HARDCORE HEAVY METAL
UBC wins 66 medals at Canada West meet.
PAGES 6-7

FRANCO SHIRTLESS, AGAIN!
Marine movie surpasses low expectations.
PAGE 8

YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE
On hypocrisy and handsome barley yields.
PAGE 11

The Ubyssey
www.ubyssey.bc.ca

VOL. LXXXVII N°32
TUESDAY, 31 JANUARY, 2006

Get thee to a nunnery, Colin Farrell since 1918

# Keystone moving on up

## BoG results not yet released, appeal decision pending

by Paul Evans
NEWS EDITOR

Slowly but surely the unofficial Alma Mater Society (AMS) election results trickled in to an eager audience gathered at the Gallery on Friday night.

Current VP Finance Kevin Keystone took the race for President, securing 1949 votes, more than doubling his opponent Jeremy Shell.

"I didn't know how this was going to end up," remarked Keystone.

This election marked Shell's second bid for the AMS' top spot and after hearing the results, he said, "I don't think I represent what this campus wants."

With 1617 votes, David Yuen won his bid for VP Administration, beating rival Sean Kearney, who received 1032 votes.

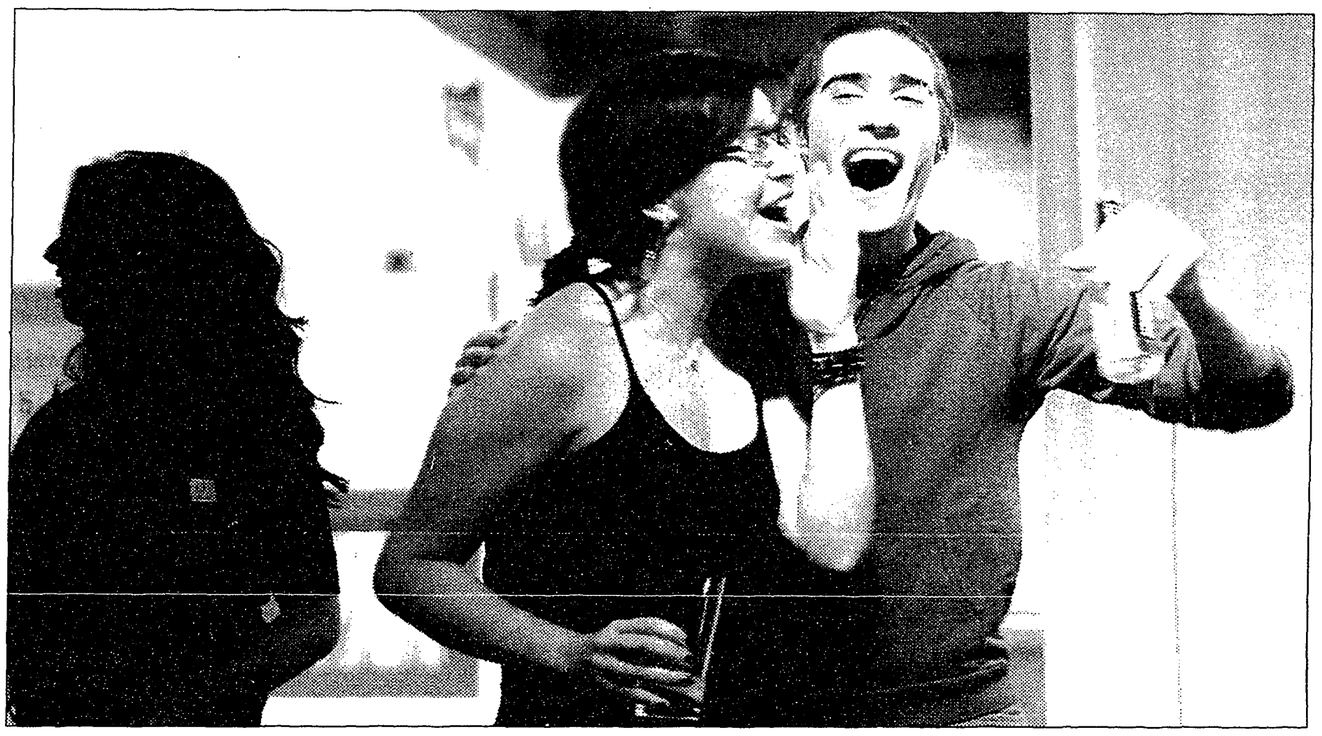
"I'm very pleased with the win," said Yuen. "I felt that the race was well run by all the candidates."

