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THE UBYSSEY

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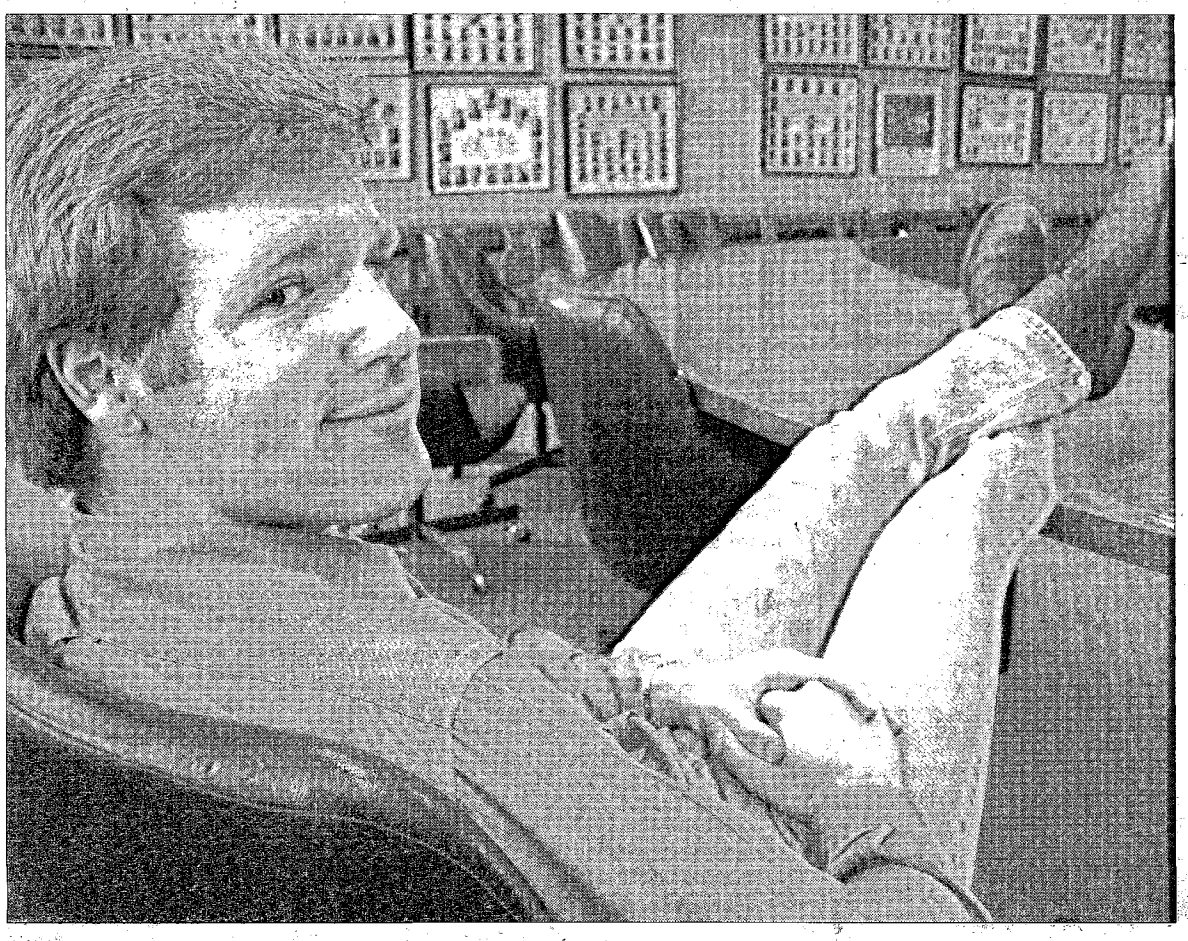
Slates barred from student politics



COMFY? Keys at home in the soon-to-be-Spencer Keys Council Chambers. MICHELLE MAYNE PHOTO

Ban passes by one vote in council

by Jonathan Woodward
NEWS EDITOR

Students for Students (SfS), Students' Progressive Action Network (SPAN), even the Radical Beer Faction (RBF)—no more.

In a decision that passed by only one vote at student council, the Alma Mater Society (AMS) banned slates from running in student council elections. Candidates will not be able to endorse each other, run under the same banner or campaign for "mutual advantage" next year.

This will change student politics for the better, said Spencer Keys, the student council member who brought the motion to the table.

"The status quo simply isn't working," he said.

Slates create a 'branding' of student politics—a sham 'left' or 'right' wing party that students will vote for on name recognition rather than because of a platform that they agree with, he said.

If the five executive members of student council do not belong to the same slate, they feel an artificial divide between them, pitting one student politician against another along slate lines, creating a tense and adversarial council, said Keys.

The student media often capitalise on this divide and make relations even more difficult, he said.

Keys, who has run for executive positions three times and lost on a slate and as an independent, said the new rules will take away the powerful branding power of slates, which stifles independent candidates.

But banning slates helps candidates more than voters, said Dave Asgeirsson, the Graduate Student Society Elections Administrator and graduate student representative on council, who voted to keep slates.

Eliminating the branded politics of slates stops the uninformed from voting, he said.

"I agree that there are a lot of uninformed voters, but uninformed voters should still be voting," said Asgeirsson. "Everyone's vote is equally important regardless of how informed they are."

See "Slates" on page 2.

AMS survey says UBC education is not affordable

by Sarah Bourdon and Paul Evans
NEWS STAFF

Sixty-four per cent of UBC students say that education at UBC is not affordable, according to the results of a recent Alma Mater Society (AMS) tuition survey.

Seven out of ten students said they feel tuition has affected them financially and two out of three said that no increase in tuition next year is acceptable.

The survey, conducted by e-mail, received 9950 responses—nearly a quarter of the student body at UBC. Data from it will be brought to the Board of Governors, UBC's highest decision-making body, later this month when a decision on next year's tuition increase is expected.

UBC is currently doing tuition consultation to gauge opinions on the proposed tuition increase, estimated between 15 and 19 per cent.

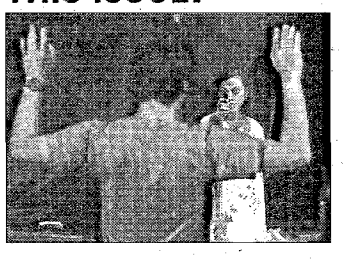
This survey gives the AMS a better understanding of how students feel about tuition increases and gives the society a more effective lobbying tool, said Sam Saini, former AMS VP External.

"I think it was very beneficial to have that type of broad opinion from students with respect to their tuition issues," he said.

Previous efforts at student consultation, such as open forums, failed to capture widespread student interest. Public events demonstrating against raised tuition, such as the February 4 tuition rally downtown, were poorly attended by UBC

See "Survey" on page 2.

THIS ISSUE:



CULTURE: Like sands in an hour glass...
Pi Theatre's "Cloud Tectonics Reviewed. Page 11.

SPORTS: Nationals history
The lady volley-Birds try to break a seven year tradition. Pages 8-9.

FEEDBACK@UBYSSEY.BC.CA
WWW.UBYSSEY.BC.CA

Study examines medical pot use

80 per cent of patients surveyed willing to try it

by Paul Evans
NEWS STAFF

Even though they have a terminal illness, some patients are worried about the health risks of using medicinal marijuana as a pain relieving drug, says a recent BC study.

The study, done as part of a grant application to Health Canada, surveyed 60 patients to better understand their feelings about marijuana.

"We wanted to know how people felt about trying it out for pain and nausea," said Romayne Gallagher, a UBC clinical medicine professor and author of the study. "People had a lot of concerns about the use of cannabis and a lot of them centred around actually smoking it."

Although the patients had a short life expectancy, they were concerned about possible lung damage.

"People didn't really want to smoke it, they'd much prefer a pill or some kind of liquid form," said Gallagher, adding that patients were also concerned about endangering the health of those around them by smoking the drug.

Gallagher also discovered that 80 per cent of patients were willing to try the drug simply because they needed relief from their symptoms.

"I just found it interesting that people were quite willing to try something even though they had a lot of worries about it; it just goes to show you that when people are sick they are pretty vulnerable and are willing to try just about anything," she said.

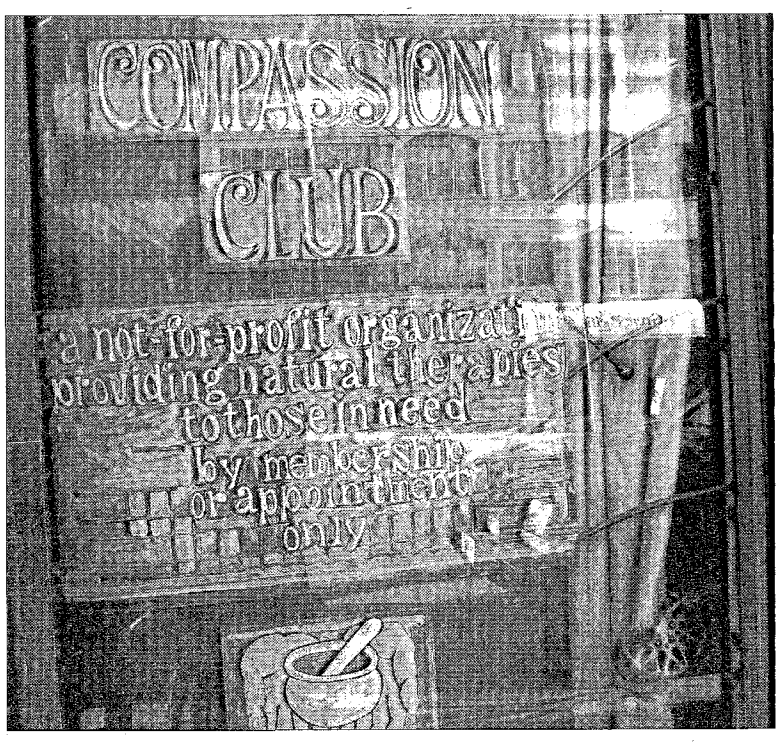
Marijuana has been available for medicinal purposes since July of 2001, when the Marijuana Medical Access Regulations were established by Health Canada. Approximately 700 people in Canada are now registered in the program and are legally allowed to possess or grow less than 30g of marijuana.

But Gallagher says Health Canada did not do their homework before making medicinal marijuana legal.

"The problem with the way Health Canada has gone about doing it is that they've kind of released it before it's really been tested," she said.

Because it has not been properly tested, groups like the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) have come out in opposition to the program. Since Health Canada gives no guidelines on what amounts to prescribe, there is the possibility of

See "Pot" on page 2.



CALLING FOR RELIEF: Pot can give it legally. MICHELLE MAYNE PHOTO

CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements

UBC FOOD COOP. FAIR TRADE & ORGANIC FOOD FOR THE STUDENT BUDGET. Open 12-2PM weekdays in the SUB basement near the Wellness Centre and Travelcuts.

THE UBC CHAPLAINS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS A SPIRITUALLY INSPIRING ART EXHIBITION, "IN SARCH OF YOUR SPIRITUAL SOURCE", by prominent professional artists; Gregg Simpson, Jamie Nicholls, Jean-Guy Dallaire, Marion Jamieson, Pnina Granirer, Janet Cummings, Monica Hu, and Mong Yen. 8-13 March, 2003, 10am-7pm, AMS Art Gallery in SUB.

PHARMACY AWARENESS WEEK the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences invites you to celebrate the pharmacy profession and the health care of our community at our annual fair in the SUB. Monday, March 1st to Friday, March 5th 2004 12-2PM

FREE FORUM on CANADIAN TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN, presented by Mobilization Against War and Occupation, to discuss the politics behind MAWO's growing Canada-wide campaign against the occupation. Sunday, March 7th, 6:30pm, Collingwood Neighborhood House (1 block south of Joyce Skytrain) www.mawovancouver.org mawoinfo@yahoo.ca 604-322-1764

VISIT THE VEREBRATE MUSEUM! Tons of specimens to see. Meet at main Biology building enterance at 12 noon Tues March 2nd. For info contact Christina: struick@interchange.ubc.ca

VEGETARIAN LUNCH PROGRAM. Vegetarian lunch, every Tuesday 12:30-2:30 @ International House (1783 West Mall) Everyone welcome.

UBC GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY PRESENTS "STICKS, BALLS AND JOCK STRAPS" Saturday, March 6th at The Pit Pub. Tickets $5. Come in uniform!

Employment

TEACH ENGLISH OVERSEAS: Jobs $$ Guaranteed-Great Pay. TESOL Certified 5 days in-class, online or by correspondence. Free information Seminar, every Tuesday @ 6:00pm. #216, 1755 West Broadway (@ Burrard). Free infopack: 1-888-270-2941 or contact globaltesol.com

Accommodation

ACCOMODATION AVAILABLE IN THE UBC SINGLE STUDENT REIDENCES. JANUARY-APRIL. Room vacancies are available in selected UBC single residences for qualified male and female applicants. Available for immediate occupancy in Gage, Fairview, Totem and Ritsumeikan residences. Applicants who take occupancy of a residence room before Feb.2 2004 are eligible to participate in the residence lottery for returning students in 2004-2005 Winter session. Contact UBC Housing in Brock Hall (1874 East Mall) for more information. The Housing Office is open from 8:30am-4:00pm weekdays, or call (604) 822-2811 during office hours. *Availability is limited for some residences and room types.

2 BED AND DEN, 2 BATH APARTMENT IN UNIVERSITY VILLAGE available for subletting from March 1st to August 31st. You do not have to occupy for the whole time. Partly furnished, fireplace and water included in rent, rent is $2100 a month. Washer-dryer and dishwasher included. Call Anna or Rebecca for more information on 604-221-1785 (Anna) or 604-224-0098 (Rebecca) or email luckie85@candw.ky or mimento2001@yahoo.ca.

FOR RENT. 2 BEDROOM GRND LEVEL SUITE. 1 or 2 female students pref. Dunbar area. Sophie. 604-228-9207.

Musicians

NEW WEST COAST ALTERNATIVE FOLK ROCK PROJECT seeks young, solid, energetic, positive drummer & bass player. New CD, local & regional touring. Paid % of gigs & CD royalties! Influences include: Pumpkins, Young, Bowie, Dead, Harper, CSN, PF, Zep, Beatles, Nirvana. Interested parties should reply to guitararmy@hotmail.com or leave a message at 604-807- 4372.

Academic Services

WORD PROCESSING AND DICTAPHONE TRANSCRIPTION services for students and instructors. Thesis (APA), term papers and tape interviews. Editing and proofing of existing papers. Call Diane at 465-5524 or email drkalyk@shaw.ca

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CUSTOM ESSAY WRITING - Essay research help! Professional writers available at www.essayexperts.ca 6048731688

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ESSAY RESEARCH & ASSISTANCE. Any Subjects A to Z. Highly qualified graduates will Help. Toll free: 1-888-345-8295. www.customessay.com

Tutor Wanted

TUTOR WANTED LOOKING FOR A TUTOR FOR BUSI 452. Will pay cash. Please phone Bryan at 604.377.8324. or e-mail me at pacificorca@telus.net Would like tutor to review written assignments (weekly) by e-mail.

Callboard

AUDITIONS WOLFSDEN PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS: "BETWEEN" FLOORS". Auditions: Sunday March 7 2004. Shooting: March 13-14. E-mail: wolfsdenproductions@yahoo.ca or Brandon; 604.737.0595. Needed: One Male, age 21-27. One Female, age 18-26. (Non-Equity Actors). A new Production Company! Looking to expand towards a solid base of actors and film-makers alike. Look for future productions to be made within the coming months.

To place an Ad or Classified, call 822-1654 or visit SUB Room 23 (Basement).

Bring in da news, bring in da freedom of information act requests.

