

Piecing it together

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the ubyssey

Volume 85 Issue 11

magazine

Friday, October 3, 2002

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Announcements

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MARXIST-LENINIST STUDY GROUP meet this Wed, Sept 24 4:00pm, Buchanan B (room TBA). Topic: New colonialism in the era of globalization: the occupation of Iraq. Everyone welcome. Contact mlsg@club.ams.ubc.ca

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Colour Bash-ing?

The AMS Student Administrative Commission, an organisation that oversees student clubs, is organising Colour Bash, a celebration of cultural diversity on campus. The event will consist of six three-day festivals throughout the year, each celebrating the diversity of a geographical region.

The name 'Colour Bash' comes from the term 'calabash,' which refers to a Caribbean tree that brings forth edible fruit.

According to Alma Mater Society VP Administration Josh Bowman, the word's cultural meanings extend to food and music. Colour refers to diversity, and bash refers to a party,

fete, or ball.

Bowman reflected on the words' double meaning. "We don't like beating up people of colour. That's not what we meant," he said. "We're trying to make people aware of diversity."

Oana wants a window

A recent threat by a student has prompted Alma Mater Society President Oana Chirila to install a window in her office door.

As a corner office in the upstairs of the SUB, the president's office lacks a line of sight to the inner AMS office when the door is closed.

"If anybody were to come in here and shut the door there is no way for me to get out...there is no way for me to call for help," Chirila said.

The most cost effective way to remedy the situation is to put a window in the door, Chirila added. "[Then] if somebody does come in here it is visible to the hallway."

Chirila also said that safety concerns about the president's office are not new this year. Presidents of past years have had similar complaints.

Chirila hopes that the window can be installed as soon as possible, but added that the president's office is always open to students. ♦

EVENTS



DANCE

Goya's Spanish Song and Dance, Sat., Oct. 4, 8pm

This Saturday at the Scotiabank Dance Center experience an evening of Spanish song and dance. This evening will be sauced up with Francisco Goya's art. For more information call 604-327-8651. Tickets are \$15.

THEATRE

The Importance of Being Earnest, Oct. 4 to Nov. 4

John Hedgecock directs this Oscar Wilde comedy at the Metro Theatre. Tickets are \$13 and \$16. For more info call 604-266-7191.

EVENT

Guevara's Daughter Speaks, Sat, October 4 at 7pm

Che Guevara's Daughter will be giving a talk at the St Andrew's-Wesley Church about terrorism and human rights. This is a by donation event. For more information call 604-831-9821.

EXHIBITION

Inventor's Exhibition, Sun., Oct. 5 at 10am-4pm

New inventions will be showcased at Confederation Square on Sunday. New and unique products from local inventors will be illuminated by the BC Inventor's Society. Tickets will only run ya \$5. ♦

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Correction:
The business practices of travel agencies such as Travel CUTS are regulated by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), and not the Canadian government, as stated in the Sept. 30 2003 paper. ♦

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Letters: those cuties go to feedback@ubyssey.bc.ca

University Boulevard passes

by Megan Thomas and
Jonathan Woodward
NEWS EDITORS

University Boulevard is moving forward.

The UBC Board of Governors (BoG) voted in favour of the draft plan at yesterday's meeting despite vocal opposition from some elected board members.

The plan proposes, among other developments, shops and services be placed in new buildings in the academic core. The grassy knoll will be replaced with a University Square and the bus loop will be pushed underground.

Jesse Eckert and Amina Rai, student representatives to the BoG, voted against the motion, while university staff representative Ben Pong abstained from the decision. All other voting members voiced

support.

Just prior to the University Town motion, the Alma Mater Society (AMS) Board representatives distributed a letter that expressed the student society's staunch opposition to the motion because of concerns about the need for more consultation on the issue.

"The [consultation] process is seriously flawed," said Rai. "We've seen an informational process rather than combining efforts of different constituents to actively work on the project."

She said that the momentum from recent student and university consultations gave a reason to delay the motion until the next Board meeting.

"By giving more time, we would allow more input and be an active part of the process," she said.

Shortly before the meeting, two

amendments were added to the motion. The first was that a committee representing university stakeholders would make recommendations to the BoG about the design of buildings. The second was a commitment to consultation with the AMS before the development of any shops and services.

The university has shown a commitment to having an open and fair consultation process about University Town, said Dennis Pavlich, VP External for UBC.

"We want it to be inclusive. We want it to be responsive to the community," he said.

Pavlich said the concerns expressed at the meeting were not about the actual design of the plan but about the need to continue consultations on the project as it develops.

He said the next step is to build

the stakeholders committee, which will advise the Board on the design of buildings and will involve stakeholders as voting members.

The head of the BoG committee for property and planning, Nicole Byres, agreed that much effort was put into making yesterday's decision.

