this year to ensure what goes in the vacated Bank of Montreal space is relevant and useful to students. She saw the need for more social space in the SUB and pushed for this to happen—student space will double in the basement of the SUB.

This year, the RCMP suggested more rigid rules involving alcohol on campus, and Chirila had to tell clubs they could only hold beer gardens until 11pm instead of 12am. Needless to say, some clubs were not pleased, but Chirila handled the controversy well. At Alcohol Policy Review Committee meetings (yes, this committee does exist on your campus), she spoke up about keeping students informed about what happens regarding alcohol on campus and warned the university not to make decisions behind closed doors.

Tara Learn: Vice-President, External

As VP External Tara Learn had a couple of major issues to deal with this year. After several years of preliminary work by her predecessors the universal bus pass (U-Pass) will finally come to a referendum. While not solely the work of Learn, bringing this issue before the student body is her major achievement this year.

Because of the efforts of Learn and the AMS the U-Pass facing students is relatively cheap (at $20; it is three dollars cheaper than the U-Pass recently passed by Simon Fraser University students) and offers many benefits to bus riders. The benefit for non-transit riders, especially those who drive, is less clear and that issue will prove to be an obstacle in the upcoming referendum, scheduled for late February.

Learn may have focused too much attention on the U-Pass this year, however. Not On Our Campus is an event dealing with issues of racism, sexism, homophobia and abuse and Learn and her commission (the External Commission) were in charge of this event—which was supposed to happen around the middle of last term. Unfortunately, preparations for the event were not completed in time. She will try to compensate by having two Not On Our Campus events in February.

Learn also helped to improve safety on campus by helping Safewalk obtain several shuttle buses for the AMS service to run on campus.

The executive

Congratulations must be given to this year's AMS executive for moving the creation of the AMS Budget to January this year. In previous years, the incoming executive each year must, as one of their first tasks, create a budget for their year in office. This year's exec did one budget in June, and will be the first to do one in January as well.

Moving the budget to January means that execs at the end of the term will talk to coordinators at the end of their terms—this means a more accurate budget can be created and that the following year's execs won't be forced to make one as they come into office.

A common theme that was pledged by execs last year was to increase communication with students and make what the AMS is and does well-known. Ahh. Commitments of a naïve candidate. Besides revamping the website with a (horrendous) purple-grid background, little has been done to combat students' apathy toward their student council. Besides the website (which execs must assume students go to with regularity) the only connection students have with their AMS is through the other councillors, who represent other faculties at UBC.

But at one student council meeting, one councillor complained that the execs were making decisions without even the councillors' input. It's too bad our executive couldn't connect more with students this year—maybe if they were out doing some of the protesting, more things would have changed.

Overall, the executive this year has done an average job. Part of that might be changed next year if there are at least a few students in from a new slate, or from an independent party—if only for a different way of thinking. We, at *the Ubyssey*, are hoping for change from next year's execs, beyond maintaining the status quo. ❖

Breakfast at Martha's

Claiming wage inequity, TAs take to the president's residence

by Duncan M. McHugh
NEWS STAFF

Six-thirty in the morning is early, even for a go-getter like UBC President Dr Martha Piper. With this in mind, the Teaching Assistants (TA) Union, CUPE local 2278, paid a visit to Norman A. Mackenzie House --the president's official residence--on Thursday morning to give Piper a wake-up call about what they feel are unfair wage cuts.

Roughly 150 TAs, CUPE members from other locals and supporters gathered in the Mackenzie House driveway for speeches, cheers and noise-making. The demonstration was timed to rally support before the Union returns to negotiations with the university today.

The Union held a strike vote in December and which resulted in an 87 per cent vote in favour of job action. The Union gave strike notice on December 16, but were subsequently forced into essential services negotiations.

"This was a great launching pad into mediation tomorrow," said Alex Grant, president of the TA Union. "[And] we hope this message will come out loud and clear at the bargaining table tomorrow."

The TAs are upset with what they see as a 16 per cent pay cut, due to an increase to tuition which went into effect this September. The university is planning on raising tuition again this year. Additionally, the university has removed health coverage for TAs.