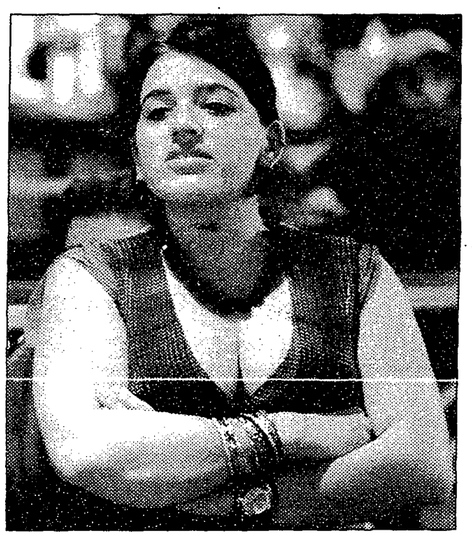
The highly anticipated decision for VP Academic went to Jeff Friedrich, who claimed just over half of the votes cast (1605). He beat Laura Levine (674 votes), Mariana Payet (663 votes), and Colleen Atherton (254 votes).

"I thought it was going to be a lot closer than it was," said Friedrich after hearing the numbers. He added that his campaign's focus on the issue of the UBC Farm helped form an important gathering point for generating support.

Sophia Haque, whose only opponent for the VP Finance spot came from joke candidate Dan Anderson, said that she would have welcomed more serious competition.

"I think the race could have been more legitimate if more people had run," said Haque.





**CHEERS AND JEERS:** AMS hopefuls await their fates Friday night at the Gallery. This year marked highest voter turnout in the last seven years. See election results chart on page 2. TREVOR GILKS AND MICHELLE MAYNE PHOTOS

She garnered 2352 votes for the win.

Like Haque, VP External candidate Ian Patillo needed only to beat a joke candidate to secure his position. He did so handily, earning 1818 votes and beating Cameron Funnell (678 votes).

The only results not announced were for the Board of Governors' seats. The candidates will have to wait until an appeal launched by Lyle McMahon on January 11 is resolved, said Chris Eaton, academic governance officer.

McMahon, an international student, is appealing a ruling rejecting his BoG nomination. The University Act prohibits international students from sitting on BoG.

"I think it's unfortunate but I understand the need the need for

*See "Election Results" page 2.*

# Phasing in the towers

## Phase two design gets approval from BoG but delays cost UBC additional $20 million

by Eric Szeto
NEWS EDITOR

The UBC Board of Governors (BoG) quickly approved the phase two designs for the Marine Drive Towers last week, agreeing to make the two remaining buildings 18 and 17 stories.

The second portion of the towers is expected to deliver another 1000 beds.

This decision was made with news that the year-long delay of construction has added $20 million to the $100 million project—a sum that students living in residence will eventually have to foot.

This could translate into a $240 per year increase for all students in residence when the towers are completed in 2007, said VP Students, Brian Sullivan.

The loss of beds from the tower reductions and delays in design approval contributed to this, he added.

"We were very, very concerned because that's a significant impact and we didn't want this to drag on any longer," explained Sullivan.

The increased costs have come as a result of compromises with outside forces, said Gavin Dew, Alma Mater Society (AMS) VP academic.

"It's not a good thing that this is more expensive, conversely it's a delicate balance," he said. "It is not the students' fault that this has occurred. Unfortunately this is how the business model works and how it's recovered."