News meetings are at 1:00 pm every Tuesday in SUB Room 24. Come and start an illustrious journalism career.

THE UBYSSEY
get up/get down since 1918

THE TUITION CONSULTATION IS UNDERWAY

You are invited to participate!

Open Forum on Tuition
with University Representatives

March 3, 6:30 pm
Place Vanier Commons Block

March 4, 11 am - 12 noon
SUB Conversation Pit

March 4, 6:30 pm
Magda's Lounge
Totem Park Commons Block

Express your views at: tuition@interchange.ubc.ca

Move to empower informed voters

"Slates" from page 1.

But Keys said the slate-based choices of uninformed voters disrupt the choice of informed voters.

The artificial divide along slate lines in the student government could be remedied by electing a slate *en masse*, said outgoing AMS President Oana Chirila. A system like this is in place in Queen's University student council elections—if a slate gets the most votes, it wins every position. This would provide unity and direction to a student council, she said.

Queen's slates are also named after the last initials of their candidates, avoiding the branding effect of names like 'Students' Progressive Action Network' and 'Students for Students,' added Chirila.

But this is impossible to implement without changing the AMS bylaws, which by provincial law can only be changed with the approval of ten per cent of the student body—and bringing that many students together to vote would be nearly impossible, said Keys.

Simon Fraser University has a system that allows slates, but often there are seven or eight slates that compete. This gives the system a balance that UBC simply doesn't have, said outgoing VP Academic Laura Best.

UBC doesn't have enough interest in student politics and that leads to a two-party-like system, she said.

Greater interest in student politics and a more diverse slate system would be better for student government than banning slates altogether, said Best.

One UBC slate is happy with the new rule and is planning to get creative for next year.

The Radical Beer Faction was formed in the 1980s as an alternative to slate politics and is the oldest slate on campus.

"We see this as a victory for the Radical Beer Faction, the anti-slate," said Lana Rupp, who campaigned for president in 2003 with RBF.

While the RBF will not be able to legally exist in the next election, she said there are still ways to impact student politics.

Instead of having one party campaigning for beer, each candidate could run on a platform of a single beer: one for Big Rock, one for Sleeman's and so on, she said.

"It's never the end of the Radical Beer Faction," said Rupp. ❖

Alma Mater Society survey gauges student opinion

"Survey" from page 2.

students, said Saini.

"Getting students involved in the [consultation] process of tuition has been unfruitful," said Saini. "We were very successful in getting people's opinions on tuition out there [with the survey.]"

Newly-elected VP External Holly Foxcroft, now charged with putting the data to use, could not be reached for comment before press time.

The university has not been presented with the survey results, and cannot comment on how or if they would be used, said Michelle Aucoin, a spokesperson from UBC's VP Students office.

But when the Board of Governors decides on tuition increases, they will be presented with a summary of consultation and feedback, she said.

"Certainly, if we have a copy of the results...it would include comments that relate to the fact that the AMS has taken an effort to do a survey and the key findings," said Aucoin.

But Aucoin questioned whether the university and the student society are using the same terms of reference for their consultation.

When a survey is asking students to measure "quality of education," those terms must be clearly defined, she said.

"If students feel they are not getting a quality education, it's very important to unpack that and be clear about what that means," she said. "It does mean something different to each person." ❖

Compassion Club exists in a 'grey zone'

"Pot" from page 1.

lawsuits against doctors, said Gallagher.

Gallagher does prescribe marijuana and refers patients to the BC Compassion Club Society. The Compassion Club, established in 1996 in Vancouver by activist Hilary Black, now has over 2700 terminally ill or chronically ill members who receive varying amounts of medicinal marijuana.

With only about 70 people legally allowed pot in BC for medicinal uses, there are a lot of people in the club who haven't gone through Health Canada's lengthy approval process.

Rielle Capler, a spokesperson for the Club, admits, "We've always existed in kind of a grey zone...We've always done things in a way that the government and enforcement feel comfortable with."

The Compassion Club provides its members with safe and clean marijuana but leaves it up to the patients to determine what amount is right for them. All the members at the Compassion Club have a doctor's referral and suffer from illnesses like HIV/AIDS, multiple sclerosis or cancer.

Capler says many come to the Compassion Club because they don't want to buy drugs off the street or because they don't respond well to conventional painkillers.

"A lot of people who come here are coming here because they don't get the relief that they want from pharmaceutical drugs and they get side effects from the pharmaceutical drugs," she said.

Gallagher's study also looked at patients' perceptions of existing painkillers.

"[The study] also points out that they have a lot of worries about the [painkillers] that we already know are safe, she said.

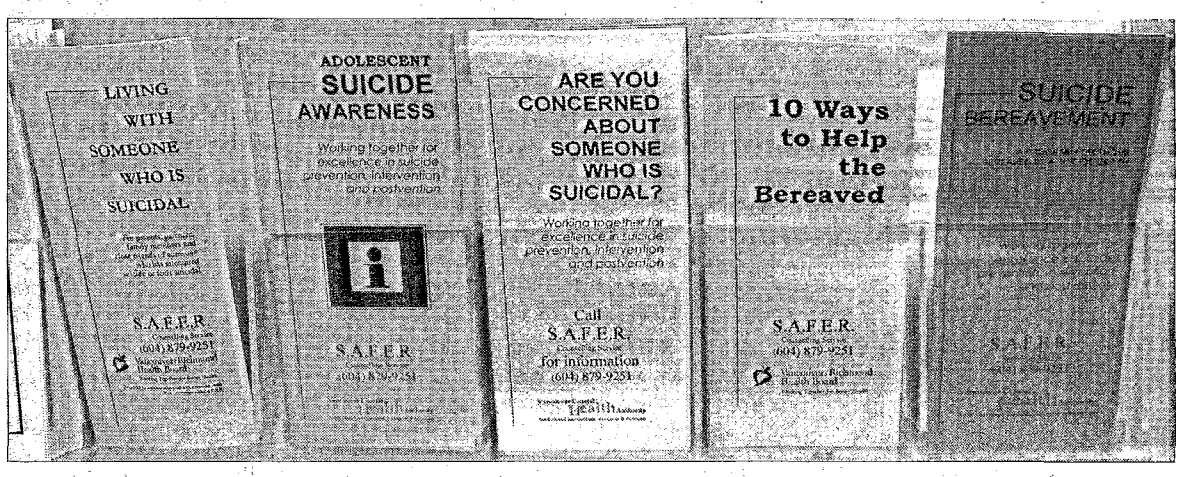
Marijuana can work very well as a pain reliever, especially for illnesses that entail spasms, said Gallagher. But she pointed out that marijuana is not as effective as some of the conventional painkillers.

"I don't see it as a wonderful new painkiller that's going to work for everybody," said Gallagher. But she also said she would like to see marijuana as an option for people in pain.

Trials on the effects of medicinal marijuana are currently being done in the United Kingdom and Gallagher said she will watch with interest to see if patients really benefit from marijuana. ❖

Help available, say health leaders

Staff urge attention, compassion after Totem resident takes own life



SPEAKEASY HAS THE GOODS: Support services are available on campus. MICHELLE MAYNE PHOTO

by Megan Thomas
NEWS EDITOR

In the wake of the suicide of a female UBC student in the Totem Park residence, students need to be encouraged to reach out to support services, say health experts.

"If people feel as though they are contemplating suicide themselves, or know someone that is...we have the resources. We would really like to help people," said Patricia Mirwaldt, director of student health services.

Mirwaldt said UBC personnel worked quickly to comfort Totem residents who were directly affected by last week's suicide and worked to get the word out that students have many support options, including 24-hour crisis lines, if they need help dealing with the tragedy.

Suicides in residences at UBC are extremely rare. "It is definitely the first one in a really long time, in the residence itself," said Mirwaldt.

She also said that approaching exams may make this time of year difficult for students who are contemplating taking their own lives.

"Of course we have to be concerned all the time, but as we are getting close to exam periods [it is] often a difficult time," said Mirwaldt.

Another high risk period that may come as a surprise to many is the December holiday season, she added.

"Many people don't realise that holidays are often a time where there is a great deal of emotional stress for people."

If you think someone is feeling suicidal, you should ask them about it, said Tasha Ptasinski, the coordinator of the Alma Mater Society's Speakeasy, a confidential and anonymous peer support service on campus.

"One of the biggest myths about suicide is that if you ask someone, you will give them the idea of doing it," she said. Research shows this is not the case and that often people are relieved to be able to talk about suicidal feelings.

Students affected by suicide should also not feel ashamed to seek support, Ptasinski added.

"I just want to encourage students who are feeling upset because they have been affected by suicide to approach help. There is no shame in that," she said.

There were 532 suicides in BC in 2002, the most recent statistics available, and it is the second-leading cause of death for people aged 19-24, said Suri Vangolen, a spokesperson for SAFER—Suicide Attempt Follow-up, Education and Research—a community-based group working to prevent suicide. The age group with the highest number of suicides is age 40-49. Vangolen also said suicide rates, adjusted for population increase, are currently not increasing.

Men are four times more likely than women to take their own lives, in part due to social myths that men should not reach out for help, said Vangolen. But she also said that suicide is a complex issue and needs to be dealt with accordingly.

"It isn't ever one single situation that causes suicide," she said. "[But] there is help available." ❖

Suicide warning signs

- sadness
- lack of interest or energy
- changes in eating or sleeping habits
- changes in appearance
- dramatic behaviour, attitudes or actions
- unusual quietness
- unusual aggressiveness or anger
- dropping out of hobbies, sports, school or job
- talking about death or cult figures who have died by suicide
- taking risks (i.e. driving recklessly, unsafe sex)
- alcohol or drug use
- giving away possessions and saying goodbye
- history of previous suicide attempts
- stress or trauma

source: SAFER (Suicide Attempt Follow-up, Education and Research Program)

Campus resources

Speakeasy
Confidential Alma Mater Society peer support and referral service
Support line: 604-822-3700
Info line: 604-822-3777
Administration line: 604-822-9246

Student Health Service
Medical treatment, Psychiatry referrals
604-822-7011

UBC Chaplains
Pastoral counselling for all major faiths and religions
604-822-4463

First Nations House of Learning
Counselling for First Nations students
604-822-4824

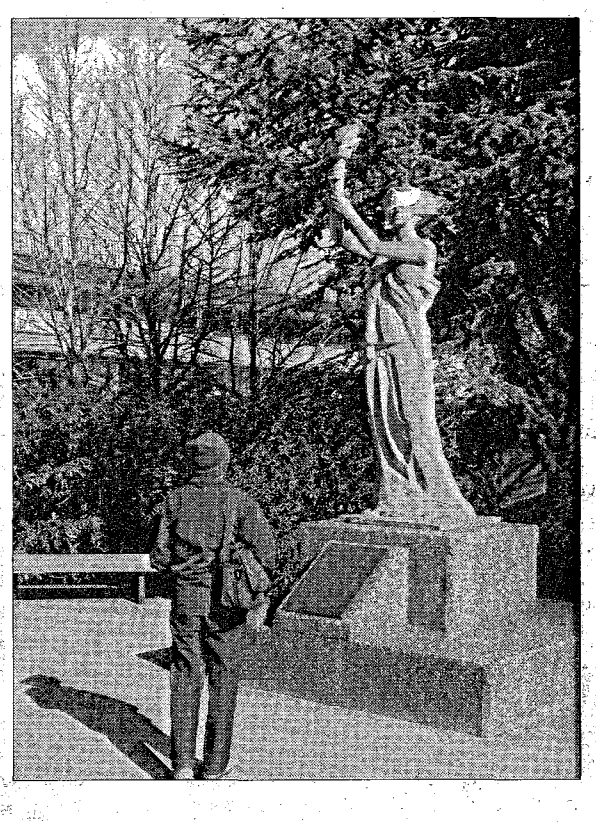
UBC Counselling Services
Daily drop in
604-822-3811

Pacific Spirit Family and Community Services
Counselling for residents of UBC Family Housing and First Nations students
604-822-4824

Off-campus resources

Crisis Counselling and Suicide Prevention
Vancouver:
604-872-3311 (24 hours)
Surrey:
604-951-8855 (24 hours)
Richmond:
604-279-7070 (9am to 12am)

SAFER
Suicide counselling
604-879-9251
(8:30am to 4:30pm)



That ain't no hat!

Somebody decided to play dress-up with the Goddess of Democracy yesterday, giving her a crown of tightie-whities. No one is claiming responsibility for the incident that had more than a few passers-by stop for a closer look. Certainly one of the less destructive incidents of vandalism on campus, the underwear was removed before the day was out. PETER KLESKEN PHOTO

OUC students advertise against UBC takeover

by Megan Thomas
NEWS EDITOR

Students at Okanagan University College (OUC) are so concerned about the possibility of a UBC takeover of their campus that they are advertising against the idea on local Kelowna radio stations.

The OUC Student Association is behind the radio advertisements that encourage community members to think about the implications of UBC expanding to the Okanagan and encourage Kelowna MLAs to support a full status university instead, said Dave Westmacott, student representative to the OUC Board of Governors.

"The idea is just to get people to think critically about this," said Westmacott. "I don't think there are a lot of people who are thinking critically about what should happen."

BC Premier Gordon Campbell and Minister of Advanced Education Shirley Bond met with the OUC Board of Governors and local MLAs on Friday to hear concerns about a possible partnership, said Westmacott. But he also said the session did not provide answers for OUC students and no decision about the fate of the university college was made.

"We weren't really given any more information and we didn't really have any of our questions answered," he said.

OUC students are worried about becoming a branch-plant operation of the Vancouver UBC campus if the partnership happens, said Karina Frisque, president of the OUC Student Association.

"We are nervous for everyone," she said, adding that OUC has multiple campuses that serve different student needs and include classes for trades as well as adult basic education. Frisque is worried that these types of classes do not fit under UBC's mandate, meaning the OUC campuses offering these course would not be included and would have their status lowered from university college, to college.

Frisque is also worried a UBC takeover would mean larger class sizes, higher tuition and a loss of local decision making power to UBC's Vancouver campus.

The rumours about the fate of OUC have run rampant since December of 2002 when the BC Progress Board, a government advisory committee chaired by UBC President Martha Piper, recommended to the provincial government that an existing BC university extend its mandate to include a Kelowna campus—no campuses were named in the report.

In January, UBC VP Academic and Provost Barry McBride made a presentation to the UBC Senate that proposed a governance structure for a takeover of the Kelowna campus. He said that the presentation was a response to a government request that UBC specify how a partnership would work.

The proposal saw a structure with one president and Board of Governors based at UBC and a senate for each campus. Graduates of both institutions would receive UBC degrees, much like the University of California system that includes nine campuses around the state and is continuing to expand.

McBride and OUC officials could not be reached for comment on the visit by Campbell and Bond. But a spokesperson for the Ministry of Advanced Education said a decision on the future of OUC has not yet been made and it is not known when one will is expected.

Frisque said she was surprised that a decision was not made before the February provincial budget announcement.

"We were kind of expecting something to come out," she said, adding that the longer OUC students are left in the dark, the more sour the idea of a partnership becomes.

She also said she is disappointed by the lack of government consultation with OUC students.

"They don't really tell us anything," she said. ❖

Get some sun this Summer!

Bridges Restaurant needs the following high-energy people on the deck this summer: hosts, bussers, experienced wait staff & experienced bartenders.