"If we lose that," said Grant, "we'll be the only employee group on campus without employer-paid health care. What's more, you go down to SFU, they get a full health and dental plan...and they get paid $2.50 an hour more than us."

Another point of contention for TAs, and a motive for the location of yesterday's action, was the recent pay increase given to Piper. The UBC president will now be earning $350,000 a year, with potential performance bonuses of $50,000. That amounts to a 30 per cent pay raise over last year and a 63 per cent increase over her 1997 starting salary of $215,000.

"[The UBC Board of Governors] said Martha [Piper] had to get that money to put her on level with [the University of Toronto] president," said Grant. Teaching Assistants at U of T are paid $7 or $8 an hour more than we are, and that's what we want: we want parity."

For CUPE, local 116 President Paul Cook, Piper's raise shows a lack of leadership.

"She's supposed to be the leader. She should be the one saying, 'You know what, if there's no increases for the staff out here, including faculty and everyone else, then I'll lead the way and I won't take an increase'...at the end of the day, [she received a 60 per cent increase], with bonuses and everything else. It's deplorable, it's not leadership qualities in my mind."

UBC Director of Public Affairs Scott Macrae, who spoke on behalf of Piper, believes that negotiations will resolve the issue of wage parity.

"The university is committed to attaining market equity for all its employees...[and negotiations] will determine how teaching assistants' wages meet the market," said Macrae, adding: "We're committed to seeing that all of UBC's employees are competitively compensated."

In this regard, Macrae believes that UBC's TAs are not that far behind their peers.

"You have to look at more of the, sort of, total package...As I understand it, the annual amount that UBC teaching assistants make is more; they have more hours, they have more opportunities for employment. I think it depends on how you compute that."

That would be small comfort for those who gathered at Piper's house yesterday. Many feel that the difficulties that TAs are facing are representative of greater problems with the university.

"There's a moral bankruptcy in the leadership on this campus," said Colin Redfern, a fourth-year Forestry student and a member of CUPE 116, "And as an undergrad, I'm asking all undergrads to support this. A university is for students, not for making money."

That sentiment was echoed by Kate Woznow, who spoke at the rally. Woznow, a member of the campus Social Justice Centre and current Alma Mater Society (AMS) presidential candidate spoke of the importance of undergraduate support for TAs and criticised the university for its increasingly business-oriented terminology, particularly the use of the terms "clients" for students and "enterprise" for the university.

"We're not clients," she said, "we are the university."

The AMS was not represented at the event. AMS VP Academic Chris Lythgo agreed the treatment of TAs is reflecting poorly on the university. The AMS Council recently passed a motion, drafted by the TA Union, that endorsed the TAs.

"That motion tells the university that 39,000 students [supports] the TA union," said Lythgo. ❖

—with files from Kathleen Deering

AMS elections kick off

by Chris Shepherd
NEWS EDITOR

Alma Mater Society (AMS) elections are just around the corner and the candidates for the executive, Senate, and Board of Governors (BoG) representatives have begun their forums and debates around campus.

Tuesday night saw the first discussion forum take place in the lounge at Gage residence. The majority of students attending the event were candidates or friends of candidates in the upcoming election.

Chris Eaton, the AMS elections coordinator, was pleased with the number of candidates that turned out to the forum but would have liked to see a greater turnout from the student population at large.

At the forum, candidates stated their positions on various issues and answered questions from each other and from crowd members.

Most positions are contested by two slates—Students for Students (SFS) and Students' Progressive Action Network (SPAN)—and a few students running independently.

SFS is the same slate that has swept the AMS elections over the previous two years. The election platform suggested by SFS is consistent with the previous years' executives, focusing on lobbying the government on various issues and pressuring the UBC administration for greater consultation and student input on issues such as tuition increases.

SPAN is a new slate this year and its members appear to be focusing on more visible activities like protests. SPAN is highly critical of the SFS for maintaining what it calls the status quo in the AMS.