The original proposal for Marine Drive Residences called for 2000 new beds. But when the GVRD determined that the first tower exceeded regional district regulations, UBC was forced to redesign and subsequently lost 400 beds in the process.

The phase two designs came under the same scrutiny from Wreck Beach advocates.

The towers, according to Judy Williams, chair of the Wreck Beach Preservation Society (WBPS), will exceed visible tree lines from Wreck Beach and in effect destroy the view.

The Wreck Beach Preservation Society has already sent letters of complaint to the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD).

Williams hopes that the GVRD will reconsider the designs and request that the towers be lowered to 16 stories.

"There is no compromise here...all they've done is bring [the 18 storey towers] into compliance [with GVRD guidelines]," said Williams.

"Every bit of [the BoG] meeting was orchestrated," she said. "It

*See "Marine Towers" page 2.*

# No bulldozing on the Boulevard, yet

## High demand on booming construction market adds further delays to UBC developments

by Eric Szeto
NEWS EDITOR

Skyrocketing prices in the volatile Lower Mainland construction market have caused UBC to delay renovations to one of its major developments.

The University Boulevard project, an ambitious $100 million redesign that was supposed to recreate the entranceway to the University for the spring centennial celebration in 2008, will now be broken down into three different phases.

Parcel A, the area containing the underground bus station and University square, will be pushed back until December 2008 while the subsequent parcels, B and C, won't be completed until 2010 and 2012 respectively.

Given the overly aggressive nature of this project, Gavin Dew, Alma Mater Society (AMS) VP Academic, said he wasn't surprised by the announcement.

"Previously there had been a goal to complete phase one of the project by 2008 and I think that was just ludicrous," said Dew.

"It was an overly ambitious schedule," he added. "It wasn't viable...to try to get it down in that time."

While disappointed, Linda Moore, director of external affairs for U-Town, said that breaking down the project into increments will make it financially feasible.

> "WE KNEW THAT THERE WOULD BE A BUILDING BOOM WITH THE OLYMPICS BUT I DON'T THINK ANYBODY REALISED THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT WOULD IMPACT PROJECTS NOT JUST AT UBC, BUT PROJECTS IN THE LOWER MAINLAND."
>
> *–Linda Moore*
> *Director of External Affairs, U-Town*

"The whole approach is a little more conservative," she explained.

Since the announcement of the 2010 Olympics, demand for construction has exceeded available resources in the Lower Mainland. Sharp spikes in that have already caused UBC to delay its planned construction of a new Empire Pool. This delay resulted in UBC being forced to forgo the hosting of the 2006 Pan-Pacific Swimming Championships.

Nobody, according to Moore,

*See "Boulevard Delay" page 2.*

**Keystone 1949**
Shell 862
Omori 490

**PRESIDENT**

**Friedrich 1605**
Payet 663
Levine 674
Atherton 254

**VP ACADEMIC**

**Haque 2352**
Anderson 800

**VP FINANCE**

**Yuen 1617**
Kearney 1032
Thompson 395

**VP ADMINISTRATION**

**Patillo 1818**
Funnell 678

**VP EXTERNAL**

## Two exec positions lacked serious candidates

*"Election Results" from page 1.*

due process," said BoG candidate Tim Louman-Gardiner.

"I don't find [the delay] surprising, Lyle has a good case," said Darren Peets, speaking on behalf of the Fire Hydrant BoG candidate.

Initial indications show that more students turned out to vote than in previous years but that those students voted for fewer positions each.

"You have a very interesting situation here... not in that you have apathy but a lack of conviction in the choices before them," said AMS President Spencer Keys.

"[Students] showed up to vote but not for every position."

Elections Administrator Ian McKechnie said that in terms ofthe total number of voters, this year marked the highest turnout in the past seven years.

## $20 million increase could lead to $240/year increase for all students in residence in 2007

*"Marine Towers" from page 1.*

was a mockery of due public process."