Apply in person to:
Bridges Restaurant
1696 Duranleau,
Granville Island
March 3,4,5 & 6
12 noon to 4:30pm
no phone calls please

bridges

UPDATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST

with
Ambassador Haim Divon
Israeli Ambassador to Canada

Wednesday, March 3
@ International House
12 – 1:30

Sponsored by the UBC Israel Advocacy Club and the Centre of International Relations, Liu Institute for Global Issues

Student Legal Fund Society

AGM
MARCH 4, 2004
CURTIS LAW BLDG, ROOM 102
12:30 TO 2:00

TAKE NOTICE that an annual general meeting of the SLFS – Student Legal Fund Society (the "Society) will be held at room 102 of the Curtis Law Building at UBC on Thursday March 4, 2004 at the hour of 12:30 for the following purposes:

1. To recieve the report of the Elections Administrator.
2. To appoint or waive the appointment of auditors.
3. To recieve and consider the financial statements of the Society for the year ended and the report of the directors to the members.
4. To transact such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting

TAKE NOTICE that any student of UBC who wishes to become a member of the Society, and is eligible based on the society bylaws, can immediately become a member by providing the Secretary with their name and registered address - within 30 minutes of the meeting being called to order.

Dated at Vancouver, British Columbia, this 23rd day of February, 2004.

Contact the SLFS: Box 70, 6138 SUB Boulevard, Vancouver BC, V6T 1Z1 Email: slfs@slfs.org Phone: 1.604.827.1208

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Respite from the streets

Sex-trade workers that brave dangerous streets at night will soon have a place of respite and safety that can come to them.

The Mobile Access Project has converted an ambulance to function as a safe, mobile drop-in centre that can patrol Vancouver during the time most dangerous to sex workers—night, said Kate Gibson, a representative of the Women's Information Safe House Drop-In Society. It will be outfitted to provide services like emergency medical assistance, condoms, clean needles and resource and referral information, including how to access addiction treatment services, she said.

The van will be available from 11pm to 6am seven days a week, said Gibson. "We are so pleased that we have been able to...bring these incredibly vital services to the community."

Belinda will read them...?

Magna International, the company that was founded by the father of current Conservative Party leadership candidate Belinda Stronach, will offer more than $500,000 total prizes for essays in its As Prime Minister Awards essay contest. The essays will be judged for their innovative suggestions about what the author would do if he or she was prime minister.

Will Belinda Stronach herself be reading these essays?

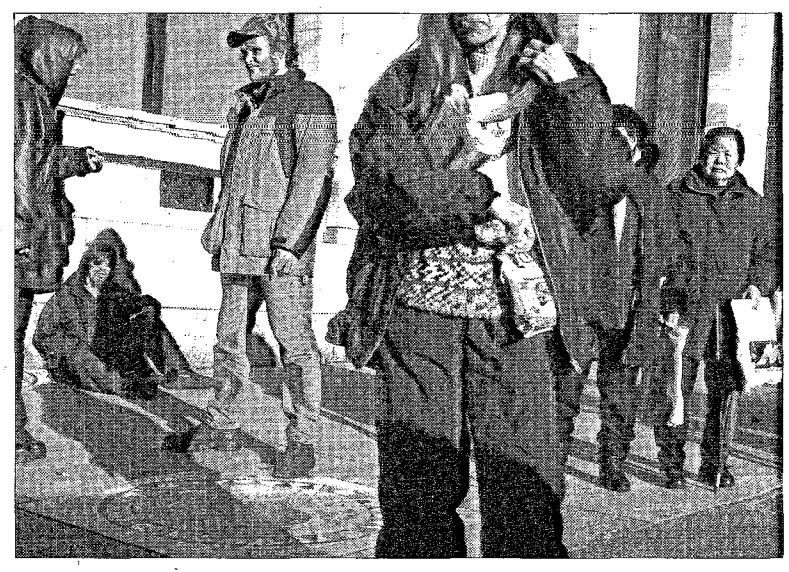
"It depends on what level they get to," said Magna spokesperson Julie Roe. "Once they got to the final ten, Belinda would definitely be reading them."

But Stronach will not be involved in the judging, she said. Whether Belinda will read all of the essays is certainly not decided at this point, she added. "She will have a role. What that is isn't really defined at this point," said Roe.

Roe would also not comment on what would happen if Stronach does not become prime minister or whether, if she was not prime minister, she would read the articles that tell her what she should do if she became prime minister.

"It's more a broader type of program than that. It's what would be done as prime minister," said Roe.

Four candidates who are past winners of the As Prime Minister Awards are running as candidates in the upcoming federal election for various political parties, said Roe. Roe did not specify whether Belinda was a fifth.



MOBILE AID: Sex-trade workers on streets like ones in the Downtown Eastside are getting support from new mobile drop-in centre. MICHELLE MAYNE PHOTO

So long, and thanks for all the free sandwiches

Student society executives elected in the 2004 Alma Mater Society (AMS) elections took the torch from this year's executives at the AMS's annual general meeting, Friday.

The transition begins their year-long tenure as student representatives in an organisation that runs student services such as tutoring and counselling, operates the businesses inside the SUB and lobbies in the interests of students.

The new executives, paired with their positions, are: Amina Rai, president; Stacy Chiu, VP Finance; Holly Foxcroft, VP External; Lyle McMahon, VP Administration; Brenda Ogembo, VP Academic.

Busing: a primer

Translink's proposal for the largest transportation plan in Vancouver's history passed by a one-vote margin in a nine-hour GVRD meeting, Friday.

The plan will see a Richmond-Airport-Vancouver rapid transit line—budgeted at $1.5 billion—an expanded rapid transit service to northeastern municipalities as well as west through Broadway Avenue and an expansion of the U-Pass to include 100,000 students at Vancouver's community colleges.

The plan will cost an average of $61 more in property taxes, parking taxes on free spaces and inflation-based bus fare hikes. The Translink contingency plan calls for a per-vehicle levy each time a car is driven into the downtown peninsula.

It's necessary to get this infrastructure in before the 2010 Winter Olympics, said Trish Webb, a spokesperson for Translink. This is because millions in federal and provincial funding is contingent on quick completion of the projects. ❖

TRANSLINK WANTS THERE TO BE ROOM ON THE BUS FOR HIM: Contentious and expensive ten-year plan squeaks past GVRD vote. MICHELLE MAYNE/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO

Offshore drilling full of holes, Suzuki says

CBC host calls for more research before lifting the moratorium, not after

by Sarah Bourdon
NEWS STAFF

Lifting the federal government moratorium banning oil exploration and drilling on BC's West Coast will jeopardise environmental sustainability in the future, said renowned Canadian scientist David Suzuki, Tuesday.

The former UBC professor and host of CBC's *The Nature of Things* said humans need to cut down on fuel consumption, not explore new sources for oil and gas.

"The obligation that we have in our own self-interest is to begin a process of ramping down our dependence on fossil fuels," said Suzuki. "What then is all this business about exploring off the shores and putting at risk so much more? It just doesn't make any sense."

Bans on coastal drilling have been in place for several years, but the provincial government is now seeking to allow corporations to look for oil, a move that would open a new source of economic growth, said Suzuki.

"This consumptive demand that we have is driven by a globalised economy that now searches the entire planet for resources," he said. "Canada's economic engine pays no attention to sustainability of natural resources."

The discussion about lifting the moratorium started with a government-commissioned report by the Royal Society of Canada.

"Provided an adequate regulatory regime is put in place, there are no scientific gaps that need to be filled before lifting the moratoria on oil and gas development," the report says.

One of the scientists who worked on the report said the research doesn't reflect whether or not development should occur, but simply comments on what science is needed to to be done before the moratorium is lifted.

"We are not saying go ahead and start the industry," said John Dower, an assistant professor of biology and earth and ocean sciences at the University of Victoria. "But we are making the assumption that the regulators can be trusted to set up a proper environmental monitoring regime."

Lifting the moratorium would open up possibilities for research on what that regime would look like, said Dower. It would be several years before development would start, he added, and provided regulations were enforced, all the necessary data could be collected to determine the safety of development in the region.

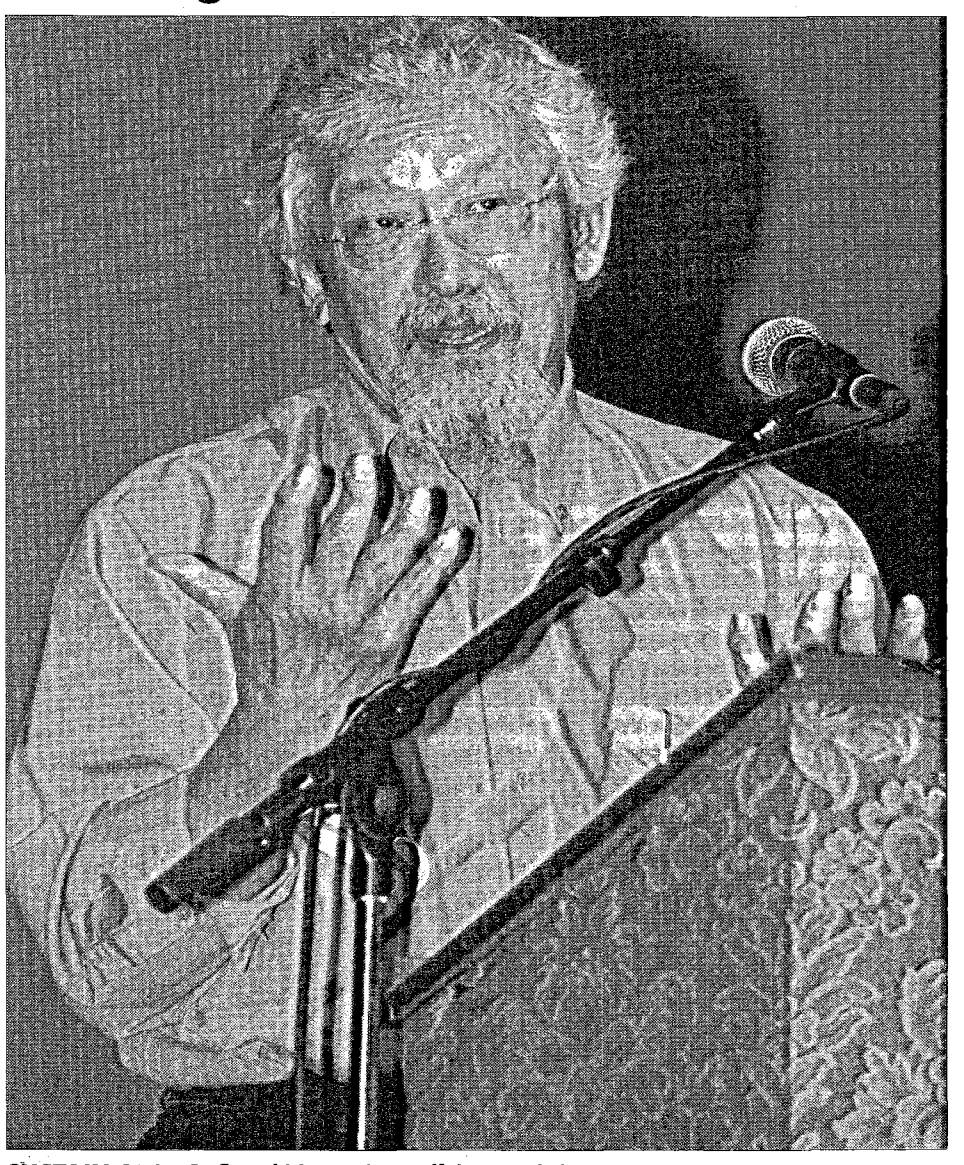
"Dr Suzuki and others are right insofar that we've made the assumption that the government is going to play by the right rules and that they are going to put the proper regulatory regime in place," said Dower.

But Suzuki said that it was unacceptable to lift the moratorium without the necessary environmental research.

"There are gaps in our knowledge. These gaps mean we don't know what the hell is going on," he said. "It doesn't make sense not to do the research and fill in the gaps before lifting the moratorium."

Many studies have shown oil exploration could be devastating for wildlife and drilling an earthquake-prone area could significantly increase the risk of oil spills, said Suzuki. He stressed the importance of considering the future.

"We have to devise a vision of where we want this society, where we want this province to be 20, 30, 40 years down the line," he said. "We owe it to the coming generations to work towards a vision that will be sustainable."❖



SUSTAIN-SPEAK: Suzuki is against offshore oil drilling. PETER KLESKEN PHOTO

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Silent protest at SFU

Protest to fight sexual oppression aims to flip the script on social stigmas

by Stephen Hui
BRITISH COLUMBIA BUREAU

BURNABY (CUP)—For much of March 5, Erica Halpern won't say a word.

That's because the Simon Fraser University (SFU) student plans to observe a Day of Silence to protest the oppression faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans students. Participants will wear black shirts and stickers and try not to talk from their arrival on campus until 4pm.

"The idea is this silence would symbolise the silence that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered community and their allies live in everyday as a result of social stigmas related to gender and sexuality," said Halpern, who volunteers at Out on Campus, the queer resource centre at SFU.

"The whole idea is to twist it around," the philosophy and visual art student added. "Instead of silence being a tool of oppression, on the Day of Silence it's going to be a tool to protest."

Participants will be given cards to explain the reasons for their silence to others. Organisers are also suggesting they carry a pen and notepad to help them communicate.

The first Day of Silence was organised at the University of Virginia in 1996. This year, students at about 2000 universities, colleges, high schools and middle schools in the US will observe a National Day of Silence on April 21.

The event will be held on March 5 at SFU to coincide with Out on Campus's annual Queer Awareness Week and because April 21 falls during the university's exam period.

It was Halpern's idea to bring the Day of Silence to SFU. Halpern organised one during her final year at a Toronto high school and 100 students participated.

"Homophobia, transphobia and other stigmas and phobias related to gender and sexuality—they really need to be addressed," Halpern said. "They're certainly prevalent, even on the SFU university campus."

This year's Queer Awareness Week will focus on gender issues. Workshops will address sex and trans identity, while a panel will tackle gender-neutral washrooms.

Discussions around the issue of gender-neutral washrooms have made gender a particularly hot topic on campus, said E. Landoni, a cognitive science student who is coordinating the week of events.

Students researching the development of facilities inclusive to people of all genders say they have the support of SFU administrators. They are proposing the installation of single-stall, genderless washrooms on every floor of every building on campus.

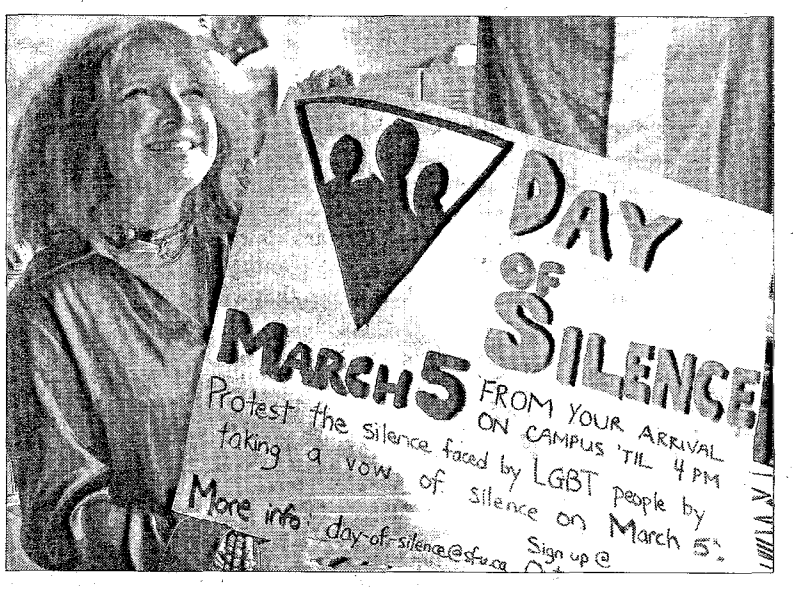
"We're trying to engage people just in a discussion about what gender is," said Landoni.