The other slate is the Radical Beer Faction (RBF). The RBF is a pseudo-joke slate that, created in 1988, is the oldest slate on campus. RBF candidates have a strong stance on beer (which they like) and an equally strong stance against student apathy (which they don't like). Sprinkled amongst the beer rhetoric can be found serious opinions on the relationship between the university administration, students and student apathy.

A recurring issue brought forward by many candidates was the fact that the general student population doesn't care about student government which, they said, explains the poor turnout at the forum.

"The poor turnout is indicative that people don't feel the AMS impacts on their lives," said Laura Best, SPAN candidate for vice-president academic.

A presidents' debate was scheduled for Thursday at lunch in the SUB. While four candidates were there, the debate was not. Each candidate answered questions from the crowd (sometimes starting their answer by agreeing with what the previous candidate said) and when given the opportunity to respond to what another candidate said they declined the opportunity most of the time.

While this lack of contention allowed for many questions to be fielded by the candidates, there was no real interaction between them that would allow students to differentiate the potential presidents from each other.

Turnout at Thursday's debate was greatly improved over the first forum and many questions were posed by the audience. The audience was also quite engaged with the candidates, applauding when they liked what they were hearing. Justice Patrick Pilarski was particularly noteworthy as he received an applause after almost every answer (his suggestion of duels with professors to improve communication was especially well-received).

If you missed the first two forums there are still several planned over the next few weeks. See the election supplement in today's paper and look to www.ams.ubc.ca/elections for a complete list of remaining forums. ❖

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"It's a bird" cried Greg Ursic. "You're crazy," exclaimed Iva Cheung, "it couldn't possibly be." "It's way too big to be a bird. It must be a plane" declared Jesse Marchand matter of factly. "Don't you guys have anything better to do?" scolded Nic Fensom. "There's always work to be done" suggested Kathy Deering. As the curious *Ubyssey* contributors tried to reach a conclusion as to what the object hurtling towards UBC was, Chris Shepherd and Brian Zandberg were in the Pit Pub discussing the intricacies of whittling over cold beverages. Anna King was giving her impression of a giraffe when Duncan M. McHugh ran into the pub screaming "we're all going to die!" Monica Penner came in behind him and explained that the unidentified object in the sky was, in fact, a flying litter box. Ian Duncan further explained that it appeared to be a not-so-recently-scooped litter box that was sure to spill everywhere upon its crash landing. "Campus is going to be a mess!" exclaimed Allison Moller. "No shit" yelled Sara Young. Dan Silverman, always quick to invent a solution, started giving orders. Sarah Conchie quickly hotwired a groundskeeper's truck while Michael Schwandt and Parminder Nizher attached a garden hose to the tap in the nearest bathroom. As the box began to tip Hywel Tuscano aimed the gushing water at the loose litter. As predicted, it quickly clumped and the clumps were soon shovelled into the pick-up truck. UBC campus was once again clean and picturesque thanks to the *Ubyssey* contributors!