UBC officials believe that the consultation was fair. According to Denis Pavlich, VP External and Legal Affairs, UBC is pleased to move forward with the development.

"I'm happy with the way the board decided this," said Pavlich. "They looked at the manner from a very principle point of view and they did a fair reconciliation of the two competing interests."

"EVERY BIT OF [THE BOG] MEETING WAS ORCHESTRATED... IT WAS A MOCKERY OF DUE PUBLIC PROCESS."

*–Judy Williams*
*Chair, Wreck Beach Preservation Society*

## New proposal calls for trolleys buses to stay above ground while diesels go below ground

*Boulevard Delay" from page 1.*

would have been able to anticipate the way the construction market has taken off.

"We knew that there would be a building boom with the Olympics but I don't think anybody realised the extent to which it would impact projects not just at UBC, but projects in the Lower Mainland."

Among the changes that have been made to the designs is the structure of the underground bus station. Trolley buses will now stay above surface, rather than the original plan, which called for all buses to descend underground, said Transportation Consultant to UBC, Richard Drdul.

"Anything that isn't a trolley bus will be in the station," said Drdul. "It'll still be below grade, the only change from what was originally presented is the trolley buses are going to be on the surface."

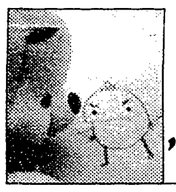
The idea is to still have the busses come as close to the station as possible, he said.

Drdul said that if the underground station was to house the trolley busses, another $7 million would be tacked onto the already cash-strapped project.

Moore rebuked claims that this would compromise the original vision for the University Boulevard development.

"We don't think the trolleys will have a negative impact, in fact, we think that the trolleys might even have a positive impact in terms of bringing more life to the street," she said.

Also announced as part of the modifications, the General Service Administration Building (GSAB) on East Mall, originally slated to be removed as part of parcel C's criteria, will not be removed after all.



## 'TWEENS

**Lunar New Year Celebration**
*C.K. Choi Building*
*February 8, 11:30-2pm*
This is a free event to celebrate the year of the dog. Come see the bootylicious lion dance.

**Lyle Wilson Carving**
*Museum of Anthropology*
*Now to March 31,*
*Tues-Sun 11am-5pm*
Like poles? Come see a live totem pole carving in progress. If you'd like more detailed description of this event, go to www.moa.ubc.ca/exhibits.

**University Singers**
*The Chan Centre*
*February 2,12-1pm*
UBC's school of music hosts this free event.

**Nicola Cavendish in Conversation with Jerry Wasserman**
Frederic Wood Theatre
February 1, 12-1pm
Nicola Cavendish comes to UBC to talk about her art. And the best part: it's absolutely free! www.theatre.ubc.ca

**"Managing Canada's Nuclear Waste: The Ultimate Engineering-Sustainability Challenge"**
*MacLeod Building, Rm 202*
*January 31, 11-12:15pm*
If you want to listen to garbage, come out today!

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Announcements

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY HAVING PANCAKES FOR BREAKFAST!** UBC Circle K Volunteers is putting on a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation, a charity helping African children affected by AIDS. Wed, Feb 8 @ SUB Partyroom. 7 ??? 11:30am. BE THERE!

### Volunteer Opportunities

**GRAD STUDENTS.** = The Vancouver Society for Sexuality, Gender, and Culture, a non-profit society, seeks members for working committee and board member roles. This is an extraordinary volunteer experience for Grad students in the area of Health, Counseling, Education, or Business. Contact: Michael. VSSGC@telus.net or (778)837-1575

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TWO UPCOMING EVENTS** @ Science World for Odyssey of the Mind, a program designed to encourage problem solving in school children. Must be able to attend training sessions in Burnaby. Email odysseybc@gmail.com for more information.