She said that while not everyone may agree with the proposal, the quality of the discussion was excellent.

"There has really been a commitment to the process," she said.

Kate Woznow, a student who attended the meeting, felt that the efforts made were superficial.

"There was no interest in the student process that has already started. The amendments were tacked on at the end; there was no time to take this to the student body," she said. "Just hoping that

students are on side is the one-sided process that we are trying to get away from."

School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) student Peter Whitelaw was critical, saying that planning fundamentals—a robust consultation with the community—hadn't happened. "I don't think that they have demonstrated significant learning in how they conduct their process," he said.

SCARP Director Anthony Dorcey was happy that discussion has occurred, but he had reservations about the upcoming consultation.

"The large question still sits out there. This is about the whole approach to University Town and the lack of confidence in the process. The Board has confidence in the consultation process. Many others do not," he said. ♦



THE CALL OF THE WILD: Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Premier Gordon Campbell outline a federal and provincial plan for more nature reserves in BC. MICHELLE MAYNE PHOTO

PM retirement tour

by Megan Thomas
NEWS EDITOR

Amid a vast wilderness of potted trees in a Hotel Vancouver banquet room yesterday, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with BC Premier Gordon Campbell to create new nature reserves in BC.

The memorandum, signed after a red carpet ceremony that included a multilingual national anthem from two elementary school choirs, is the first step in creating two new marine conservations and one new national park.

"This is the most ambitious plan to expand and protect national parks and national marine conservation areas in this country," said Chrétien after taking to the podium amid a standing ovation.

The MOU is part of the Government of Canada's Action Plan that will see ten new national parks and five more national marine conservations areas in BC by 2008.

The new nature reserve will be located in the south Okanagan and will be an example of an interior dry plateau region of Canada.

"As soon as possible after the ink is dry on today's agreement we will launch public consultation detailing how this park will take shape," Chrétien said.

He added that consultation with local governments, citizens and Aboriginal people will be a key part of becoming "trustees of nature."

"The doors are open now to a new relationship," said Leonard George of the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation before he opened the standing-room-only signing ceremony with a prayer.

The MOU will also bind both governments to look into the possibility of creating a marine conservation area in the southern Strait of Georgia and to undertake consultation for the Gwaii Haanas marine conservation on the northern coast.

"With today's agreement we are showing respect and gratitude for these great natural gifts," Chrétien said.

The Federal Government's investment in the new BC park and marine conservations is estimated at \$65 million and was part of the 2003 federal budget.

Chrétien said he hopes tourism will be generated by the new nature reserves. "We want all British Columbians to benefit from the economic spinoffs created by these new sites."

BC Premier Gordon Campbell also took to the podium to thank Chrétien for his commitment to BC parks. But he said that yesterday's foggy weather that made travel to the signing difficult was a "federal responsibility," prompting a few chuckles from the crowd.

Campbell also said he was disappointed that this will be the last official BC visit for Chrétien as the Prime Minister.

"You know, Prime Minister, the last few times you have been to British Columbia as Prime Minister we have done not too badly," Campbell said. ♦

Student society to change elections

by Jonathan Woodward
NEWS EDITOR

The Alma Mater Society (AMS) is looking at changing its annual elections.

The largest proposed change is to depart from the traditional first-past-the-post voting system.

The move is designed to encourage independent candidates, says Spencer Keys, AMS code and policies committee chair. "What if you have a council that has somehow become dominated by one slate?" he said.

In three of the past four years, all AMS executive positions have been held by the slate Students for Students (SS).

But last year, now president Oana Chirila of SS beat Kate Woznow of Students' Progressive Action Network by a slim margin of 46 votes.

It is impossible to say that either candidate won by a majority in that race, says Keys, adding that strategic voting came into play.

Students were aware that either Woznow or Chirila would get the most votes and felt they needed to vote for one of the two, rather than an independent, so their vote would be important, Keys said. He calls this "the entire danger of plurality."

One proposed system that would reduce this problem is instant runoff voting where candidates are ranked on the ballot by the voter. This method is well tested and is used in Australian national elections.

The candidate with the fewest first-place rankings is dropped from the race after the initial counting of the ballots. Then, the second-place ranking on those ballots will be distributed among the remaining candidates as first-place votes in a second round. The rounds continue until one candidate receives a majority.

"This is a way of ensuring a majority, with some degree of tepidness, at least endorses the winner," said UBC professor Richard Johnston, who studies elections.

But strategic voting is not eliminated because voters know that a second-place ranking will eventually be considered a first-place vote,

he said. "It's a pretty conventional system, but it's not foolproof."

Keys says voters in this system would be able to vote for an independent candidate meaningfully without fearing their vote won't count. If the independent candidate is dropped, then a second ranking will carry equal weight.