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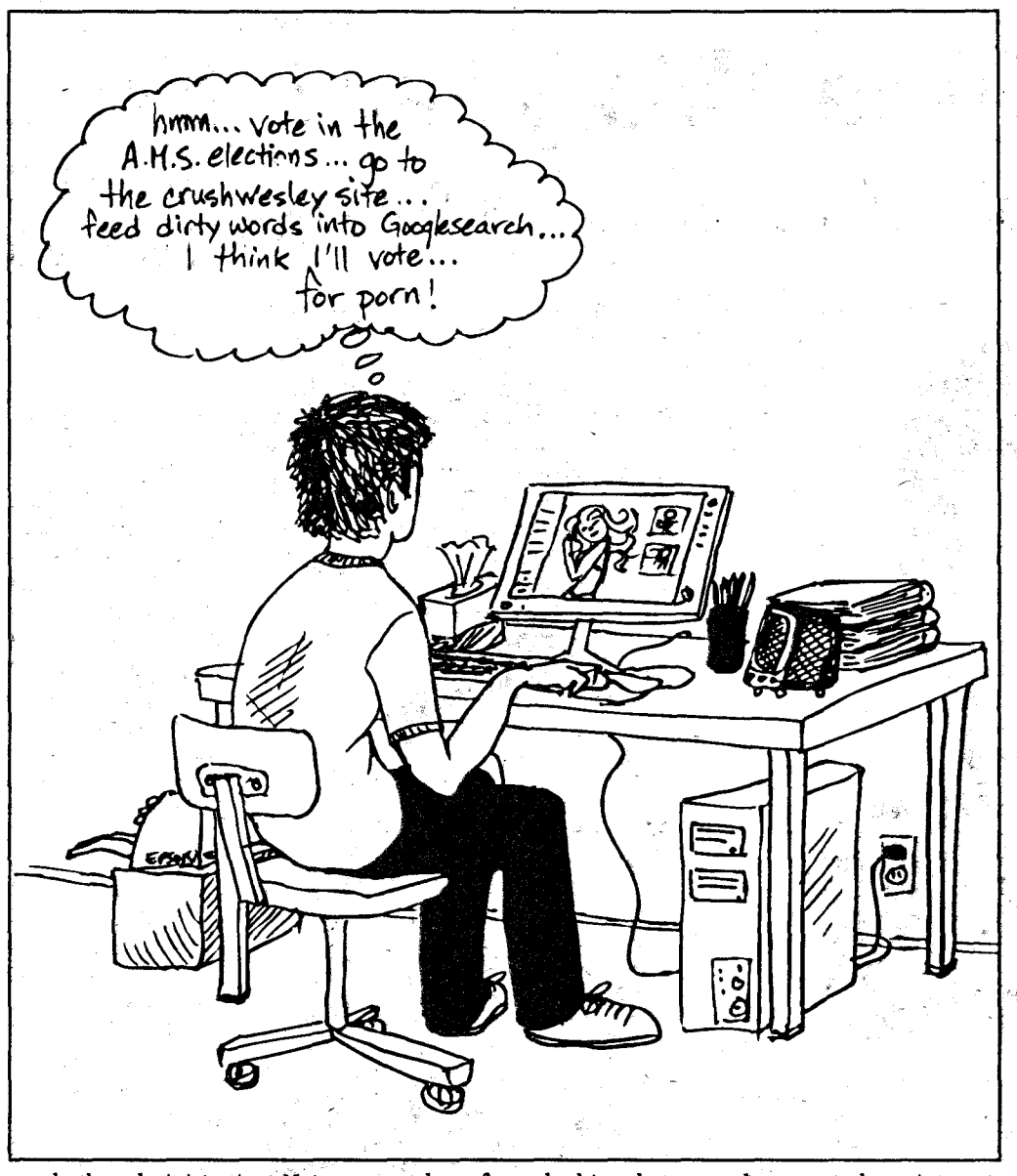
Elections and the AMS are ...zzzzzzz



This is your chance. The elections of UBC's Alma Mater Society (AMS) begin this Saturday. Excited? We thought not.

A recent all-candidates forum held at Gage Towers—UBC's largest residence—drew an estimated ten spectators, after subtracting the dozens of candidates for various positions in the AMS. Why doesn't anyone care? The AMS is our student union; its executive are the front line in negotiations with the university administration. So why did last year's presidential election draw only 3838 voters—less than 10 per cent of a 39,000-strong student body?

"Student apathy," chant candidates and pundits alike, year after year. The problem is that students simply aren't concerned with what happens to their campus, to their school and to its students. To some, it seems that nobody cares, with the exception of AMS candidates. Of course, this is preposterous. UBC's students care, deeply, about this institution and its future. We pursue higher education and specialised training here, we work here, and many of us live here. Students are not apathetic to the politics of this university. Rather, with some notable exceptions, the AMS seems apathetic to the politics of their constituents.

On Thursday morning, not 36 hours after the embarrassingly under-attended forum at Gage, students of all disciplines gathered at the residence of UBC President Martha Piper to protest the university administration's treatment of our teaching assistants (TAs). With TAs' salaries frozen (at an average of $9000 per year), last year's tuition hike effectively gave these graduate students a pay cut. Unsatisfied with the administration's repeated stalling in negotiations with them, over a hundred TAs and their supporters took their frustrations straight to Piper's house for a lively breakfast protest. The event drew the attention of the mass media, many students and surely the administration. Not *one* member of the current AMS executive was present; not one of these elected representatives saw it fit to attend an action organised by the student body, for the student body. The AMS has shown no leadership in supporting the TAs, other than rubber stamping a motion of support drafted by the TAs themselves. So who's apathetic?