### Accommodation Wanted

**CARING UBC STUDENT** looking for housing for February or sooner. Seeking safe, warm, stable environment with other females. Must be in university area, in Kits, West Point Grey, or Dunbar (north of 45th, west of Balsam roughly). Aesthetic environment, in the $550/ rent range maximum. Much prefer main floor suite, or non-basement. Please contact Naomi Hart at (604)221-1856 or email naomala@hotmail.com with subject. Thank You.

### Free Stuff

**FREE STUFF!** Free Zenith 26" Color TV and Simmons loveseat hideabed. Both good condition. Must be picked up from Arbutus area- own car required. Call 604-738-5497.

### Employment Opportunities

**ADVENTURE!** Teach English Worldwide. Earn Money. Get TESOL Certified in 5 days. Study In-Class, Online, or by Correspondence. No degree or experience needed. Job guaranteed. To learn more, come to a FREE Info Session Monday @ 6PM, #203 1451 West Broadway. 1-888-270-2941. globaltesol.com

### Employment

**INSTRUCTOR POSITIONS.** Exam prep service – www.prep101.com - seeks instructors in Biochemistry, Chemistry (Physical, Organic) and Economics. Candidates should possess graduate degree, excellent spoken English, and teaching experience. Positions are part-time on weekends and offer excellent remuneration. Interested? Email resume to andy@prep101.com

**JOBS!** SPRING & SUMMER IN KELOWNA! Landscape Company seeks hardworking detail-oriented people with excellent inter-personal skills. Gardening & irrigation exp. an asset. Fulltime &partime. Extra pay for own truck. Send cover letter, resume, refs to P.O. Box 25035, Mission Park PO, Kelowna BC V1W 3Y7

### Buy & Sell

**L SHAPED ALL-IN-ONE BEIGE MELAMINE DESK** with two bottom drawers/ three top drawers/ bulletin board $60.00. Two 4-shelf matching melamine bookcases each $30.00. One matching melamine file cabinet with two drawers legal-size $25.00. Can sell as a set or individually. Call Maggie @ 604-324-6045

**FOR SALE: FEMALE ICE SKATES-SIZE 8-LIKE NEW-COST $25.00.** Dragon Boat Paddle-standard size-used for one season only-in excellent condition-cost $35.00-call Maggie @604-324-6045

### Services

**THE BIKE KITCHEN** is your on-campus, student-owned, non-profit bike shop! New & used bikes, parts, storage accessories, bike repairs and bike repair instruction, tool use, bike storage and volunteer opportunities. On the north side of the SUB. 604-827-7333. bikekitchen@gmail.com

### Callboard

Graduate student interdisciplinary conference. **CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!** Due Feb 3rd to conference@gss.ubc.ca details: http://www.gss.ubc.ca/conference/papers.html

**FREE CLASSIFIEDS FOR STUDENTS!**

Looking for a roommate?

Got something to sell?

Or just have an announcement to make?

If you are a student, you can place classifieds for FREE!

For more information, visit Room 23 in the SUB (basement) or call 822-1654.


# The Ubyssey

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EDITORIAL BOARD

COORDINATING EDITOR *Jesse Marchand*
coordinating@ubyssey.bc.ca

NEWS EDITORS *Paul Evans & Eric Szeto*
news@ubyssey.bc.ca

CULTURE EDITOR *Simon Underwood*
culture@ubyssey.bc.ca

SPORTS EDITOR *Megan Smyth*
sports@ubyssey.bc.ca

FEATURES/NATIONAL EDITOR
*Bryan Zandberg*
features@ubyssey.bc.ca

PHOTO EDITOR *Yinan Max Wang*
photos@ubyssey.bc.ca

PRODUCTION MANAGER *Michelle Mayne*
production@ubyssey.bc.ca

COORDINATORS

VOLUNTEERS *Colleen Tang*
volunteers@ubyssey.bc.ca

RESEARCH/LETTERS *Claudia Li*
feedback@ubyssey.bc.ca

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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 *Bernadette Delaquis*