Other systems being considered are approval voting, where each candidate is either approved or disapproved by the voter, and concordet voting, where each candidate is ranked and then compared in an independent contest against each other candidate.

Both of these systems are less tested, said Johnston.

There is concern whether students would understand a more complex system. "There might be a turnout problem if we make the system more complicated," said Graduate Student Society AMS representative Carey Hill.

Changes to campaign financing are also proposed. Currently, a candidate in a slate is allowed to give a maximum of 1/3 of individual expenses to the group.

This encourages as many people as possible to run in a single slate, says Keys. "The problem is that [the current system] creates an incentive to abuse the Senate and throw in a bunch of people to take advantage of this."

The proposal means slate funding from individuals would be related to how many people are in the slate, and would always add up to a maximum of \$250.

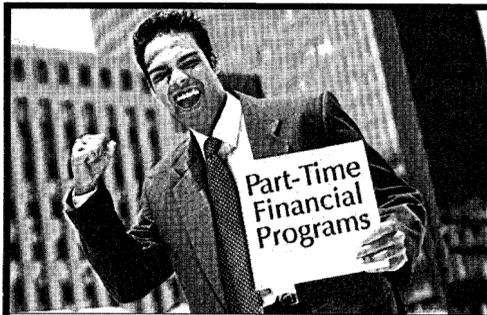
The AMS is also considering allowing candidate forums at gatherings such as beer gardens. But Keys denies this would make the events less serious in nature.

"Whatever it was these events would still be run by the elections committee," he said.

The Simon Fraser Student Society uses first-past-the-post voting, and is not looking to make changes.

Instead SFU is aiming to change its constitution to allow students to choose 'yes' or 'no' in elections where there is only one candidate.

The AMS code and policies committee will recommend election options to council on October 15. ♦



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During the past twenty-seven years Dr. Peter Vitaliano has had teaching, consulting and research responsibilities in psychiatry and behavioural medicine. He has had over 2,100 hours of methodological consultations with Faculty in the School of Medicine, School of Nursing, School of Public Health, School of Social Work, and the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Vitaliano's graduate students have been in medicine, nursing, dentistry, epidemiology, social work, health services, psychology, education, and pharmacology. Dr. Vitaliano has published articles on health, behaviour, aging, psychoneuroendocrinology, violence and victims. He won the Gold Award for Outstanding Contributions to Psychiatric Research, American Psychiatric Association (1987) and the Award for Outstanding Contributions to Health Psychology, American Psychological Association (1995). In 1997 he was Editor of "Caregiving, Physiology and Physical Health", "Annals of Behavioural Medicine", "Aging and Health Psychology", and Health Psychology (1998). He has been on the editorial boards of several journals. Some of Dr. Vitaliano's funded research projects include "Community Psychiatry Training"; "Biopsychosocial Predictors of Distress in Medical School"; "Improving Management of Chemo Radiotherapy Toxicity"; "Long Term Care Use in Japanese American Elderly"; "Aerobic Fitness: Sleep and its Correlates in the Aged"; "Stress in Spouses of Patients with Alzheimer's Disease"; and "Chronic Psychosocial Stress, Metabolic Syndrome and CHD".

Peter Vitaliano is currently Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and Psychology, at the University of Washington, Seattle.

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Not guilty: overcoming rape

Exposing rape myths, one woman shares her story

by Parminder Nizer
FEATURES STAFF

Photos by Peter Klesken



Sabrina is hesitant about leaving home. She won't do things that she used to do like go out for bubble tea with her friends. She limits herself to studying and surfing the net.

Why would a 24-year-old student limit herself to Friday nights with her parents?

Sabrina was raped on March 6, 2003, and not by a stranger as popular myth dictates. Her rapist was a friend of her ex-boyfriend whom Sabrina now describes as "an asshole."

Her first impression of John, name changed for privacy, was far from negative. "I thought this guy was really cool—he was smart, older than me [and had a] cool car. The conversation was cool and the second [date] was for noodles."

"We talked about the guy I dated before [his friend [Greg]]. We talked about how Greg wasn't really cool and other stuff."

After breaking up with Greg, name also changed, Sabrina connected with John over ICQ, an internet messenger program. John was quite the guy...until the third date. The intention of the date was a movie at his place—cool. They started kissing, and John started to peel off Sabrina's clothing—not so cool.

"I said 'No,'" Sabrina states firmly. Her warning signals entered overdrive when he continued to remove her clothes and then put on a condom.

"I remember I ran to the door when he was putting a condom on and he grabbed me," she recalls. "He came back and I crossed my legs so he couldn't get into me. He put his mouth on top of my mouth and I couldn't scream."

After John was finished with the rape he brushed her aside, washed himself and drove her home.

"He pretended like nothing happened, like he did nothing wrong," says a mesmerised Sabrina. "That he had the privilege to do it because I was over at his house."