Often students don't think of sexism and sexual prejudice as contemporary social problems, according to Day of Silence organiser Erica Halpern.

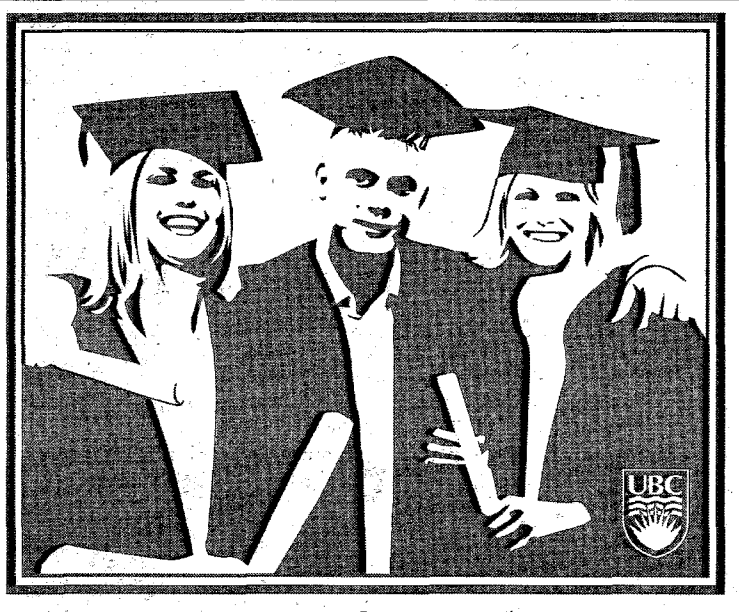
"Automatically, people are very defensive," Halpern said. "They will say, 'Oh no, I'm not racist,' and then they'll say a racist remark. They'll say, 'Oh, I'm not homophobic,' and then they'll use expressions like, 'Oh, that's so gay.'"

Halpern maintains the heated debate over same-sex marriage in Canada and the US is proof that sexual oppression is alive and well. The SFU student said she hopes students will support Queer Awareness Week.

"People have somehow gotten the idea that you need to be a member of the LGBT community to care about gay rights," Halpern said, "to which I respond: 'Do you need to be black to care about civil rights? No.'"❖



SHUT UP! Erica Halpern will in protest. STEHPEN HUI/CUP PHOTO



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Study calls video lottery terminals a risky government gamble

by Kristine Owram
ALBERTA BUREAU

EDMONTON (CUP)—Video lottery terminals (VLTs) could be more addictive than previously thought, according to a study conducted in part by the University of Alberta (U of A).

After months of analysing government data and interviewing 206 VLT users from around the province, a group of researchers concluded that 21 per cent of the users were problem gamblers and an additional 40 per cent were considered moderate risk gamblers.

Researchers from the U of A, the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge were involved in the study.

According to Garry Smith, a gambling researcher at U of A, this is cause for serious concern.

"In Alberta, only 1.5 per cent of people fit the category of problem gambler and the number of VLT users who are problem gamblers is about eight times higher than that," he explained. "That implies that people susceptible to becoming problem gamblers are drawn to VLTs and that's cause for alarm."

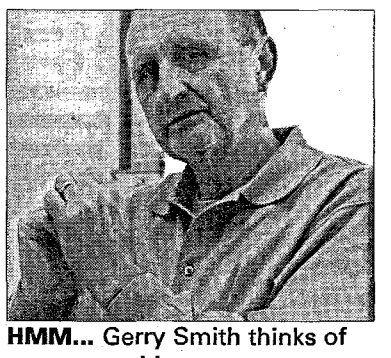
VLTs were introduced into Alberta on a test basis in 1991 and were officially legalised a year later. VLTs are legal in all Canadian provinces except Ontario and British Columbia. The Alberta government makes approximately $700 million a year from their use, despite the fact that they're only the fifth most popular form of gambling in the province.

"Only 13.4 per cent of Alberta adults played VLTs in the previous year and that's not many. But those who do play them play them hard and deep," said Smith. "So even though they're the fifth most popular form, they generate by far the most revenue. From that, we can extrapolate that thousands and thousands of dollars are contributed annually by each person that's playing."

Smith says the government doesn't seem to be taking the study very seriously. He believes this is because of the revenue generated by VLTs.

"I'm just speculating, but normally when something comes out the government doesn't like, they tend to dismiss it or downplay it, which they've done," he said.

"They questioned the validity of the study because we only interviewed 206 people, but we only had a certain amount of money, and the study was reviewed before we got the grant by international experts and none of them mentioned the number as being a problem. So I think they're just grasping at straws," he said.



HMM... Gerry Smith thinks of money machines. CUP PHOTO

According to Jody Korchinski, assistant communications director for Alberta Gaming, the main reason the study lacks validity is that the interviews were conducted two years ago and a lot has changed since then. She said VLTs now feature scrolling messages on screens advertising the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, clocks telling users how long they've been playing, and training programs for retailers to help them recognise problem gamblers and offer them help. ❖

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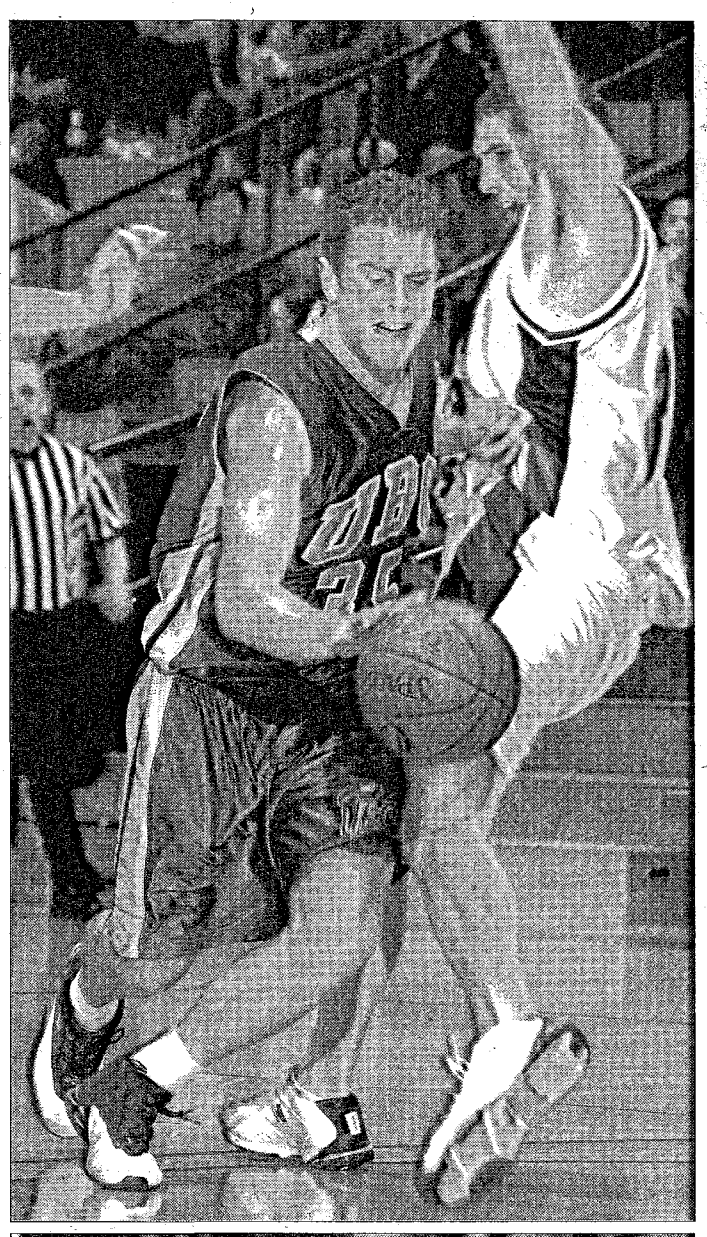
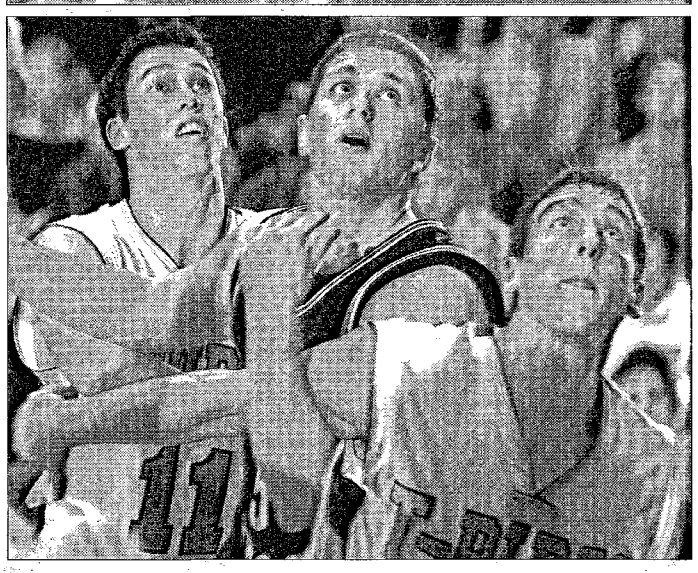




Bird/Clan battle intensifies weekend

Men's basketball one win away from Nationals

by Dan McRoberts
SPORTS STAFF

All right basketball fans, you can breathe again. After two explosively entertaining victories over their rivals from the Simon Fraser Clan, the UBC men's Thunderbirds have emerged to repeat as Pacific Division Champions. The Birds will attempt to defend their Canada West crown this weekend in Brandon.

A sweep was certainly unexpected, but the Birds hardly dominated their opponents, needing a final free throw from Karlo Villanueva to win game one on Thursday, and then requiring overtime to finish off the Clan the following night.

"This was intense as it gets," said T-Bird Casey Archibald in the aftermath of Friday's victory. "Playing last weekend [against TWU] got us ready for this series and SFU had last weekend off."

The Clan had showed no signs of rust in the opening minutes on Thursday as they threatened to run UBC out of the gym. Just ten minutes in, the Clan was up 33-16, led by Pasha Bains, who had already scored 18 points. Facing the potential of a blowout loss, UBC coach Kevin Hanson turned to co-captain Jama Mahalela to limit Bains. Mahalela was nothing short of brilliant, limiting his counterpart to a mere 11 points over the remaining 30 minutes.

"Jama is a fifth year guy who went out there and gave everything on defence tonight," said a proud Hanson after the game. "He did a tremendous job."

Mahalela was quick to share the credit with his teammates. "We really got our balance going offensively and limited Pasha's touches on defense," he said. That balance was epitomised around the midpoint of the second half, as Villanueva, Archibald and Mahalela drained consecutive three point baskets to tie the game at 68. A dramatic final minute ensured another hero would share their spotlight, as Peter Wauthy scored off of an offensive rebound with just 27 seconds remaining to tie the game again at 88 apiece.

Wauthy then stripped SFU's Joe Schow as the Clan attempted to win the game, sending Villanueva on a sprint to the far baseline, where he was fouled as time expired. As an expectant hush fell over the jubilant UBC fans, Villanueva calmly drained his foul shot to win the game 89-88.

The series was far from being in the bag, however. "Our second games of weekends haven't always been the greatest, so we will probably make some changes to try and solve that," said Hanson.

Mahalela proposed a reasonable strategy for victory. "We have to bring energy on defense, really want to play defense and bring the same enthusiasm."

On Friday night, Bains started hot again, but was neutralised by a combination of tough defence and some solid offensive play from the Birds, who kept the game close from the opening tip. Then, with three minutes to go in the first half, Bains sprained his ankle on a routine play. The Birds responded by taking the halftime lead. Bains emerged from the locker room on crutches, and it looked as if the Clan were sunk. Showing great perseverance, SFU took the lead and had the better of the play for a long while in the second half. "They came out with great intensity. I thought they might fold but they certainly didn't," said Coach Hanson.

The Birds did lead by three with less than two minutes to play, but the Clan's Chad Clifford answered with a three pointer to tie the game at 67. Once again, SFU had a chance to win on the last shot, but John Boateng's attempt missed at the horn. Overtime turned out to be anti-climatic however, as the absence of Bains finally caught up with the home team. SFU missed an astounding ten shots in the extra period, leaving Peter Wauthy's layup with 1:16 to go as essentially the clinching bucket. A flurry of free throws later, the Birds had won 78-73.

The exultant T-Birds were clearly thrilled to be headed back to the Canada West Final Four. "We're the defending champs and we want to defend our crown," said fifth-year forward Pat McKay. McKay, who had struggled throughout the regular season, re-emerged as an offensive force to be reckoned with in the series. "I obviously realised that this was my last opportunity and so I wanted to play well," he said. "I'm going keep riding this wave as long as I can."

Hanson feels confident that his players will do well this weekend in Brandon, where they will have to face the Alberta Golden Bears, and either the Calgary Dinos or Brandon Bobcats. "Coming out of this division, you're either coming out battle prepared or banged up," says Archibald. "We're fortunate now to not be that banged up." Archibald agrees that the Birds stand an excellent chance to make the CIS Nationals for the second straight year. "It's a great situation to be in, we just have to win one more game." ❖

TAKING THE HEAT: UBC guard CraigRollins (above) stifles the Clan defence while fellow Birds (below) block SFU's Brent Charleton. **JOSH DEVINS/THE PEAK PHOTO**

History repeats itself

UBC hockey sees the same playoff fate as six years ago

by Jesse Marchand
SPORTS EDITOR

They won't be heading to Nationals, but the UBC men's Thunderbird hockey team accomplished something this year that they haven't done in six years: they made it into the Mountain Division semi-finals.

Although it has been six years, the playoff scenario was almost the same: UBC once again facing off against Calgary. But the Birds didn't see the previous battle as a reason for a rivalry. Instead they focused on this year's stakes.

"I think the rivalry started the week before," said UBC head coach Milan Dragicevic. "We knew that we could compete with Calgary. We knew that the playoffs were going to be a lot different than the regular season."

And despite losing their first match against Calgary 2-5 the Birds didn't lose heart, coming out on Friday and winning 3-1.

"The guys were so hungry to win," said Dragicevic. So hungry that they scored their first short-handed goals of the season, recording two in one night.

"Matt Reid blocked a shot. He came down the line and it was just a picture perfect shot," said Dragicevic. "The second one was Nick Marach. He blocked the shot [and] made a beautiful break-away goal."

These goals combined with a third score by Ryan Thrussell and 23 saves by UBC goalie Robert Filc, led the T-Birds to victory and took them to the 'do or die' game three on Sunday.