AD DESIGN *Shalene Takara*


Kian Mintz Woo, Aaron Carr and Megan McCanley made dinner reservations at chez Serena Iam, a new restaurant owned by Peter Warran and Jill Orsten. The hostess, Amanda Thiscott answered the phone. "Sorry, Sean Lee Levi Barnett, Ada Chen and Candice Okada have reserved the last tables." Luckily, Cheata Nao, Alvina Lo, Colleen Tang and Mary Leighton were having a dinner party. Boris Korby and Kellan Higgins showed up as well, followed by Carolynne Burkolder and Eric Szeto. "Let's get this party started," shouted Simon Underwood and Michelle Mayne. Consequently, Claudia Li, Basil Evans and Megan Smyth went on a beer run. At the liquor store they ran into Champagne Choquer, Yinan Max Wang, Andrew MacRae and Bryan Zandberg. Back at the party Jesse Marchand and Momoleo Price came down with a bad case of food poisoning. Nadya Belland and Tia Town-Schon drove them to the hospital where they were examined by Dr. Chris Hergesheimer, Dr. Ross Prusakowski, and nurse Sarah Colgrave. Werd.


EDITORIAL GRAPHIC *Simon Underwood*

Canadian University Press

Canada Post Sales Agreement Number 0040878022

# U of A campaigns for tobacco ban

by Ross Prusakowski
THE GATEWAY (UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA)

EDMONTON (CUP)—Students across the University of Alberta campus might soon be able to exit a building without having to plunge into a cloud of smoke or trample on a carpet of cigarette butts if third-year Physical Education student Shereen Kangarloo gets her wish.

Kangarloo, who has been involved in tobacco-reduction groups for four years, is circulating a petition in the hopes of putting the question of a campus-wide tobacco ban on the ballot during the student union elections in March.

With the petition only 400 short of the 1600 signatures required, students will likely be presented with a plebiscite banning the use and sale of tobacco products on University property, to be effective July 1, 2006.

An exception would allow for smoking around residences until July 1, 2008, at which point the same conditions would come into effect. This would bring the University of Alberta in line with Dalhousie University in Halifax, which has been leading this type of initiative in Canada. If implemented, it would make the U of A's smoking ban more stringent than the city of Edmonton's.

"Ever since I became involved and began to know about tobacco and its effects, I realised that tobacco should be off campus, and that's kind of my goal," said Kangarloo. "I'm pretty hopeful that the situation on campus will change through this, but I don't know if it will be the drastic, full-on change as proposed in the question."

However, achieving any change could be difficult because of the way the electoral system is set up. Plebiscites are not legally binding on the student union, or the university administration and serve only as a sign of student opinion on issues.

But according to science councilor Steve Kirkham—who has previously tried and failed to have the student union cease selling tobacco products—the student union and the University would be foolish to ignore the results if students voted overwhelmingly in favour of the ban, particularly since a wellness report produced by the University's Senate in July 2003 recommended a campus-wide tobacco ban.

**FUMING?** A campus-wide ban on smoking soon? Maybe? **YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO**

"I certainly hope [the University] will pursue this in good faith," Kirkham said. "It could get the ball rolling a little faster, and if it's something that students support, they could actually have it implemented."

"That's exactly why there are dates here: to try and convince the University to do something."

A University administration official declined to comment on how the University would react if students voted in favour of a ban. However, current student union VP Operations and Finance Jason Tobias said it was extremely likely the student council would use the results to make a final decision about tobacco sales.

"Eventually we're going to have to come to a consensus on if we should be selling tobacco products and using that revenue to fund student services, or whether it's just unacceptable for us to be doing that," he said.