This year's election will see the introduction of a much-heralded online voting system, which—in theory—might make it easier for students to vote. In practice, though, the change is unlikely to draw additional voters. Anybody who has worked as a poll clerk for AMS elections knows that it is exceedingly difficult to convince students to vote. The physical presence of a distinct polling booth (coupled with a few minutes to kill between classes) was the only thing that swayed many students into voting, as opposed to, say, reading a newspaper. With the virtual elimination of staffed polling stations on campus (last year there were 17, including locations in residences; this year there will be five, with none in res), it will take a massive online turnout to counter the loss of high-profile polling tables.

Of course, some of you may be avoiding student politics because of your undying contempt for the AMS and all of its hanger-ons. If you can summon the energy to vote online, you have a record 21 joke candidates to choose from for president (20 of whom come from the campus's monarchist/shit disturbing club, the Afternoon Tea Society). What better way to show how little you care about the AMS than to put a member of the Afternoon Tea Society at the top. ❖

LETTERS

Officer is not to blame

I totally understand the actions of the "unrepentant officer" ("Death of coyote unacceptable to UBC student" Letter [Jan. 10]) who offered no apology for having to put down a coyote. I live in a logging camp and have to deal with wildlife on a daily basis. These animals are not the cute and cuddly 'friends' that you see in Disney movies. They are wild animals who don't necessarily live well among humans. I know of many instances from where I live of people, especially little children, attacked by animals and who literally had their faces torn off. It's urban ignorance that casts blame upon people such as the officer whose job it is to maintain public safety. What other professions demand that workers apologise for doing their jobs? I always find it frustrating that people in the cities, people with little actual experience dealing with wildlife, would criticise animal control. Yes, it's sad that our growing cities are encroaching upon habitat but this is a societal problem, not the blame of one person.

—David Andersen
Arts 1

Slow down on SW Marine!

Is it only me who's reformed from speed-freak to semi-cautious-freak on UBC's roadways? A year ago I was zooming along South West Marine Drive, cursing at the car(s) in front of me that were going 30-40km per century. Now I'm the one slowing right down. Why?

It's because of the dogs, racoons, squirrels, coyotes and other animals that live out here and make this campus their only home. I've seen too many dead and mangled furry bodies on the side of Marine Drive, especially in the April-August period, and it just depresses me. (No, they aren't Gate 6 beachgoers!)

If you're not part of the problem, please become part of the solution! What's the extra 30 seconds that this takes, since it ensures that you won't have to clean anything off your tires or bumpers? Or have bad dreams, unpleasant flashbacks or fender-benders?

Many of you know that poor girl and her boyfriend whose big dog got hit outside the Liu Centre a few months back. Slower speed and a faster foot on the brake would've prevented this tragic death. So I know we're too young to drive like fuddy-duddies, but please give yourself plenty of time and space to slow or stop for wildlife that are not road-smart. Respect and karma.

Thank you so much!

—Katie Elliot
Graduate student-unclassified

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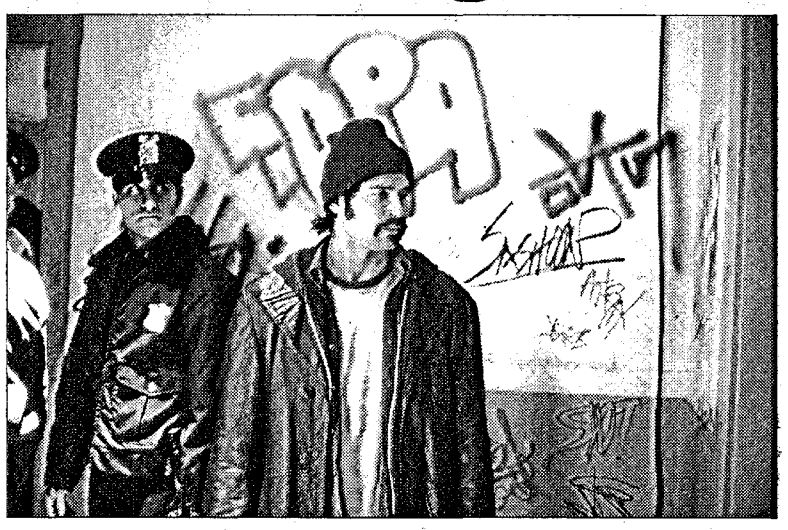
Narc takes old genre to new places