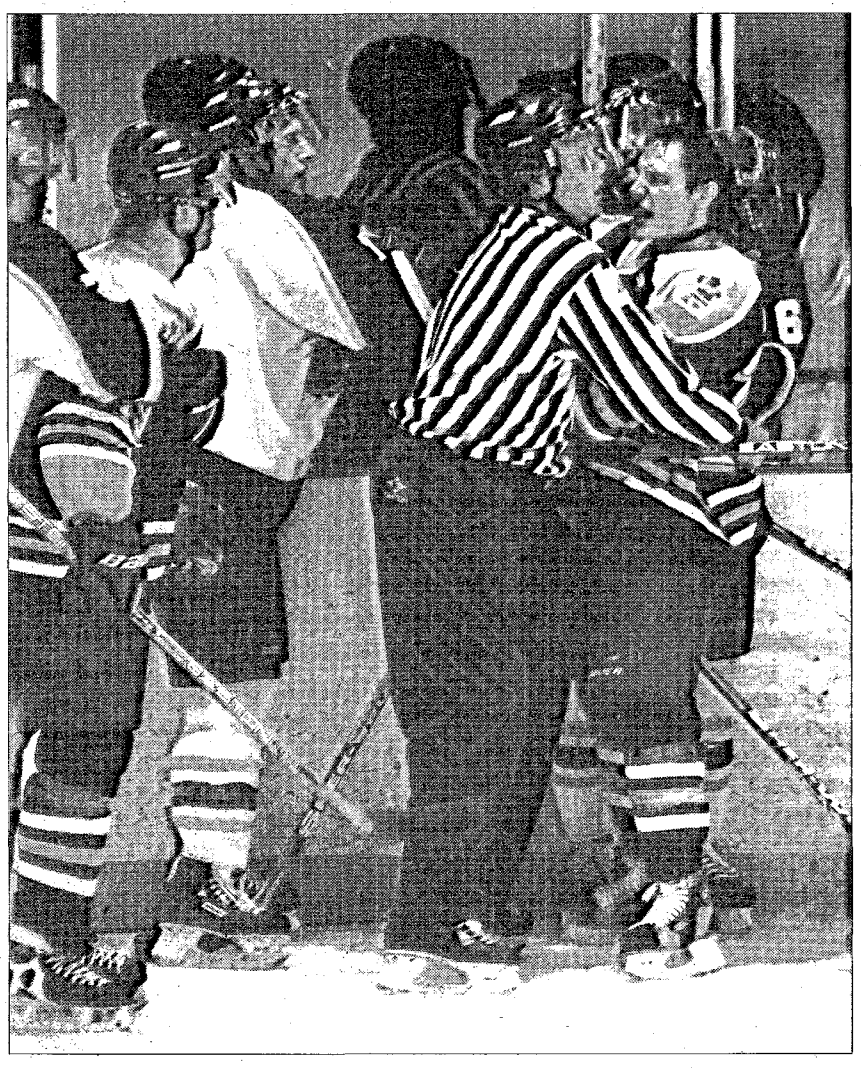
But further playoff advancement was not to be as the Birds fell to the Calgary Dinos 2-5.

"There are no excuses," said Dragicevic, "Calgary was definitely the better team on Sunday." But he also added that "questionable calls" and lack of "puck luck" both contributed to the UBC loss.

With a 7-19-2 season, the Birds shared more heartbreaks then triumphs until learning that they had made the playoffs. "We put ourselves in that position," said coach Milan Dragicevic. "It's a real credit to the hockey team...[and] to the grad players, all five of them," he added referring to Matt Reid, Tyler Kuntz, Chris Rowland, Robert Filc and Casey Bartzen. "The program is a lot better now from when they started here."

With these players leaving, the team will be facing another big year of recruitment. Recruiting ten new players this year, the team is looking to rake in another seven to nine for next year, making it a very young team.

But Coach Dragicevic is committed to building a winning group. "There are definitely places we have to improve," said Dragicevic. Adding that the main focus next year will be looking for individuals to "step up" and take on the leading roles that will be absent because of this year's graduating veterans. ❖



HOTHEADS: UBC tempers a' flarin.' **PETER KLESKEN/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO**

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Baseball ups and downs

The UBC baseball team had another up and down pre-season set this weekend in Oregon. In only the first inning on Thursday, outfielder Jeff Tobin hit a home run allowing Adam Campbell, who was resting on first, to make the round. They went on to finish the close match against Northwest Nazarene College 8-7.

On Friday, the Birds came out against Oregon Tech, scoring their first runs in the third inning as Brett Murray had two RBIs, sending Tobin and Johnny Yiu home. And despite four Oregon runs in the ninth inning, UBC still took home the win at 6-5.

Later that afternoon, their confidence fell as UBC fell 2-3 against Lewis Clark State College. The Birds next play Portland, Oregon at 2:00 pm today.

Cruzin' to first

The women's golf team experienced success last week claiming first in the University of California Santa Cruz Invitational. Team Captain Jill McAuley led the team with an average of 79 in the 27-hole competition and a par 36 in the second round.

Morgan Lederhouse also scored well for the team with an 87, placing third overall. The T-Birds next head to Eugene, Oregon on March 8. ❖

Gotta get past game one

by Jesse Marchand
SPORTS EDITOR

Heading to Nationals today, the Thunderbirds women's volleyball team is looking to break a seven-year curse tradition. Dubbed the "key to gold," the women have consistently been pitted against the future National champion in the first game, and lost.

"It is a pretty amazing step. It shows that we've been close," said UBC women's volleyball head coach Doug Reimer.

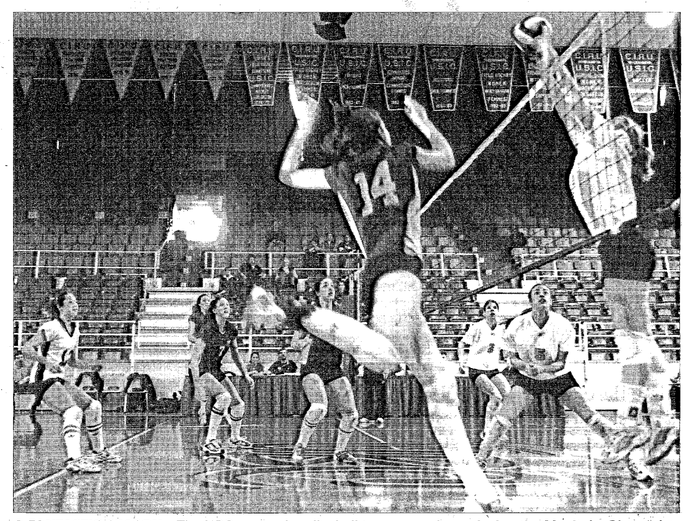
The T-Birds played out the Canada West final four this weekend in Edmonton. With three wins over the University of Manitoba Bisons and a loss against the University of Calgary Dinos, the Birds secured a bronze medal in the Canada West final and a place at the Nationals.

While Reimer felt that the entire team "stepped up" over the weekend, the actions of Stephanie Kurz, Jasmine Yip and Emily Cordonier were high on his stars list. Cordonier in particular recorded 17 kills in the final Manitoba match (25-15, 25-19, 25-22).

This match knocked the Bisons out of playoff contention, leaving UBC, Alberta and Calgary to represent Canada West in the CIS Nationals.

UBC is ignoring the "key to gold" label, focusing more on this year's accomplishments. Reimer feels that UBC has an edge this year over years past.

For one thing, there is "no clear cut favourite in the tournament," says Reimer. "I think our overall character and intensity is very good. I like where we are at, mentally, going into it."



A FANTASTIC SEASON: The UBC women's volleyball team, seen here playing the Manitoba Bisons, has had a strong season culminating in a bronze Canada West medal and a berth at this year's CIS Nationals in Saskatoon. PETER KLESKEN/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO

And with each game meaning sudden death for one team, UBC's hopes could be riding on that first game.

"[In] any single elimination event, you've got to focus on that first one," says Reimer.

The Birds boast a 16-4 season and a fourth place CIS ranking. Amy Schroeder and Danielle van Huizen have also been named to the all-star team, with Emily Cordonier receiving the TSN nominee award.

By season's end, UBC led Canada West with a .217 hitting percentage and 2.71 blocks per game, while also boasting the highest service aces at 1.50. With top scores like these, UBC will be formidable competition at Nationals this year.

The T-Birds will be thinking volleyball for the rest of the week as they head out for Saskatoon tonight. Their next practice on Wednesday will be at the competition facility and will be followed by the CIS all-Canadian and all-stars banquet. Then they take on Toronto on Thursday to start their tournament play. ❖

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Schick misses Canada West victory

In his first year at UBC, men's volleyball coach Richard Schick tried to bring some of his former coaching successes to the T-Bird team. And it almost worked.

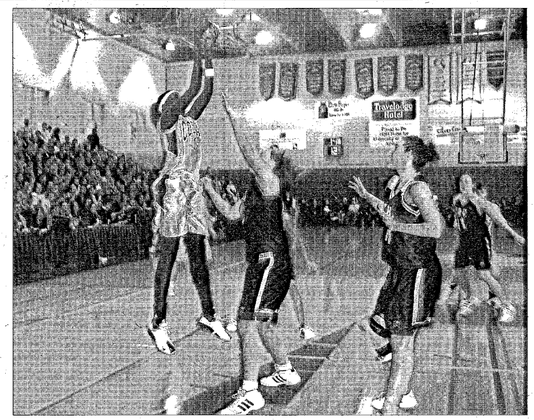
Schick led the team to an up and down 8-12 season, which culminated with a last place spot in the Canada West finals. After splitting a win-loss weekend with the Alberta Golden Bears, UBC had sealed their own playoff berth and were ready to enter into playoff action.

The jubilation was short-lived, however, as the knockout round against the Manitoba Bisons ended with a 0-3 and 1-3 decision for the Bison hosts.

In the pre-season, the Birds had shown strong promise this year, coming out and winning four games in row—taking all three sets in each—against NAIA teams McMaster, York and the University of Southern California. But as so many coaches have said over the season, CIS Canada West boasts some of the strongest national competition. Competition that proved too tough for UBC to advance any higher than the Canada West finals this year.

With only two first-years on the team and one second year, the volley Birds will be heading for some major roster changes in the next couple of seasons. Players like Geoff Emslie and Richard Chou will now have to step up and take on leadership roles as many key veterans like outside post Steve Corothers leave the team.

—by Jesse Marchand



Cougars still hold down Birds

During the season, there was only one squad that the UBC women's basketball team could not beat: the University of Regina Cougars. It was those same Cougars who stood between the Thunderbirds and their first Canada West championship in nearly 30 years.

UBC gained a spot in the conference title game after beating the Winnipeg Lady Wesmen 78-68 on Friday night in the conference semi-final. Balanced scoring was the key to the Birds' victory as four UBC players scored ten or more points, with Canada West Rookie team member Erica McGuinness leading the way with 22. In addition, UBC was sparkling from the free throw line hitting on 26 of 29 attempts to grind out the victory.

The Canada West final had the top-ranked host team, Regina, against second-ranked UBC. It was a good match-up on paper but it was a blowout on the floor. A stellar defensive effort from the Cougars led to a 73-36 victory in front of their satisfied home crowd. UBC struggled against the smothering Regina defence, which managed five blocks and 12 steals. Only Kelsey Blair could manage to hit double digits in points for UBC as she recorded 11.

UBC heads into the CIS Nationals, taking place in Winnipeg March 12-14, as the second seed out of the Canada West. If they are to take home the National Championship banner, UBC will likely need to beat Regina for the first time. CHRIS JASTER/THE CARILLON PHOTO.

No competition

UBC T-Bird men's rugby team boasts an almost flawless season

With an 11-2 season, a win at the Canada Under-19 championships and a first place finish at the Berkeley University World Cup, the men's rugby team is one of the strongest UBC teams out there this season.

The T-Birds currently hold the first place berth in the men's club competition in Vancouver and only have four more regular season games.

Last week the men beat tournament hosts the University of California,Berkeley in the first match of the World Cup series 18-14—a match that resumes at home on March 27.

With Berekley Bears starters Cale Garamendi, Kyle Khasigian and Joe Welch were out of the game due to injuries, the Birds capitalised on the dilapidated team.

But the battle was still very close as the Golden Bears took the first points after exploiting a T-Bird penalty outside the 22 metre line. But UBC got onto the scoreboard after a fierce 30 minutes of play, leading the game onto a back and forth battle finally ending in the 18-14 decision for UBC.

The Birds continued their ten game winning streak by slaughtering the last place Burnaby Lake club team 71-0 last weekend. Knowing competition wouldn't be too strong, the Birds took the opportunity to rest many of their veterans, allowing first years like Chase Sereda—who scored his first five points for the T-Birds this weekend—to get on the scoreboard. Dave Leslie and James Wood also got their first chances out on the field for UBC.

The T-Birds next take on the Capilano club team this weekend.

—by Jesse Marchand

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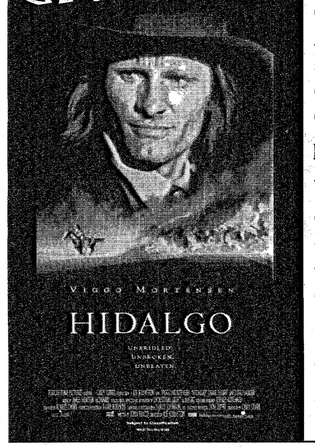

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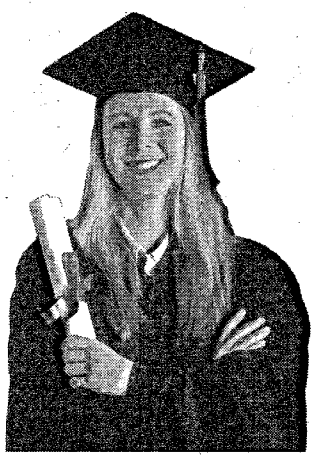


A ✤ W ✤ A ✤ R ✤ D

We, at **the Ubyssey**, the official student newspaper of UBC, feel that we should be doing our most to recognize and encourage activities and events that develop and strengthen a sense of community on campus. On our 80th anniversary in 1998, we established a $50,000 endowment that will fund the Ubyssey Community Contribution Award. This annual award recognizes a returning UBC Student who has made a significant contribution to developing and strengthening the sense of community on the UBC campus by:

1. Organizing or administrating an event or project, or
2. Promoting activism and awareness in an academic, cultural, political, recreational, or social sphere.

The 2003-2004 award went to Christopher Ste-Croix in recognition of his contribution to campus safety and related services.

The award is open to all returning, full-time, UBC students, graduate, undergraduate and unclassified in good standing with the Ubyssey Society. We will award $3,000 to this project and the award will be disbursed to the successful candidate in September 2004.

Nominees for the award will be judged on:

1. The impact of the contribution made - the number of people involved or affected.
2. The extent of the contribution - the degree to which it strengthens the sense of community on campus.
3. The innovation of the contribution - preference will be given to recognizing a new contribution over the administration of an existing one.
4. The commitment of the individual to UBC as a community.

Nominations should include a cover letter by the nominator, either an individual or a group, briefly stating the nature of the contribution made, the individual being nominated, contact information of the nominator and the nominee and a letter (approximately 500 words in length) describing the contribution made and how the above four criteria have been met.

Students are welcome to nominate themselves, but those doing so must attach a letter of support from another member of the campus community. The award will be judged by a committee chaired by a representative of UBC Student Financial Assistance and Awards office and members from various parts of the campus community.

Deadline for submission of completed nominations should reach the Ubyssey, room 23, SUB, no later than Monday, April 19th, 2004.

For further information, please contact Fernie Pereira, Business Manager, The Ubyssey, at (604) 822-6681 or email: fpereira@interchange,ubc.ca

Talent to live for

Language barrier doesn't hinder great lead acting

THE SUICIDE
at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre
until Mar. 6

by Anna King
CULTURE WRITER

Where last month's suicide show, "A Suicide-Site Guide to the City" faltered, this one stands strong. That's not to say this suicide was without faults. But let's try to focus on the positive, please.

Whereas Darren O'Donnell's one-man show was strong on dialogue and low on affecting acting and overall vision, Boca del Lupo's newest cross-cultural oeuvre creates a breathtaking aesthetic and moral universe as well as showcasing a swath of talented actors. It's a visually stunning piece of work from a company that's beloved as the enfant terrible of Vancouver theatre, and, performed alongside Mexico's San Banquito Teatro, is an ambitious attempt at transcending linguistic boundaries. Frequently, it sours.

Adapted from Nicolai Erdman's 1930 script, "The Suicide" tells the story of the unemployed Semyon and his midnight trip to the kitchen in pursuit of a sausage. Sausage in mouth, Semyon is mistakingly perceived by his mother-in-law as about to kill himself with a pistol. Suddenly he is relentlessly petitioned by revolutionaries, artists and lovers, etc., all anxious for him to die in the name of his or her cause.