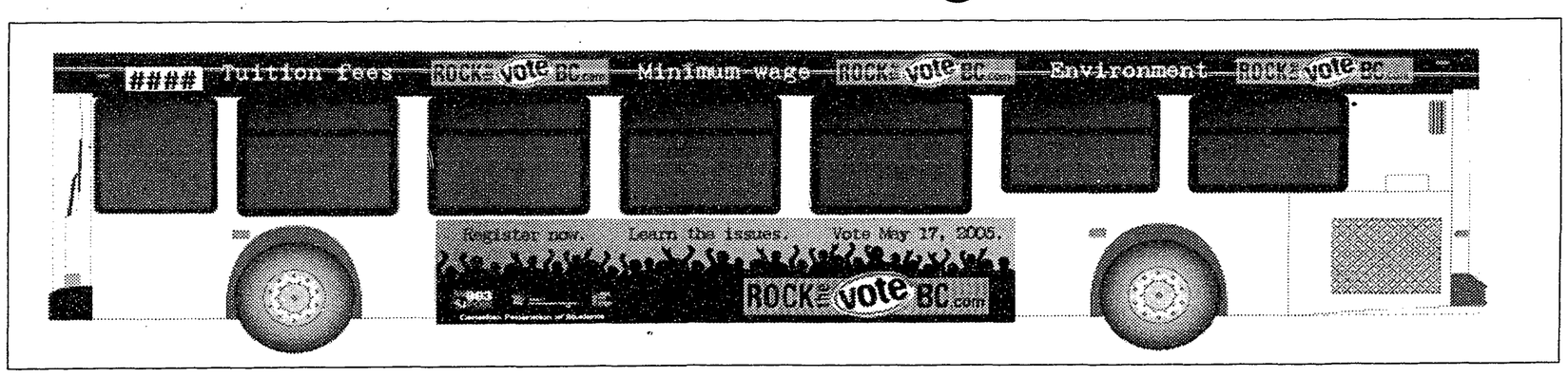
"Council has yet to come to a decision on that, and once they have a plebiscite result to illustrate where the wind's blowing from the electorate, then I think that's going to send a pretty strong signal either way."

Although a vote would be non-binding, Kangarloo is optimistic a majority of students will support a ban, given that only 3.9 per cent of them smoke regularly, according to a 2004 survey. She also believes that, at the very least, her petition and plebiscite drive will create some debate about the issue on campus.

"It's not that [the student union and the University] don't care; it's that they just don't seem to want to change anything if students aren't saying anything about it," said Kangarloo. "So if I can get a good number of people signing the petition and then voting for [a tobacco ban], then they may do something about it.

"I just want the word out and people talking about it."

# Translink and Rock the Vote go to court over ads




**NOT COMING TO A BUS NEAR YOU:** The advertisement pictured above was rejected by Translink. **YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO**

by Eric Szeto
NEWS EDITOR

A BC Supreme Court case that would determine whether Translink's ban on political advertising is constitutional is expected to come to a decision in March.

Rock the Vote BC, a coalition of different organisations that includes the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and the British Columbia Teachers Federation (BCTF) mounted an advertising campaign aimed at increasing voter turnout for the 2005 BC election.

Things turned sour when Translink abruptly pulled the plug on the project, ruling the ads were too political.

"We were told [by Translink] first that they were partisan," said Scott Payne, CFS BC national executive representative.

Translink has a strict policy that prohibits the running of any advertisements that are political or controversial in nature.

"When [the CFS] went through the arguments about why they weren't overtly political...we were referred to a policy of Translink, regarding what ads go on buses," he said.

One of the ads said: "Register Now. Learn the issues. Vote May 17, 2005." It also contained the words tuition fees, minimum wage, and environment, and had the organisation's website plastered along the top.

Payne claims that ads that have run in the past have been far more political, however.

"We've run ads encouraging participating in various political events that we've organised, days of action...addressing specific issues in regards to post-secondary education that were much more pointed than anything these ads said."

"The decision was arbitrary and more politically motivated on Translink's part than in terms of the political content in the ads themselves," Payne said.

Catherine Boies Parker, a constitutional lawyer representing the students' and teachers' federations, echoed Payne's remarks.

"As I understand it, they've run pro-Olympic ads, at least one of the bus systems have birth-right ads which people would argue are political," she said.