NARC
now playing

by Greg Ursic
CULTURE WRITER



While it sounds like a cliché, every cop goes to work with the knowledge that this could be 'the' day—they could get shot pulling over a speeder, stabbed responding to a domestic dispute or killed in a high speed chase. Consequently nothing galvanises a cop more than one of their own going down in the line of duty, and investigators are often willing to bend the rules to get their man. Capturing the guilty party and securing a jail sentence may not be what they have in mind.

As an undercover narcotics officer ('narc') Nick Tellis's (Jason Patric) job is to immerse himself in the hazy netherworld of drug dealers and junkies. Unfortunately for Nick, he takes the work to heart, and after sampling one too many products makes a fatal judgement call and is thrown off the force. When the investigation of an undercover agent's murder goes cold, Nick is asked to use his street connections to see if they can provide some leads. He teams up with Henry Oaks (Ray Liotta)—the dead cop's partner and thus the man most familiar with the case—who was initially banned from the investigation for his bull-in-a-china-shop approach.

To many people, Jason Patric is probably best known as the man that supposedly broke up the intended nuptials between Julia Roberts and Kiefer Sutherland. It is interesting that his most recent 'breakthrough' should be playing another narc after his brilliant work in *Rush* over a decade ago. Patric makes the role his own and is not afraid to look shabby and wrung out, as he plumbs the depths of his character and tries to realign his moral compass. Although he stumbles along the way, he never loses sight of his goal. He receives solid backup.

Ray Liotta, known for his congenial bad guys, is decidedly low key (for him) as Henry and turns in one of his best performances (there have already been Oscar rumblings). Henry is a cop's cop and the embodiment of the classic 1970s cop—a gritty no-nonsense renegade with no stomach for bureaucracy and who wants to be left alone to do his job. In addition to Liotta's trademark steely gaze, Henry has the benefit of being physically intimidating (in part courtesy of padding which the film's crew forgot in one scene) and will not hesitate to lash out if he feels the situation demands it.

The editing techniques used in the film sometimes seem to be at odds: the split screen shots coupled with some flashy editing that scream "Hollywood!" are offset by the blue-tinged gritty flair that dominates the bulk of the film and give it a seedy realistic feel. The film is also hard to watch at times, both literally, as in the all-too-familiar bouncing camera shots, and emotionally, as in the opening salvo that documents Nick's initial downfall and the demise of the undercover cop.

In spite of the great acting and film work, *Narc* could easily have joined the pantheon of virtually indistinguishable good cop/bad cop movie-of-the-week films that are quickly forgotten. It escapes this fate thanks to deft writing and a clever twist that forces the viewer to re-examine the very concepts of guilt, innocence and justice, and in the process turns a three-star video rental into a four-star big screen must-see. ❖

An odd, amazing moment in dance

Vancouver company combines dance and musical improvisation, with fascinating results

MOMENT'S NOTICE
at Experimental Dance and Music (EDAM)
Jan. 10-11

by Parminder Nizher
CULTURE STAFF

Two improvisational dancers and a cello...hmm. Definitely worth a viewing—but only one viewing.

The intimacy and coziness of the dance studio at EDAM was a breath of fresh air, with an incredibly intimate ambiance. Any place where I'm able to watch dance and not be stared at for removing my shoes is on top of my list.