Boca del Lupo uses flickering video projections, a striking set (including a refrigerator suspended in the air by pulleys) and Malcolm Dodge's eerie musical score to make the piece feel like it was pulled off the pages of an Edward Gorey book. Dressed all in white with charcoal eyes, the performers twitch and skulk about the stage. Design-wise, the production is thrilling.

Both the Boca del Lupo performers and their Mexican compatriots are masters of physical absurdity and the best scenes—like the pre-suicide banquet scene—are shimmering feats of choreography. Lucas Myers as Semyon is hysterical and baffling—you're never sure what fantastic nonsense he will pull next. Myers has a bold and elegant style so that he slowly but steadily becomes who you care about in the play. But as Myers' nuanced performance builds with every scene, the rest of the characters slowly fall away. While the Mexican crew is comprised of strong physical actors, the amount of Spanish—instead of adding to the play's themes of disconnection and abandonment—ends up distancing us from their characters and from the story.

The other Canadian actors are good, particularly the silent Jay Dodge. And frustratingly, the script feels like it runs in fits and starts, jumping over key scenes too quickly and lingering too long on others. By the end I wasn't sure what anyone's significance or stake in the action was, besides the floundering Semyon.

Still, despite an only partially realised script, and the fact that you'll need to take along a Spanish-English dictionary, the play's stylistic strengths and Myers' terrific performance make this piece a remarkable accomplishment. Go see it if you've got a thing for innovative theatre, tubas, sausages or the occasionally suicidal. ❖

Getting our heads out of the clouds

CLOUD TECTONICS
at Performance Works
until Mar. 13

by John Hua
CULTURE EDITOR

In a world where life is too short, time is money and impatience is an attribute well sought after, very few are able to take the time to reflect on the significance of a single moment. Theatre is a vessel that defies the fast-paced norm of society with its ability to freeze the sands of time dead in its tracks—encapsulating an audience, transporting them outside the realms of time and space, all in a matter of a couple of hours. Pi Theatre, in collaboration with The Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company, presents "Cloud Tectonics," a fantastical Spanish play by José Rivera, which captures the time-evading silence that accompanies the awkwardness of love.

Celestina del Sol, played by Carmen Aguirre, is a drifter, quickly slipping in and out of the lives of those who come to love her. However, Celestina is a little bit different, possessing the ability to leave a lasting impression, one which can only be forged through what seems like a lifetime of love. While searching for the father of her unborn child, she is picked up on the highway by Anibal de la Luna, played by Alexander Ferguson—a modern-day poet, whose life has been plagued by broken relationships and the undying hope that true love does exist.

In a moment of awkward introductions, Celestina admits, "time and I don't hang out together," a witty understatement describing her inability to experience linear time both cognitively and physically. The two Spanish descendants flee the rainstorm, returning to Anibal's quaint Los Angeles home, where they literally lose track of time in a frozen moment surrounding the love they discover for one another.

Director Bill Dow fluidly captures the mesmerising quality of Rivera's numinous play and places it neatly on the stage. In a piece that could easily lose an audience with its paranormal plot, Dow takes an ironically linear approach in order to keep our minds from being lost in space.

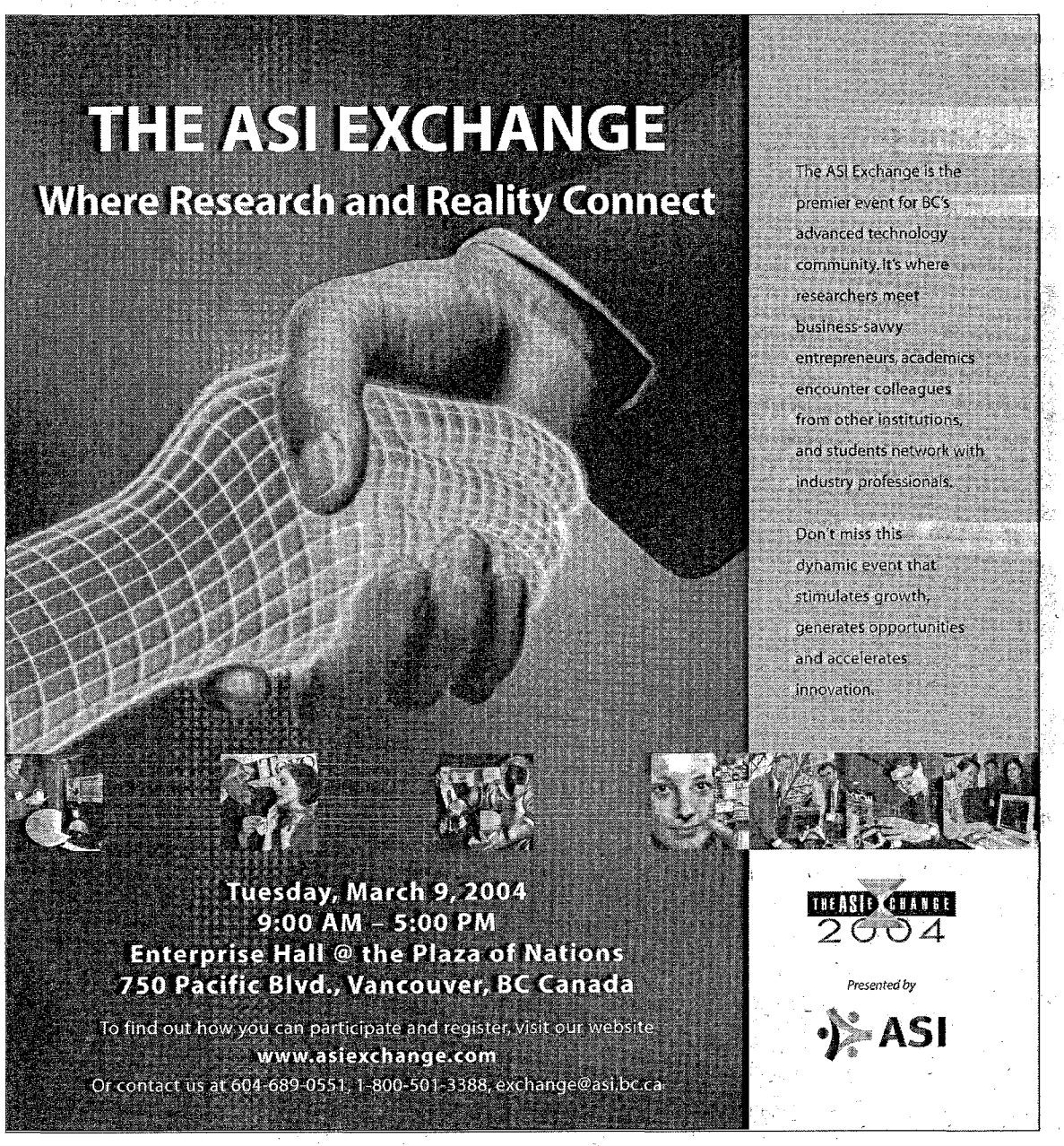
The set design and lighting is beautifully chic, featuring a free-flowing fountain of sand and a delightful pair of rain-pelted panes of glass, which everyone would love to have in their loft or living room. The set transports the audience just as much as the events on stage, a pride-stirring achievement for set and prop designers Bryan Pollock and Del Surjik, no doubt.

The acting is also charming. Ferguson is heart-warming as the sensitive and contemplative Anibal. Fully immersing himself in the role, his chemistry with Aguirre is undeniable. However, near the end of the play, Ferguson loses pace as his attempts to tie all the loose ends together become disruptively over-comedic in comparison to the amusing subtlety of the rest of the play.

Carmen Aguirre's eyes light up the stage with a stare that is both ensnaring and extremely unsettling. The monotonous, almost lifeless, quality of her voice is eerily appropriate for a character that seems to have lost all track of her existence in confusion and stoicism.

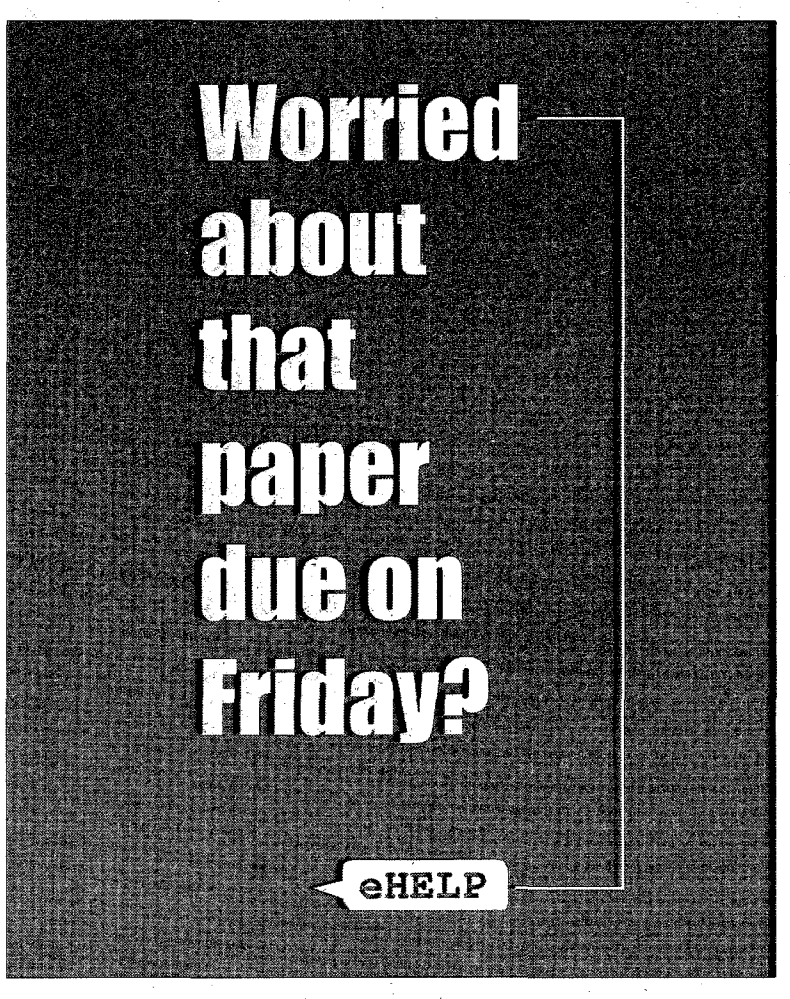
Michael Scholar, Jr. also puts in a notable performance as the chauvinistic, slick younger brother, Nelson de la Luna. Although the rambunctious soldier doesn't offer much depth as a character, Scholar makes good with the agony of the post-war version of Nelson found in the later half of the play.

"Cloud Tectonics" is a true love story that will steal you away from the commotion of your everyday life for a brief, but unforgettable moment. The captivity of this play is just short of miraculous, and "what better way to respond to a miracle than to fall in love with it." ❖



Across the spectrum...

The Ubyssey's annual colours issue comes out on March 19. Writers, photographers, artists and designers interested in helping out with the issue can e-mail colours_issue@hotmail.com



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Romance for old ages

ONE LAST KISS
at The Playhouse
until Mar. 20

by Jenn Cameron
CULTURE STAFF

Getting past the fact that the theme of this play is retirement and coping with the "golden years," I must admit that in some ways it was quite enjoyable. Aaron Bushkowsky's play focuses on the struggle to rediscover a purpose in life at the point of retirement, circling around a family that has recently lost a loved one.

Lil (played by Rita Howell) is an elderly woman who has just lost her youngest daughter. She has become cynical, difficult and has taken to a wheelchair. Having decided to move in with her daughter Kathryn (Susan Hogan) and son-in-law Tony (Terence Kelly), who have both recently retired, she is adding strain to an already troubled marriage. Lil's oldest daughter Sue (Anna Hagan) is trying to keep her family together, while struggling with her own lack of companionship.

How will this family be able to stick together while rediscovering their love and their lives? Since only famous people are inspiring, it is legendary golfer Ben Hogan (Grant Reddick) and luthier Antonio Stradivarius (Antony Holland) who help this family find hope and passion in life once again.

Now, it's not that this production wasn't well-written or was performed badly—in fact, it was very well-written and the acting was inspired. The flaw in this play was that it was really only appealing to a select audience: seniors. I don't even think that my parents would enjoy this play much, and generally I tend to think of them as pretty old. The biggest barrier I found in watching it was that I really couldn't relate to any of the problems they were facing. The characters had lost a passion for living and I, still being young and passionate, couldn't relate to it at all.

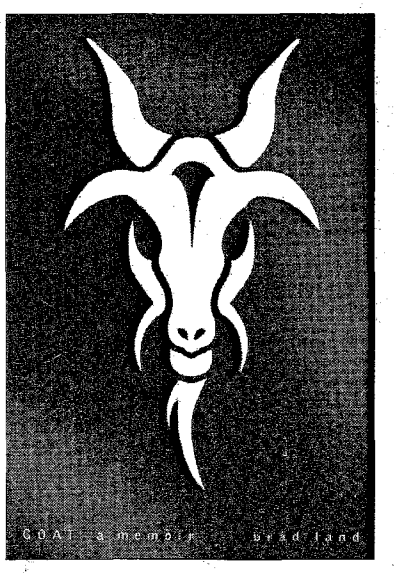
That's not to say that it wasn't funny. Ignoring some of the "older" jokes about Starbucks and the Internet, the play was quite witty. The characters were well-developed and likeable and the comedy was successfully delivered. Lil was particularly funny, with her delightful cynicism contrasting vividly against Ben Hogan's romantic attitude. I also really enjoyed the bickering between Antonio and his wife Maria (Micki Maunsell).

However, the play became stagnant at the more serious and emotional parts and I often found myself drifting into my own thoughts as they were more interesting than what was happening on stage. I wasn't the only one bored either—the woman beside me was actually snoring at one point.

I wouldn't recommend going to see this performance unless you plan to go with your grandmother. I'm sure that it was very enjoyable for those past the age of 60, but completely uninteresting for anyone else. Aaron Bushkowsky seems to have a knack for witty comedy, however, so I myself intend on looking out for his work in the future. ❖

Animal House this really ain't

Brad Land gives a dark depiction of the American fraternity



GOAT: A Memoir
by Brad Land
[Random House]

by Momoko Price
CULTURE WRITER

Goat: A Memoir is a dark window into a world rarely seen by Canadian post-secondary students. It exposes a mysterious subculture that continues to rule many student communities across North America, supported blindly by the administration and yet all the while being hideously corrupted by anger, abuse and alcohol. Brad Land sheds light on the world of American fraternities, shattering the staid portrait of the upstanding, gentlemanly brother of the 1950s and the bumbling, beer-bong-guzzling party animal of the 1970s. In the 1990s, hypermasculinity has taken over. Be prepared to be abused, enslaved and ignored, and if you make it through the rush your reward will be to join the ranks of those you've come to hate.

Land begins his story as a quiet, neurotic teenage boy from South Carolina living in the shadow of his cool younger brother Brett. One night, Brad is abducted from a party, beaten, robbed and left to die. His physical recovery is gradual and steady, but his psychological trauma is hastily repressed as he tries to integrate himself back into a normal life.

Soon enough, Brett heads off to Clemson University, where he pledges Kappa Sigma and becomes a fraternity member. Brad, left behind, longs to join his brother and once again be sheltered by his normalcy. He sees Clemson University as his ticket to security and popularity. So the next school year, Brad pledges Kappa Sigma and before long the rush—the fall season when pledges are initiated and selected by their chosen fraternities—begins.