The next morning Sabrina was in pain. "It hurt inside of me but I didn't call [a doctor]."

What hurt more was the burden she placed upon herself. Like most rape victims, Sabrina was initially ashamed of herself and took the blame. In fact, a number of her friends affirmed this blame, while her best friend, Amy, was supportive.

"I asked my guy friends and they were like, 'It's totally your fault.' Amy didn't blame me."

John tried to contact her through ICQ and his nonchalance about the rape angered Sabrina. "He acted like nothing happened. [My reply was] nothing—I just could not reply."

Amy encouraged Sabrina to see a doctor in order to check for disease and pregnancy. Although hesitant at first, she went a week later. Sabrina's main concern was STDs.

"I was just scared. I was thinking about the whole thing—about the germs. If a guy can rape you who knows where else he has been?" she says.

Her first reaction wasn't to seek medical attention but to avoid social situations because she was ashamed to be seen by John and his friends.

"I didn't want them to look at me and say 'Ha, ha, I screwed her,'" Sabrina says.

Sabrina still avoids social settings to this day, although she does step out more often than before. Rape has also drastically changed the way she looks at relationships.

"Rape just came into the love thing and changed it all around," she said.

Sabrina's friend Amy also encouraged her to call a rape crisis line. Initially she was hesitant—what did an unknown woman know about Sabrina?

However, she decided to call Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter, a number she found in the phone directory. Not only did her initial hesitations fall away, but ongoing work with the organisation has also empowered Sabrina. The organisation aided in her redirecting the blame off of her shoulders and

onto John's.

It was through Rape Relief that Sabrina met Samantha Kearney, a crisis line worker. Kearney believes that John and his friends see the incident as sex and not rape.

Sabrina felt nervous before the call and was worried that whoever listened to her would be judgmental.

"Often times women are hesitant and nervous. They don't know what they're going to get on the other line," says Kearney. "Most of the time they're trying to figure out what went wrong, [and] what happened."

Vancouver Rape Relief (RR) is a 30-year-old feminist organisation. It consists of a 24-hour crisis line, a transition house, advocates, support groups and an organising centre. It is 100 per cent volunteer-run and consists of a handful of paid positions, trainees and a collective.

The women know what you're going through because they've been there themselves. The majority of the women involved with RR have been victims of male violence against women.

Upon receiving a crisis call the worker uses a number of methods to connect with the caller. An emphasis is placed on the use of empathy, taking the woman's lead, establishing her safety and figuring out what she wants. They then agree to meet face to face and take it from there.

Kearney says that the first thing to do when a woman calls is encourage medical attention if it's a recent rape.

"We'll let them know what we think, but we'll take her lead," says Kearney. "I think it's really important for a woman that's just been raped [to be] respected and listened to. The response should be non-judgmental, respectful and talking about the rape."

This is the approach Kearney took with Sabrina. She then moved on to establishing what Sabrina wanted from RR.

"I answered Sabrina's call and I could tell she wanted to talk and understand what happened to her and get support for it," says Kearney. "Sabrina was calm but not really knowing what she was wanting from us."

"I was only calm on the outside," laughs Sabrina. "[Inside] I was a mess."

After numerous conversations they concluded that Sabrina needed emotional support and a boost in her damaged self-image.

To combat Sabrina's isolation they did a smaller grouping, which consisted of Kearney and a partner sitting down and talking through Sabrina's thoughts and feelings. She then moved onto a larger group with the Support, Education and Action Group (SEA). SEA consists of a number of women who have called RR and then meet weekly for discussion and support.

"We [also discussed] the myths and the stereotypes, all those messages that we get," says Kearney. "Through that we helped her come up with how she sees the rape."

Many of the prevalent rape myths place the blame upon the victim. A common myth is that women are asking for rape because of their sug-

gestive way of dressing. Some instances of rape are said to be justified because the woman was sending mixed messages. In other cases, it is believed that the victim enjoyed the rape.

Kearney says these myths place the blame on women to correct and get over their behaviour. The problem is they do not tell the rapists to change their ways. "[Myths] place the responsibility on women to fix it, get over it and correct their behaviour."

She also says that the media reinforces these myths. A number of rape cases reported in the media tell women not to walk alone at night, watch their drinks and so on.

Date rape drugs are also given attention in the media. These drugs facilitate rape and make it easier to commit. The drugs range from Rohypnol to alcohol.

Rohypnol is odourless, dissolves quickly in liquid and can cause loss of consciousness or amnesia. The effects are accelerated by alcohol.

Kearney has worked with RR for two years and has only received a limited number of crisis calls based on date rape drugs.

"The number of cases reported from the media ask women to change," she says. "Don't leave your drinks. Be careful. Once again, the blame is placed on the women."