The lights dimmed and Ray Chung walked onto stage looking more like a Japanese ninja than a dancer in his fitted black sweats, white shirt and emotionless eyes. Chung's movements were much like a ninja's—graceful, flawless and peaceful. Director and Performer Peter Bingham's movements did not bring forth Chung's grace, though—Bingham conjured up an image of an acrobat.

The amazing flexibility of Chung and Bingham were jaw-dropping. Improvising dance movements to the flow of a partner and improvised cello music so they seam into one another—wow.

An example would be when Bingham balanced Chung's waistline atop his head. Another awe-striking balancing act occurred when Bingham balanced Chung upon one shoulder.

The performance was odd at times. At one time Chung and Bingham played an aggressive game of 'tag,' or 'got-you-last,' conjuring up an image of two restless children. This then turned into an almost sexual dance between the two men, culminating in Bingham cupping Chung's crotch in his hand. The next thing I saw, Bingham was frozen on the floor and the spotlight was on Chung, who performed an almost meditative dance against the light on the wall. Beautiful. Bingham tried to encompass humour with his solo act, but it only made him appear awkward in comparison to Chung's peaceful solo.

My problem came with the cello. I couldn't help but pity the cello Peggy Lee screeched upon. "Screeched" is no exaggeration; at times her improvisational act reminded me of nails subtly scratching the chalkboard—not fun. At other times I was fearful she would pull the strings off the cello. To use a cliché, it was not music to my ears.

I left with an admiration for Bingham's balancing acts, and Chung's gracefulness. Improvisational dance is admirable simply because it is unchoreographed and unpractised. Worth checking out once, but for the sake of your ears, keep away if a cello is involved. ❖

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9:30 Punch Drunk Love
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7:00 Heathers
9:30 The Graduate

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Head full of Funk

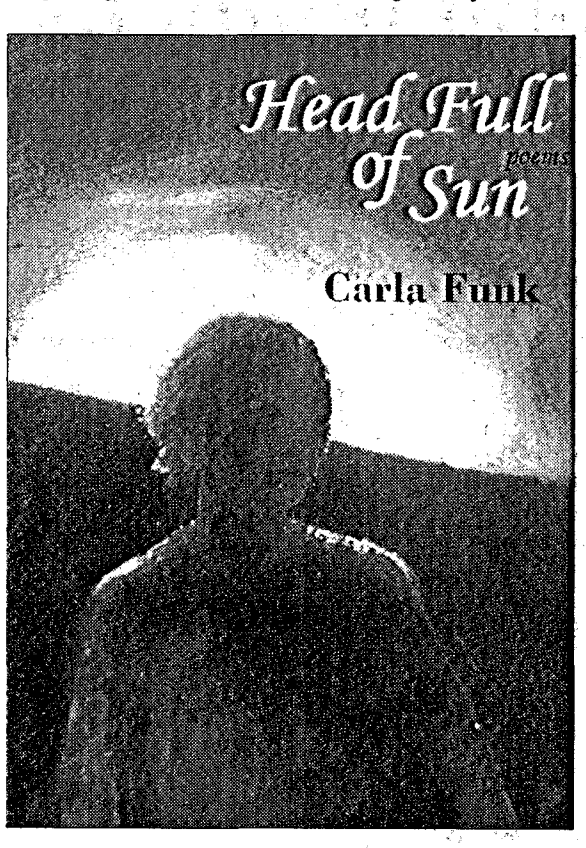
BC poet's new look at spirituality

HEAD FULL OF SUN
by Carla Funk
[Nightwood Editions]

by Bryan Zandberg
CULTURE STAFF

For those of us poetry lovers not 100 per cent enthralled by the depth and spirituality of pop singer Jewel's work, there's Carla Funk's latest book of poetry, *Head Full of Sun*, which is a pleasing and evocative collection drawing its anima from that honoured ocean of inspiration, the Bible.

Enjoining images from the Good Book and her childhood spent in BC's central interior, Funk creates a rich, moving texture of meanings and associations. Along the way she is at once worshipping and enquiring into the unknown, making a foray into the hidden matrix of her faith and searching for the way in which what she does and does not find relates to her past, present and future. Her tone is refreshing, it is rugged and womanly, her choice of words emanating with a certain softness, punctuated by the recurring image of an open wound, a symbol both personal and universal for the poet.