As the rush continues, Brad finds himself living in a fetid hall littered with beer cans and dirt, surrounded by hulking angry brothers who bark orders and belittle him and by tightly clothed vixens with drunken red-rimmed eyes who lead him, stumbling, into dark empty bedrooms. No one ever says anything other than a few odd sentences peppered with the words "pussy," "drink" and "fuck." He has entered a violent, ruthless world that echoes the hatred of his terrible abduction, and eventually he becomes so traumatized he has no choice but to leave.

Goat (named after the title given to new pledges at Clemson) describes a dystopia a hundred times worse than the most oppressive high school experience. In short, blunt sentences devoid of sympathy and emotion, Land illustrates how a shattered soul, estranged from love and compassion and systematically beaten down with senseless aggression, will begin to contort and mutate into severe mental illness. He depicts how rush season is not a harmless rite of passage to be condoned and ignored by administrative councils.

Goat: A Memoir is a hypnotic read—a rare insight into a hidden culture that should no longer be overlooked, whose festering underbelly needs to be overturned, cut open and aired out for all to see. Perhaps under the burning gaze of the public eye, the abusive fraternity phenomenon will dry out and be cleansed of its anger. ❖

Pet it so it feels it

SUPER FURRY ANIMALS
at Richard's on Richards
Feb. 24

by Jenn Cameron
CULTURE STAFF

After walking around for a few minutes trying to find Richard's on Richards—a place that shouldn't have been hard to find considering that I've been there several times—I carefully examined the crowd. Most of the people attending the show were about 25 years old or a bit older and ranged from your typical young indie-rocker to a thirty-something prep.

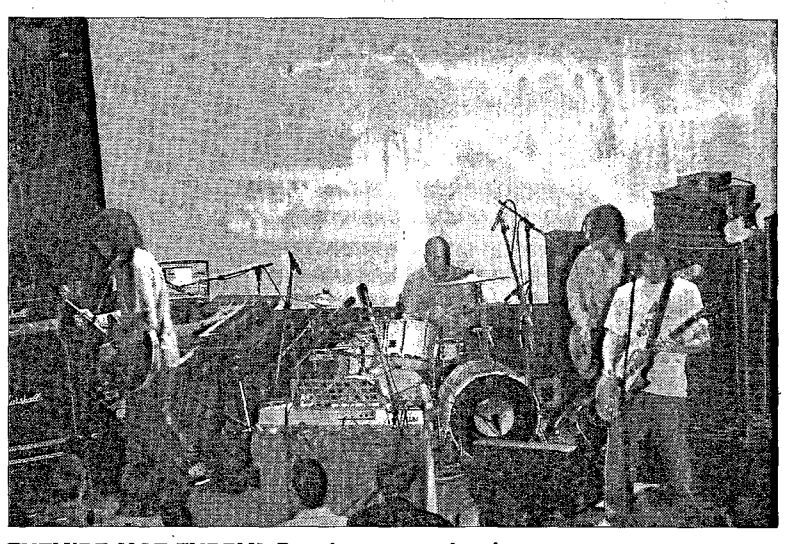
I suppose the reason for this diversity could come from the fact that the Super Furry Animals have been around since 1993, and that their music ranges from mellow, intelligent rock to techno. Part of the Welsh invasion of the mid 90s, what distinguishes them is their ability to blend satirical humour with a melodic, clear sound. The members of the band are Gruff Rhys (lead vocals, guitar), Huw "Bunf" Bunford (guitar, vocals), Guto Pryce (bass), Cian Ciaran (keyboards, electronics) and Dafydd Ieuan (drums).

Everything got started a little late at their show, since the opening band cancelled. I secured my spot along the balcony, having a full view of the band and the projector screen behind them. The crowd became energised as Rhys started off the show with a bright red power ranger's helmet, pumping his fist in the air. The screen in the background then lit up and funny little cartoons ran across it as the band began to play.

The intense liveliness that began the show was lost pretty soon into the set, however, as a good number of very mellow songs were played consecutively, without any emotion from the band. Even the biggest fans in the crowd, who were trying so hard to get into the show, had difficulty keeping up the energy. The music was pleasant and enjoyable, but the band just wasn't delivering.

About three quarters in, the pace suddenly picked up and the band rocked out to four harder, more upbeat songs. The energy that had been lost was back again, and the audience bobbed up and down in approval. It seemed that all was not quite lost, especially when the crowd pleaser, "The Man Don't Give a Fuck," made its way into the set.

Then, to my dissatisfaction, all but Ciaran left the stage. He proceeded to conduct a completely unnecessarily long techno synchronised light show. The crowd seemed unsure if they were supposed to be cheering for an encore or enjoying the "music." I can't say that it was awful, but all of the energy that had been recovered in the previous songs was flushed right down the toilet.



THEY'RE NOT FURRY! But they *are* animals. JENN CAMERON PHOTO

The rest of the band came back on stage soon afterwards dressed as super furry animals, which could have been hilarious if I weren't bored by this point. To end this on a sore note, the last few songs were not particularly memorable.

The Super Furry Animals have a good sound, but their set was poorly put together, with emotion and intensity missing throughout most of show. It's possible that they've been around so long that they've become bored with the humour that makes them popular, and subsequently bored of being the Super Furry Animals. ❖

A virtual smorgasbord of contemporary music

UBC Contemporary Players Performance
at the UBC Music Recital Hall
Feb. 26

by Raj Mathur
CULTURE WRITER

As the audience slowly entered the UBC Music Recital Hall, their attention was immediately caught by the contextual improvisational pre-show performed by the various musicians, which included vocal renditions relating to the instrumental performances that were to proceed. The heart of the performance, a segmented sequence of 20th and 21st century chamber music composed by acclaimed artists of the time, was presented by the UBC Contemporary Players Group this past Thursday.

The players enchantingly presented the loaded performance, uniting social, scientific and artistic aspects of sound in order to create an acoustic environment, which was inherent throughout the entire performance.

The segments began with R. Murray Schafer's "Minimusic"—an enthralling musical experience performed by Lena Cuglitta (saxophone) and Jeanette Searle (clarinet). The clarinet and sultry saxophone pierced through the quiet recital hall as the sound pulsated across the room, striking musical notes at the audience.

Dan Pin (harmonica), Keiko Tagawa (piano)

MICHELLE MAYNE PHOTO

and Matthew MacTavish (bass drum) followed-up nicely with Rudolph Komorous's "The Sweet Queen," a piece performed in the eloquent chamber-music style. The serene tone of their collaboration was tranquil and seductive, setting the mood for the show's lone unaccompanied performer.

"Mirage," composed by Dorothy Chang, was a soothing solo piece, charmingly performed by flute player Emily Nagelbach. Enchanting the audience, all attention was on the mystical melodies analogous to the pieces title.

Playing the xylophone and double bass respectively, Bruce Henscel and Peggy Tong combined their contrastingly sounding instruments together for "The Duo." An interesting segment, the performance was a combination of soft feminine tones and strong brawny bass, which resulted in this unlikely marriage of music and entertaining, bittersweet harmony.

The mingling of the warm sounds of the flute, cello and harp, played by Cheryl McHugh, Alexandria Sia and Andrew Chan, provided unique listening pleasure befitting the theme of "Petite Musique de Nuit." Filling the vast hall with the beautifully calm feeling of a cool night, the audience was cozily wrapped in the warmth of the flowing melodies.

To bring the performance to a close, the concert finalé featured UBC composition major Colin Pridy's premiere piece, "Silica Cascadia," a powerful and energetic presentation—consisting of soprano saxophones and violas—in the modern setting. The lively and invigorating conclusion left an inspirational afterglow looming over the crowd.

The UBC Contemporary Players fully utilised the assortment of instruments, and deservingly received enthusiastic acclamation by the audience. The performers are to be credited with providing exposure to the ensemble music of the classical, as well as the modern era. The memories of this event shall be ongoing with the admirers of this musical performance. ❖

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In the summer heat, I sit in my room. I lay in my girch with a spray bottle in hand. I aim the cross hairs I imagine to be there at my fan. I squeeze. It squirts. I call it "Air Johnditioning." - John Hua, unconventional poet by night.

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THE UBYSSEY
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2004
VOLUME 85 ISSUE 40

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We are an autonomous, democratically run student organisation, and all students are encouraged to participate.
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Jon Woodward and Wilson Wong finished scouring through the garbage bag full of day-old donuts behind Nowhere St. Heather Pauls sighed. "We're not going to find any bear-claws today," she said. "Let's go home." They mounted their giant mutant rats, Megan Thomas and Hywel Tuscano, and rode. Paul Evans, curled up under a newspaper in a urine-stained doorway, looked up from his drunken stupor and squinted at the figures moving in the night. It was Michelle Mayne and Sarah Bourdon, the voluptuous streetwalkers he had failed to entice into his hovel only a few hours before. Jesse Marchand, John Hua and Bryan Zandberg, the three-headed Guard of the Sewers let Jon and Heather in. Down in the bowels of the underground city, Paul Carr was pouring liquid in the sewer water. "Ha-ha! I'm pouring bleach in so that babies will be born mutation-free! They'll be hideous normals, like those who live above us!" "Nooool" Suddenly Peter Klesken, the 6-armed midget, jumped from behind and latched onto Paul's face. He tore the chlorine from Paul's hand and threw it to Ania Mafi and Momoko Price, recently escaped from Dan McRoberts' Evil Orphanage. But they dropped the chlorine into the water, disinfecting it. The water swept along to the tunnel of mutants Raj Mathur and his pregnant wife, Jenn Cameron. As Jenn drank a glass of the clean water, the fate of her unborn child, to be named Anna King, hung in the balance.

Canadian University Press
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We just wanted to see the winners...

There's nothing on TV Sunday afternoon. But sit back. You're not getting up, because Dr Atkin's carbophobia has stopped your potato chip run to the fridge.

So you're stuck to the couch, and the Oscars are going to come on. Not an entirely bad thing, if you can control your gag reflex at the entertainment industry's masturbatory televised emissions and Billy Crystal's one hundredth time hosting it with precisely one too many Janet Jackson's boob jokes.

But an entirel bad thing when the commercials come on. Instead of harmless Hollywood pap, you see smarmy BC government commercials on BC's tax levels, and BC doctor salaries.

Their slick graphs, pie charts and the low, explanatory voice must be taken with baseball-sized grains of skepticism.

How do we verify these facts? When the government says that our health professionals are among the highest paid in the country, is that akin to saying that the UBC TAs are among the highest paid in the country, when they simply work more hours for less money per hour?

There isn't time in a 30-second spot to go into the details. It's just not the medium for intelligent debate and certainly not dissolved in movie industry phlegm.

Ads championing the province's position at the lowest end of the spectrum for income tax may make residents realise the extreme tax cuts brought into play by the Liberal government. But they certainly avoid the fact that without those taxes, the only way that the BC government can balance its budget is by cutting a disaster contingency fund—a fine plan unless something happens, like forest fires.

Government has claimed that health care will receive money in the coming years, and that education will become a priority with 25,000 new seats being added to the province's post-secondary institutions. But this has come at the cost of the BC Student Grant program, which provided over $3 million in aid to UBC students alone. With an investment only marginally higher than inflation, the government expects BC's universities and colleges to find room. This will mean more distance classes—and crappier education on the whole.

Cuts have already polarised the medical and teaching communities against the government, promising years of tense negotiations and divisive policy. Both Alberta and Ontario are reeling after disasterous cutbacks, ones that arguably killed people in Walkerton, Ontario. Ads claiming the government is doing something by taking only the expedient facts just divide interested groups further.

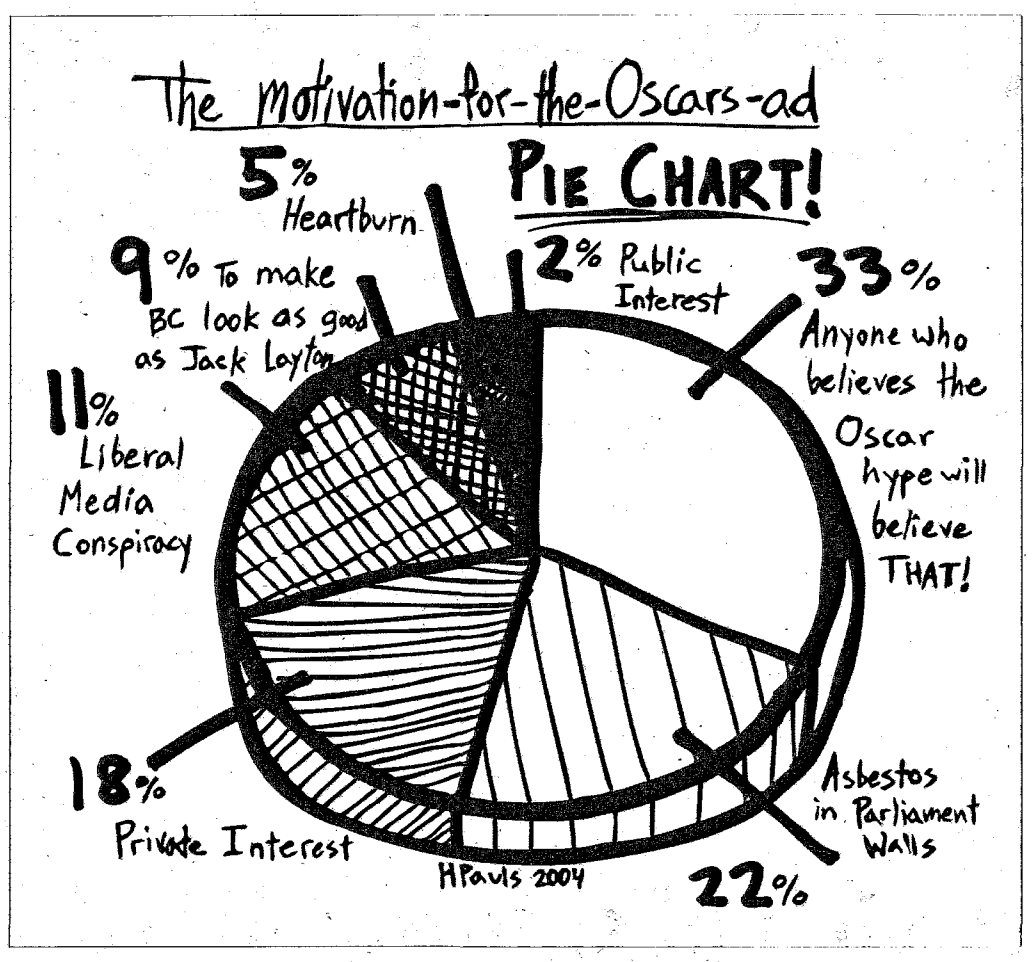
And how much do these ads cost? They could buy the same publicity by funding women's centres at a paltry $1.7 million...and actually get something done.

These commercials seem less like useful information being fed to the public and more like self-aggrandisement meant to cover up our provincial government's odd fixation with a balanced budget—no matter what the cost—and a throne speech that forecast more privatisation in healthcare and completely obliterated student grants.

In light of the non-stop cuts to social programs and a stagnating economy, it seems they have the money to spare on big budget, high-profile commercial slots to toot their own horns.

Their broadcasted pat on the back serves as pre-campaign propaganda in the next provincial elections. The commercials may be an attempt to buttress their falling approval rates—kind of like holding your breath from a Hawaiian breathalyser.

Well, you're stuck in your seat, watching the Oscars. Just hope that the commercial's over soon, so you can watch something more intelligent. ❖



LETTERS

I love Layton, yes I do!

by Kevin Walby

PERSPECTIVE opinion

The last few months in Canadian politics have been marked by dramatic events which could have the effect of shifting party power in Parliament. First, there was the merger of the Canadian Alliance and the Progressive Conservatives to form the Conservative Party of Canada, spearheaded by the former party leaders Peter Mackay and Stephen Harper. Joe Clark condemned the "uniting-of-the-right" because it entailed the demise of Canada's oldest political party and David Orchard filed a lawsuit aimed at preventing the merger, which subsequently failed December 5, 2003. This consolidation of votes on the conservative end of the political spectrum was forged in order to challenge the remarkable staying power of the Canadian Liberals.