Chris Ste. Croix agrees that rape myths need

to be exposed. Ste. Croix is a worker with the Alma Mater Society (AMS) resource group Allies. Allies is a pro-feminist male resource group that discourages damaging male stereotypes. He says that in order to understand rape, many people can unknowingly set it up as something the victim is guilty of.

"I find, generally [because of] human empathy, most people won't go 'Oh, it was your fault, you deserved it,'" he says. "[But] they'll react in such a manner as to intimate that without actually saying it...which is very harmful."

"It's hard to remember that we've set rape up in society. It's not a crime the victim is guilty [of]. And I think that's the really devastating part of rape myths."

Vancouver Rape Relief received an estimated 1400 crisis calls in 2002, which is a significant leap from the 114 received in 1974, their second opening year—a clear indication that the shelter is working.

According to the Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres (CASAC), a woman is raped every 17 minutes in Canada. One in four women will be raped—most often by someone she knows.

The term "rape" encompasses all of the different forms of rape. This includes marriage rape, date rape and so on. Date rape, the most common term, is exactly what it sounds like: a rape committed while on a date.

Kearney feels that using only the term "rape" is important because the different categories are unimportant. Rape is rape. Period.

"Language like date rape or marriage rape keeps the rapes done in isolation. We become focused on terms and putting them into appropriate categories," says Kearney. "We don't want to get distracted with different labels and categories [because] they take away from the seriousness of rape."

A secondary reason is that rape is a harsher word on its own. The impact of "rape" is much larger than the impact of "date rape."

Language is also important when addressing men. Feminist crisis shelters have been stigmatised as a place for women to get together to male-bash, using powerful words to categorise men. Kearney and Ste. Croix feel

that this is not the case.

"That's not what we're wanting. What we're wanting is for women to be treated equally and not to push males down, or to be superior and them be inferior—women's equality but not at the expense of men," says Kearney.

RR encourages men to get involved with women's shelters. There are a number of ways for men to become involved, including donations and speaking up on women's issues and against sexist remarks.

"The rape crisis centres that I'm affiliated with, they direct men to resources that can help them as well," says Ste. Croix, who adds that it is acceptable for male victims of rape—as well as men who have committed rape—to seek help.

While Allies focuses on many issues concerning men's and women's rights, the object of RR is to end male violence against women—something that cannot be done without activism. Active radical movements include poster areas where rapists have worked with a description of the rapist.

Sabrina worked in one of these poster sessions; she describes it as a positive experience and one that other women were receptive to.

"Some [of the women] said thank you and some were glad because they didn't know the description," she says. "[But] some just didn't care."

One indication that rape crisis lines are working is Sabrina's reaction to RR.

"I see the reality of what happened to me and that it's not my fault," she says. "I [now have] the bravery to face every day knowing that it's not my fault."

"I'm not scared of men," says the soft-voiced Sabrina. "But I'm very protective." ♦

If you have any questions about rape or would like to volunteer with Vancouver Rape Relief you can call (604) 872-8212. You can also contact UBC's Sexual Assault Support Centre (SASC), a queer-friendly AMS resource group in partnership with Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW) for women, men, and transgendered in SUB rooms 57 and 58, or call their crisis line at (604) 255-6344.



THE UBYSSSEY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2003
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Bryan Zandberg

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EDITORIAL OFFICE

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

BUSINESS OFFICE

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

BUSINESS MANAGER

Fernie Pereira

AD SALES

Dave Gaertner

AD DESIGN

Shalene Takara

John Woodward and Megan Thomas proclaimed, "Today will be international sausage day!" The people cheered for they longed for the sweet, sweet taste of a sausage. They lined up and waited impatiently for a chance to indulge in their sausage fantasies. Parminder Nilzer got the first sausage. "He likes sausages," said Peter Klesken. "But I like them more!" "Don't lie Peter," said Madeline De Tremquayle. "You just love the smell of them." "No fair! Why do they get sausages first?" screamed Carlina Cojean and Weronika Lewczuk. "We've been eating sausages since we were in the womb!" Hywel Tuscano and Sarah Bourdon, former sausage addicts had to decline because they feared what would happen if they got ahold of one. Over in the other corner was Kayley Bowman and Raj Mathur both avid sausage collectors. They were eagerly anticipating how their new sausages would look on their walls. On the other side L.V. Vander von Axander, the only sausage expert in town held a sausage auction. Wilson Wong, Sarah Tung and Heather Pauls wanted a chance to buy the greatest sausage of all. The Eric Sato sausage, also known as the grand daddy sausage. Jesse Marchand outbid everyone and won the GD sausage. Michelle Mayne was so heavy with disappointment broke down and started crying with Paul Carr. While no one was looking the sneaky little sausage thieves Bryan Zandberg, John Hua and Iva Cheung grabbed the sausage and ran away to their holes in the ground and lived happily ever after.