Fittingly, then, *Head Full of Sun* commences with a series of vignettes written from the point of view of female biblical personas like Mary Magdalene, Eve, Ruth, and Bathsheba. Funk's keen sensitivity and imagination are evident in the way she fashions the distinct psyches of each of the women and their responses to the nature of the events that they are both shapers of and subject to.

Styled after David's Psalm 119, the second group of poems, "An Alphabet of Psalms," is a loose gathering of musings and reflections on the poet's own small-town religious upbringing.

It gets difficult to sort out what is and what isn't Carla Funk between the alcoholic fathers, the furtive kisses, the electric solemnity of church services, the lusty encounters of adolescence and a struggle with infertility. But Funk faithfully turns over the stones of memory's recollections, finding meaning cool and moist on the other side and laying out her disparate discoveries in a continuous narrative. It is the voice of one who goes on ahead, believing in her Maker in the midst of the wounds and afflictions of her own life, a wavering collage of blood and experiences.

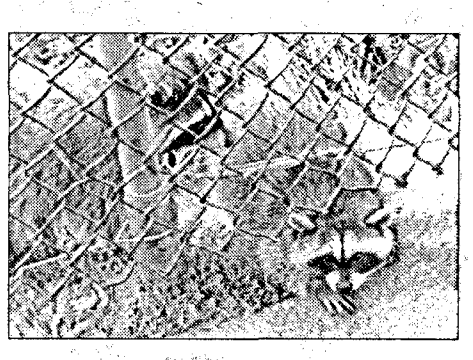
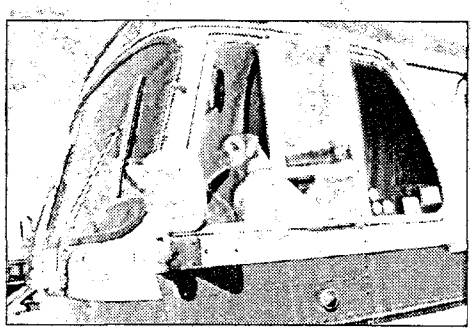
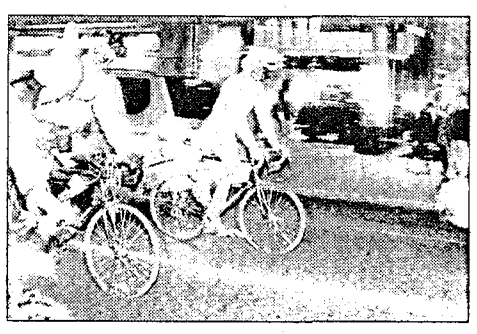
The final chapters attempt to bridge the mystery and the distance between the divine and the earthly by means of a personal apprehension of the Book of Revelations and the phenomenon of speaking in tongues. Far from being a thorough theological approach, these poems are instead intuitive responses, the outworkings of the heavens recognised in the blood, bedrooms, children and flowerbeds of earth.

Although some of the poems seem to miss the mark, the others shine with inventiveness and originality. Eschewing blithe spirituality, Funk chooses instead the unguarded path. The result is the voice of a woman reaching as deeply into the stories of the Bible as she does into her own wounds and finding, in the process, a shred of holiness. ❖

Bitten by the shutterbug

UBC Photo Society shows their stuff to campus

On January 20, the UBC Photo Society will open its 2003 photo show to the public. A major annual undertaking for the club, the photo show is expected to draw hundreds of students and other members of the UBC community to the AMS Art Gallery in the SUB.

"It's to give the members an opportunity to display their stuff, and to give the public and opportunity to know what it is that people here do," says Patrick Ingram, the Photo Society's studio manager. "It's usually quite a variety of stuff."

Monday night's opening reception will offer free refreshments, along with the chance to view the work of dozens of UBC students. Shown here is recent photography by Photo Society member Michelle Furbacher, a fourth-year English student and freelance photographer who has contributed to several campus publications. ❖