Second, the release of the federal sponsorship scandal report by the federal Auditor General Sheila Fraser on February 10, 2004 put the Liberals in hot water and Paul Martin in the hot seat, his first real test as Canada's new Prime Minister. Over $100 million of public funds went missing to a variety of communications agencies in the form of fees/commissions—Martin was left holding the bag. Almost immediately, the popularity of the Liberals in the polls took a dip. After years of paternalism and right-of-center political fence-sitting by Chrètien, it now appears that the mantle of trust, which the Liberals for so long stood upon, is beginning to crumble. The benevolent democratic totalitarianism of the Canadian Liberals might soon come to an end.

Enter Jack Layton, the avant-garde head of the New Democratic Party (NDP) who became the federal NDP leader on January 26, 2003 in a first-ballot victory. Layton does not currently sit in the House of Commons, but has been nonetheless radically forward-thinking and vocal in scrums and the public sphere, as he was when he sat on the Toronto City Council. During his stint as a councillor, Layton worked to make Toronto a more bike-friendly city and worked with subculture leaders to make raves safer. He is an advocate of the legalisation of marijuana, gay marriage, Kyoto and a "Green transportation system," public health care, and is staunchly anti-war and anti-aggression. Layton has recently spoken out against Canada's role in a North American missile defense system and stresses his party's new direction in reaching out to activist groups. Layton has also criticised Paul Martin's role in global capitalism as former president of Canada Steamship Lines (a company which utilised 'unfree' labour in China). In terms of education, Layton blames Martin-era cuts to funding for rises in tuition, labeling him "the grand architect of the big slice." Layton believes post-secondary education needs to be addressed at a federal level. The former professor, who is spending his first year in 32 away from university teaching, stresses the importance of education. The NDP would create a Post-Secondary Education Act to increase and ensure continued funding for university students.

With a national election looming just around the corner, we must ask: what are the chances of such a progressive and innovative public servant leading the NDP to form the next government?

This depends on how both the left and the right react to the dramatic political events that have occurred in Canada in the last six months. If the Liberal rapport with the populace has truly been damaged, votes will go either to the Conservative Party of Canada, the NDP or the Bloc Québecois. The recent defection of a few Conservative MPs suggests that support for the party is waning. The upcoming leadership convention could also have consequences for the party. This does not lessen the fact that political power has been consolidated on the right and that many traditionalist voters will cast in favour of the new party. The viability of Jack Layton and the NDP will depend on footwork and also on how the NDP is perceived by the most radical factions of the population. Many progressive citizens have become indifferent to the representative political system in Canada and choose not to vote, be partisan or work for a party. And this is unfortunate for the NDP because Jack Layton, without a doubt, has the energy and intelligence to work towards transformative social change.

—Kevin Walby is a graduate student in sociology.

Passion review neglects gratuity of depicted violence

It's been interesting to see the incredible range of criticism generated by Mel Gibson's new movie. Some devout Christians are positively enraptured by it; some Jews think it's the most racist movie to come along in years. Clearly, most reviewers are watching the movie through thick lenses of cultural bias. With the amount of baggage these reviewers are carrying into the theatres, you'd think they'd be charged for extra seats.

Mr Hua's review followed form. Writing as a true believer [*the Ubyssey*, Feb. 27], he was completely enthralled by the beating, torture and gritty death of his personal saviour. I imagine the ecstasies of St Teresa took on such fervour. But in his passion, he makes a few errors. While the film is based on general events described in the gospels, none even imply the brutality Mel Gibson wallows in, and really, isn't the message of Christ more about love and acceptance than the amount of blood one body can spill before it dies?

But movies have to work in and of themselves. Take away the Christian and Jewish baggage and you have a slasher flick that revels in the pornography of gore, doing nothing to either exalt Christ or promote Christian ideals. If we are to believe the gospels, Christ wasn't a masochist. But the sado-masochist crowd, under the crisp linen altar cloth of piety, are having a ball smearing his blood all over themselves.

—Chris Petty MFA 1986
Alumni Association

Make some noise!

by Trevor Kew

PERSPECTIVE opinion

And the crowd goes...quiet?

Did you go to the basketball games last weekend? I did.

Did you enjoy them? Me too.

Did you wonder, at times, if a funeral had broken out? Maybe.

It may be a bit of an overstatement to liken War Memorial Gym this weekend to a funeral parlor or a graveyard.

I apologise, I renounce, I rescind. My bad.

A church, possibly?

Okay, okay, I know UBC won. The UBC Men's Basketball team won Game Three of their three playoff matchups 74-71 against Trinity Western University (TWU) to seal a dramatic victory over their crosstown rivals and now move on to their next step towards a National Championship. With a large number of friends on the team, I couldn't be happier for them. Well done, UBC.

My beef is with the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS). My concern is for the fans.

With scores of fanatical Trinity Western fans praising and hailing each basket, turnover and drink from the water bottle taken by the members of their Spartan squad, it was difficult for the small number of loyal UBC supporters to make their presence heard.

We gave it the old college try. We cheered the Birds and booed the Spartans. We yelled at the TWU-sighted referees. We drank the bzzr that the Trinity fans have sworn never to taste.

But we were loudly outcheered by the opposition. What was a fan to do?

In a moment of drunken bravery, I brought my trumpet to the Saturday game. Hadn't played it in a year or so, but figured I could make some noise. I lit up the first stoppage of play with a couple of ".....CHARGE!!" fanfares that got the UBC fans going.

Church security was on top of me (no, not literally) within minutes. They told me to lose the trumpet or get out. I surrendered the instrument, not wanting to miss the game. The lady in charge of facilities, who was just doing her job, informed me of the national rules on "noisemakers at CIS games." The Trinity fans also had their drums and other accompaniment taken away by security.

The CIS, Canada's (feeble) body that governs collegiate sports, does not want noisemakers at their games because they "do not want to become like the NBA." Good call. Because the NBA, after all, is a relatively unknown basketball league. Pathetic fan base. No TV deals. No money from gate receipts.

Oh wait. That's *your* league.

Aside from the confounding idiocy of holding playoff games during Reading Break, when most students are away, the CIS's decision to ban "noisemakers" from their leagues is absolutely bewildering. The players in their league, while not celebrities like players in the NCAA (which has entire marching bands in the stands) or NBA, are extremely talented athletes.

Most fans are friends of these players: they go to games to have a few bzzrs (or not, Trinity fans, it's always okay to say "No") and watch their buddies play. These games let students get away from the silence and boredom of classroom drudgery for a couple of hours.

I know how the CIS would respond to my complaints. They'll say that these games are too serious, that there is too much on the line for these players. Maybe they'll say that Canadian Varsity Sports want to promote a more scholastic image of sport than is seen south of the border.

Next year, the CIS should ban cheering. After that, clapping. Maybe, eventually, nobody will go to the games at all. Perfect silence. Amen.

The problem with Canadians is that we feel compelled to regulate everything. Even from my very limited knowledge of basketball, I can tell that the sport already has more than enough rules. No noisemakers? Lighten up, folks!

Let us have some fun. Let us bring our trumpets, our drums, our kazoos and our air-filled tubes. Let us make some noise.

—Trevor Kew is a student at UBC

Fill in the blanks:

You know what really chaps my ass? Those damned _____ and the way they always _____ the _____.

Great! Now just add 280 words and send it into

feedback@ubyssey.bc.ca

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2, 2004
- Chocolate Vagina Sales
- Free Reiki Demo Booth
- Mark Fackler - "Forbidden Knowledge and the Flick of a Button"
- Salsa Dancing Lessons
- Inter-Community Dialogues
- Billy Talent

March 3, 2004
- Chocolate Vagina Sales
- Reiki Demonstration Booth
- UBC Improv Tournament...of Improv!!!

March 4, 2004
- Chocolate Vagina Sales
- Free Reiki Demo Booth
- Cultural Extravaganza
- UBC's Battle of the Bands
- Rap It Up

March 5, 2004
- Chocolate Vagina Sales
- Israel, Islam and Diversity: a talk by Irshad Manji

March 6, 2004
- Special Evening Public Seminar
- Geography Field Trip

March 8, 2004
- Social Justice Allies: Practicing Dialogue Across Differences
- Tax Assistance Clinic

For more information check out the calendar of events online at www.ams.ubc.ca.

AMS PRESENTS...

Billy Talent... Tuesday, March 2, 2004 at the Pit Pub. Doors at 8:00 pm. Tickets are $15. Available through TicketMaster (www.ticketmaster.ca).

Candlelight Sessions featuring Craig Cardiff and Stabilo - unplugged... Friday, March 19, 2004 at the Gallery Lounge. Tickets are $5 available at the door. Door open at 8:00 pm.

The Vagina Monologues
Part of the 2004 V-Day UBC campaign. March 11, 2004, 7:00 pm, Freddy Wood Theatre. Tickets are $15.

Noam Chomsky... Sunday, March 21, 2004 at the Orpheum Theatre. 9:00 am - doors at 8:00 am. During the first two days of ticket sales (March 1 & 2), tickets will be available for students only (with valid student i.d.) at the SUB Box Office. The student ticket price is $10 (plus any applicable service charges).

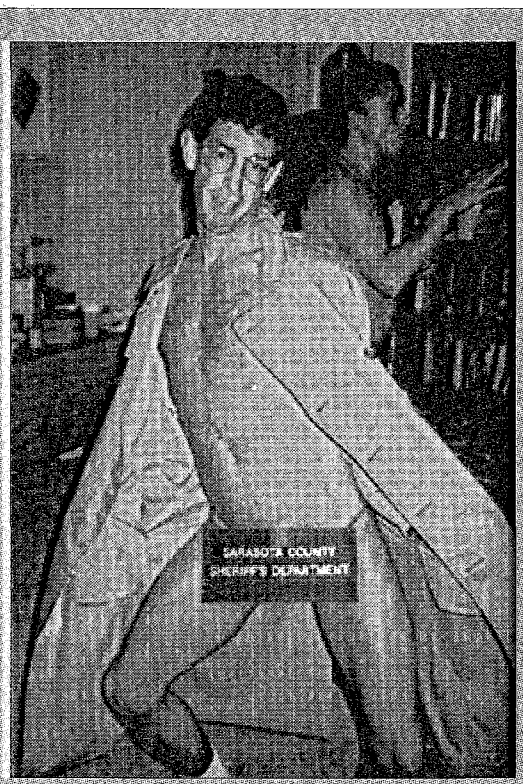
OPEN ARCADE NIGHT

All the games you can play for $10 !!

Tuesday, March 2nd
9:00 pm - midnight • SUB Arcade

WANT MORE INFO?

Sign up for our electronic newsletter The AMS Interactive, and we'll send you updates on all the latest events and issues that affect you. To sign up visit www.ams.ubc.ca.



just the kind of exposure you always wanted.
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The Ubyssey is looking for naked new writing to grace the pages of *RANT*, our 6th annual literary contest. But time is running short: the entry deadline is Wednesday, March 17. So don't be shy—show us what you've got! For contest rules and deadlines, go to www.ubyssey.bc.ca

- **Poetry**
- **Snap Non-fiction (under 1000 words)**
- **Snap Fiction (under 1000 words)**
- **Long Fiction (1000-3000 words)**
- **Long Non-fiction (1000-3000 words)**

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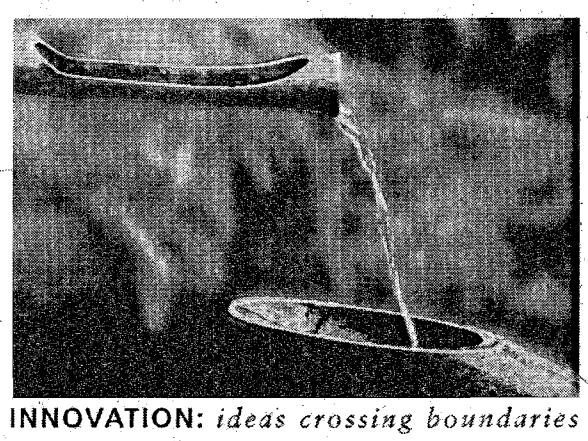

INNOVATION: *ideas crossing boundaries*

RESEARCH AWARENESS WEEK | MARCH 6 – 13, 2004

March 8-12 – 12-1:30pm
FREE NOON HOUR PANEL DISCUSSIONS
Topics include: *The Science Behind The Technology Unveiled, Drug Discovery Working For You, Marriage in the 21st Century, Going Green* and *Cities and Governance.*
UBC – Robson Square 800 Robson Street – Theatre 604.822.1700 www.research.ubc.ca

March 8 – 7pm
NEW HEALTH RESEARCH AND ITS IMPLICATIONS
Join Professors Dr. William Honer (Psychiatry), Dr. Edwin Levy (UBC Centre for Applied Ethics) and Dr. Jerilynn Prior (Endocrinology) for this free evening discussion on wide ranging research from schizophrenia to the ethics of patents. Moderated by Dr. Sid Katz, Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences & Executive Director, UBC Community Affairs.
UBC – Robson Square 800 Robson Street – Theatre 604.822.1700 www.research.ubc.ca

March 9 – 7pm
CELL AND GENE THERAPY: THE PROMISE AND THE RISKS
What are the ethical sources and uses of stem cells and other human tissues? Is the time and money involved in these highly personalized therapies really worth it? Join us for this free public forum where we will take a closer look at cell and gene therapy with four internationally recognized scientists. Moderated by former CBC radio host Hal Wake.
Children & Women's Hospital Campus – Chan Auditorium for Family Health Education
950 W 28th Avenue 604.875.2446 reseduc@cw.bc.ca www.research.ubc.ca

March 10 – 5pm
OUR COMPANY IS CHANGING AGAIN? MANAGING FAIRNESS IN THE WORKPLACE
Join us for a free interactive seminar on how to manage justice in the workplace with Dr. Daniel Skarlicki. Participants will first learn what the payoff of fairness is, and what happens when we lose track of fairness in terms of individual's morale, commitment and productivity. Dr. Skarlicki will then provide specific strategies for managers to increase fairness in their organization. Register online at www.sauder.ubc.ca/alumni/raw/index.cfm or call 604.822.6027.
UBC – Robson Square 800 Robson Street – Room C100

March 12 – 12:00pm
HUMAN CARGO
It has been called "shocking," "riveting.," The Globe and Mail heralds it as "a rich layered drama packed with excellent performances that will take most of us into a world we've never known." A screening of the CBC miniseries, with a talk by co-writer, co-producer, UBC Associate Professor Linda Svendsen. Free admission.

Frederic Wood Theatre S6354 Crescent Rd. 604.822.1700

The above events are just a few of many public forums, research days and exhibits that comprise Research Awareness Week. For a comprehensive and up to date listing please go to **www.research.ubc.ca**.

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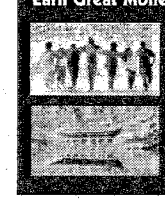

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the ams annual
summer
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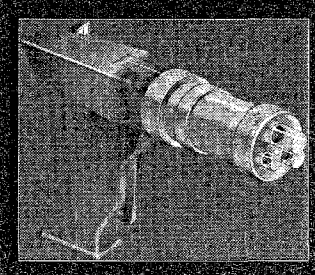
march 10 - 11th
10am - 4pm
main concourse
student union building
www.ams.ubc.ca

Staff Meeting

1 intros
2 elections
3 job descriptions
4 spoof!
5 special issues
6 social
7 other (software, gender conference, WACUO)
8 PoMo



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