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From
Russia, with
[censored]

Plan Columbia: Cashing in on the Drug War Failure is a bold film that documents American involvement in Colombian drug networks over the past two decades. It documents how initial calls for help with the drug problem were answered with a military response: \$900 million was spent on helicopters, defoliant spraying, and mercenaries training Colombian regulars to eradicate left-wing political movements and activists who got in the way.

Plan Colombia is a film that is ruthlessly critical of American foreign policy. It has been shown at the Vancouver International Film Festival, but also at US film festivals in Beverly Hills and Stanford.

In Russia, a controversial film—especially one critical of the country itself—wouldn't be so lucky.

Dead End: Russia's Forgotten War was slated to open the Chechnya Film Festival in Moscow this week. The film offers a Chechen perspective on the massacre that Russian troops allegedly inflicted on the military and civilians in the Chechen war. Other films explored the Russian secret service's role in orchestrating bombings that killed 300 people—officially blamed on Chechen rebels—as well as the Moscow theatre hostage situation that Russian troops ended with a gas attack, killing 140 people.

Thirty-six hours before Moscow's Chechnya Film Festival opened it was shut down. The films were not shown to the Russian public. The festival organisers said that "several films are not acceptable for showing in Russia."

This is another blow to free speech in Vladimir Putin's Russia. Since his election, Putin has crusaded against the private media, shutting down radio stations, newspapers and television networks for reasons as flimsy as "protecting the rights of viewers."

In 2001, Russian media conglomerate Media-Most was dissolved and sold to the gov-



ernment-controlled gas company Gazprom, and a warrant for an owner's arrest was issued on fraud charges. Reporters fled en masse to the other private national broadcaster, TV-6, hoping to continue independent coverage.

On January 11, 2003, TV-6 was dissolved by Russia's Higher Arbitration Court at the request of a minority shareholder, LukOil, because it was supposedly losing money.

Dogged reporters moved again to TV5, a new station. This station was shut down on June 22, and replaced with the state-controlled channel 'Sport.'

In all, over 250 local television stations across Russia have been denied content.

The Russian authorities have waged war on independent commentary to the point that we are seeing self-censorship resembling broadcasting in the Soviet era.

The Chechnya Film Festival chose to censor itself rather than be censored. The disturbing images that were to be shown to the people of

Moscow, featuring mutilated Chechen citizens, have not been shown on any television screen in Russia, and it is doubtful they ever will.

Recently, laws have also been passed that outlaw "media advocacy" for covering Russia's December parliamentary elections. The media will be able to report what candidates say but they will not be able to include commentary or even talk about a candidate's track record.

According to Putin, one should be able to express an opinion but "there should be restrictions imposed by democratically passed laws."

While the stated purpose of the law is to ensure fair reporting, it effectively bans all commentary and tramples the rights of the press.

Russia's "democracy" is a place where journalists, artists and historians feel that they cannot speak.

The integrity of the next election will be, at best, questionable. Russia's democracy—or what is left of it—will suffer. ♦

LETTERS

No way Board can ignore 40,000 voices

by Kate Woznow and mia amir

This morning, the UBC Board of Governors (BoG) voted in favour of endorsing the controversial University Boulevard Neighbourhood Plan (UBNP).

This development plan includes redesigning gate one, adding an underground transit station, and a University Square. As students who attended the meeting, we feel that it is our responsibility to share with other students our reactions to how the decision was reached.

BoG proponents of the plan claimed that this vote simply represents an endorsement of the vision of the UBNP, yet specifics such as the construction of three buildings, building size and a commitment to further commercialising campus and creating commercial housing (as opposed to dealing with the current student housing crisis) were included within the proposal.

More concerning though is the fact that students have been excluded from real participation in the overall process and creation of the vision itself. While the proposal included specific points regarding things like square footage of building plans, some BoG members (otherwise known as representatives from the private sector APPOINTED by the provincial government) did not seem to think that a commitment to ensuring incorporation of

the concerns, ideas and expertise of students, faculty, staff and community members was a principle important enough to include in the vision. The vote was pushed through despite the fact that student, faculty and staff representatives on BoG (otherwise known as the ELECTED representatives) had serious concerns about passing the plan at this time.

The major concern they imparted was in regards to the way in which the 'public consulta-

tion' process with community members has been carried out. If you have attended any of these consultations, you will know what we're talking about. Simply put, the consultations consist of the university administration engaging in one-sided dialogues where only one perspective on the plan is presented. Participants are then given a token two minutes to provide their feedback and concerns with little to no response from administration.

Most concerning and problematic is that the next stages of the plan will be continued using the same model of 'public consultation,' which has in many ways left students, faculty and staff feeling unheard and excluded from decision making.

In fact students have felt so disempowered and marginalised in this process that the AMS and GSS

have taken it upon themselves to initiate a more participatory process which started on September 22 with the first Student Summit on Campus Development. Over 100 students were in attendance.

What the dissenting BoG members proposed today was a deferral of voting on the plan until the next meeting in November. This would allow the AMS and students a seven week time period in which they could continue the Student Summits and through these generate a greater understanding of what students really want to see happen with regards to campus development.

Students attending the BoG meeting this morning were appalled at the manner in which BoG student representatives Amina Rai and Jesse Eckert, who took it upon themselves to represent the student voice as guided by the Student Summit, were disregarded and disrespected by appointed BoG members.

A letter addressed to the BoG by the AMS was presented by Amina Rai during discussion. In this letter, the AMS expressed a clear opposition to the current consultation process. Little attention was given to this letter, and follow-up questions posed by elected BoG representatives were subsequently ignored.

While university administrators were allowed to respond to questions (despite not having official BoG seats) the AMS VP Academic Laura Best was not given the opportunity to share vital information in

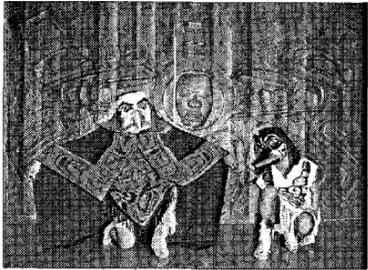
response to specific questions relating to the student perspective.

In the end, it became clear that the majority of BoG members are unconcerned about incorporating student input in this process. This was made obvious by BoG Chair, John Reid (President and CEO of Terasen Inc, formerly BC Gas Inc) who closed discussions regarding the plan by saying "the consultation process will not change" as in his opinion the current model being used has been sufficient for incorporating the public voice.

But all is not lost! Though the plan has in theory passed, the student process initiated at the Student Summit will continue in order to ensure that the creativity, resourcefulness and expertise of students is incorporated in a real way into the future process and implementation of campus development plans.

Our voices may have been silenced this morning, but if we keep speaking, questioning, shouting, if we unify in our concern, there is no way that BoG will be able to ignore the input of the 40,000 plus students on this campus. Please become involved in the Student Summits. For more information please contact Laura Best, vpacademic@ams.ubc.ca, or the UBC Social Justice Centre, Office 245A, Resource Group Centre, second floor in the SUB, 604-822-9612. ♦

—mia amir and Kate Woznow are UBC students.



Get down

GET HAYATSK
at UBC Music Recital Hall
Oct. 1

by Raj Mathur
CULTURE WRITER

Musical and dance numbers from the Nisga'a and Tsimshian Nations were performed by the members of the British Columbia's First Nations Northwest Coast residents. The event was titled "Get Hayatsk" and was held at the UBC Music Recital Hall as part of the Wednesday Noon Hours Series.

In the Simalgax language, "Get Hayatsk" translates into "the People of the Copper." Copper, to the Simalgax, is a significant sign of prestige, wealth, peace, strength and power that could be possessed only by those of the most superior stature in their community. Accordingly, the "Get Hayatsk" dancers, make an attempt towards adhering to these established high standards by successfully performing not only in North America, but also in various countries of Asia and Europe.

At this concert, the dancers performed various traditional as well as contemporary songs and dances, wherein they utilised full dance regalia, masks, skins, rattles and box drums, all of which were handmade. Animal and bird characters in the ancient yet perennial legends were presented through traditional costumes, fully demonstrating the ongoing attempts on their part to re-energise their culture.

A likeness to opera was evident in the performed songs, which were presented in a dramatic form using masks and dance, adding to the overall narration that combined history and mythology. According to Michael Dangel, the coordinator of the "Get Hayatsk" Dancers, the significant purpose behind presenting the performance is "to educate and represent and also promote" his people, and to let the people of the world know that they are not merely represented by objects displayed in museums. This performance, which successfully accomplished these objectives, drew wide applause from the audience. ♦

\$125 date and still no sex



BARGAIN ART: Annual *Cheaper Than a One Night Stand* art exhibit sold a plethora of art, all for \$125. KIM MANKY PHOTO

Greenthumbs find love

THE GARDEN
at Vancouver East Cultural Centre
until Oct. 4

by Kayley Bowman
CULTURE WRITER

The Modern Baroque Opera's production of "The Garden" resembles what would ensue if Baz Luhrmann directed opera. Oversized, colourful sets complimented by creative and cartoonish costumes reflect the overall atmosphere of the delightfully adorable play of love in a vegetable garden. It is centred around two couples—each victims of love—whose disgustingly sweet mushiness somehow brings an unexpected smile to the audience's face.

The production weaves in and out of English and Italian—the English moving the story along while the Italian creates the air of elegance and emotion that opera should embody. During the many Italian portions, basic subtitles are cre-

atively strewn throughout the set, written on large leaves, folds of lettuce and other embellished props. Unlike many operas, "The Garden" is not drawn out. It is short and simple, leaving the viewer with a satisfied and cheerful feeling.

While the entire cast masters the overacting only accepted in opera, the true key holders of comedic timing are Rinaldo and Lesbina. Rinaldo (played by Shaun Phillips) is the slightly effeminate, over-exaggerated neighbour who endears himself to the audience with his absolute love for the girl next door and his hysterical murder of a helpless head of lettuce. Lesbina (played by Phoebe McCrae) is the servant of Rinaldo's love whose shy smiles and kindness win her the love of the handsome Nardo (Jeffrey Carl). Add in an overbearing father (Lawrence Cotton) and you have a wonderfully complete cast.

Charming chemistry exists between Lesbina and Nardo. Sweet words and lovely kisses remind one of a high school romance and have



the audience chuckling to themselves in those classic red seats. While rooting for the love of Nardo and Lesbina, the slightly wilder relationship of Rinaldo and Eugenia should not be overlooked as it adds even more physical comedy to this slightly slapstick show.

Filled with light, fanciful music and accompanied by an onstage quintet, "The Garden" is a cozy, fun opera giving the impression that the actors are enjoying themselves as much as the audience. ♦

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Birds get ready to fight

by Wilson Wong
SPORTS WRITER

There is a great sense of optimism and confidence emanating from the members of the UBC Women's basketball team as they start exhibition play in preparation for the upcoming season.

Playing in the toughest conference in Canada—the Canada West claimed three of the top four spots at the National Championships last year—the Thunderbirds certainly had an interesting finish with a 13-7 conference record.

The most memorable moment may have come last November when UBC ended Simon Fraser's 41-game winning streak on the Clan's home floor. They also won on the home floor of the eventual national champions, the Victoria Vikes. Those feats kept UBC in the top five nationally for most of the year but their season ended unexpectedly early as they were swept by the Calgary Dinos in the first round of the Canada West playoffs.

Failing to reach the National Championships last year will certainly drive the Thunderbirds. "We know we can be there," said guard Carrie Watson of this year's Nationals in Winnipeg. "I think it's going to motivate us even more just to have a bad end to the season. It's going to push us through the [pre-season] and motivate us a lot more throughout the year."

UBC lost two starters from last year's team to graduation; post Carlee St. Denis and forward Brandie Speers. A third player from last year, forward Annie Krygsfeld, left the team to concentrate on her studies in the nursing program. While the losses will hurt the team in terms of experience, a strong group of incoming recruits has the team very excited about their fortunes this year.

"We've brought in a very strong recruiting class, probably the best recruiting class in the history of UBC's Women's basketball," beamed Coach Deb Huband.

Fans of BC high school basketball will be familiar with the newest Thunderbirds. Erica McGuinness from Handsworth and Jane Meadwell from Chilliwack were brought in to help out with UBC's outside shooting while Caitlyn Pankratz from the Brookwood Bobcats and Julie Little from the Palmer Griffins will add height to the team.

Leading those new rookies into battle will be the three top scoring Thunderbirds from last year, Sheila Townsend, Carrie Watson and Kelsey Blair. Townsend knows her role on the team. Not only will she be looked to for the 16 points a game she averaged last year, she also indicated that she expects to provide leadership, along with Watson and fifth-year senior Amanda Beers, to the young players coming in.

Carrie Watson enters her final year of university basketball as UBC's top defender. Not only is she good guarding her bas-



ALL THE WAY: The pre-season is just starting but Deb Huband and her team are already hoping to head to the Nationals in Winnipeg this year. MICHELLE MAYNE PHOTO

ket, she puts the ball into her opponents' ones as well, averaging nearly 14 points a game. She is recovering from a back injury but looks to be fine for the start of the season. Reigning CIS Rookie of the Year, Kelsey Blair should only get better as she now has some experience to add to her talent. UBC will be relying on her every night to pound the boards and grab rebounds. She was the leading rebounder for UBC in 16 of their 28 games overall last year.

Adding to the optimism heading into this season is a chemistry that this team can already sense.

"I think this team could go all the way at the end of the season," said Kelsey Blair. "You can already feel the chemistry and

the fact that there could be a spark there," she added. "I don't think that [making the playoffs] is an unrealistic expectation."

The team's chemistry was developed over the summer as the players got together two/three times a week for open gyms and training sessions as well as playing two tournaments. Upcoming pre-season trips to tournaments in Toronto and Montréal should also ready the team for conference play.

Coach Huband expects to see UBC in the top ten when the first CIS polls come out. The Birds play their first pre-season game tomorrow at War Memorial Gym as they host the Sun Demons from the University College of the Cariboo. The game starts at 2pm. ♦

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