"They can't have any political ads, and they can't have any controversial ads—and we say that is an unjustifiable infringement."

A blanket prohibition on all political ads, said Parker, is not legitimate unless there is a compelling reason to do so.

She claims that prohibiting ads restricts certain charter rights, specifically political speech.

"Political speech is...the most important kind of speech there is to Canadian society so you have to have a real strong justification before you're going to limit it."

The judge has not ruled yet whether there is an infringement on whether its not justified or not, said Boies Parker, but it will come out in the next decision.

The CFS is also seeking a damage claim of about $10,000 for the costs "thrown away," said Mark Underhill, a constitutional lawyer also representing the students and teachers federation.

Translink has declined to comment until a verdict is made on the case.

# Blood drive at McGill shut down after protest

by Sarah Colgrove
THE MCGILL DAILY (MCGILL UNIVERSITY)

MONTREAL (CUP) — Héma-Québec shut down its on-campus blood drive at McGill this week after students lined up in drag and blasted "Tainted Love" to protest the collection agency's policy that excludes men who have had sex with men (MSM) from donating blood.

About 30 would-be donors, half of them demonstrators, had registered and were waiting to see a nurse when the blood drive was closed, about an hour after demonstrators lined up inside the building where the drive was taking place.

Héma-Québec director Pierre Julien said that prior to shutting down the centre he had received a tip that people would appear and lie about their sexual history. Posters that appeared across campus on Tuesday invited students to "act faggy, do drag, and lie about [their] sexual history," in solidarity with MSM.

"We cannot accept people who are lying—we can't take that risk," said Julien before he closed the drive. He refused to comment further.

However, demonstrators said they were not encouraging ineligible people to lie and donate blood, but urging people who were eligible to invent unusual circumstances that might prevent them from donating.

"People are going to lie...in order to expose the sexual prejudices underlying the exclusion policies," explained Adrian Bondy, a third-year Linguistics student. "We're not trying to include anyone who couldn't donate under the current restrictions."

Bondy said that the current policy is left over from early conceptions of AIDS that equated homosexuality and deviance with the virus.

"This is overt discrimination that limits the blood supply," he said.

Some demonstrators were planning to say that they were women who had had sex with an MSM, and to ask why they were eligible, while their partner would not be.

Héma-Québec's current policy permanently bans any man who has had sex with a man since 1977 from donating blood, whereas a woman who has had sex with an MSM is excluded for only one year.

"Why can an MSM who has always worn protection not give blood whereas a woman who has always had unprotected sex can?" asked Jamie Cudmore, a second-year International Development Studies student.

In an impromptu meeting at the beginning of the demonstration, Héma-Québec organisers said that they would not close down the drive as long as demonstrators did not lie during the screening process.

However when student union President Adam Conter and VP Communications and Events Roz Freeman tried to explain that demonstrators would only lie to make a statement, not to become eligible, Julien threatened to block demonstrators from giving blood. The executives said that they convinced Julien not to shut out the demonstrators. But at 3:30 p.m., he shut down the entire blood drive, saying it would open again in the morning.

Freeman said the student union would be increasing its pressure on Héma-Québec to revisit its policy in the coming weeks, beginning with a meeting with the blood organisation's chair. Last semester, the student council sent a letter requesting a reevaluation, but Héma-Québec has taken no action so far.

Marcel Beaudere, who has volunteered for eight years with Héma-Québec, reiterated Héma-Québec's stance that MSM are the highest-risk group for HIV infection, and that excluding them from donating blood protects blood recipients. He added that nurses may mark a donation if they think that a recipient is lying, and that it might be thrown away.

One Héma-Québec employee, who spoke under the condition of anonymity because employees are not allowed to speak to the press, speculated that the blood drive was closed to save money.

"If those people give blood, their samples are going to be questionable, and if we have to throw away a bag of blood, [that's] between 300 and 400 dollars," said the employee.

www.ubyssey.bc.ca

Photography?
You?
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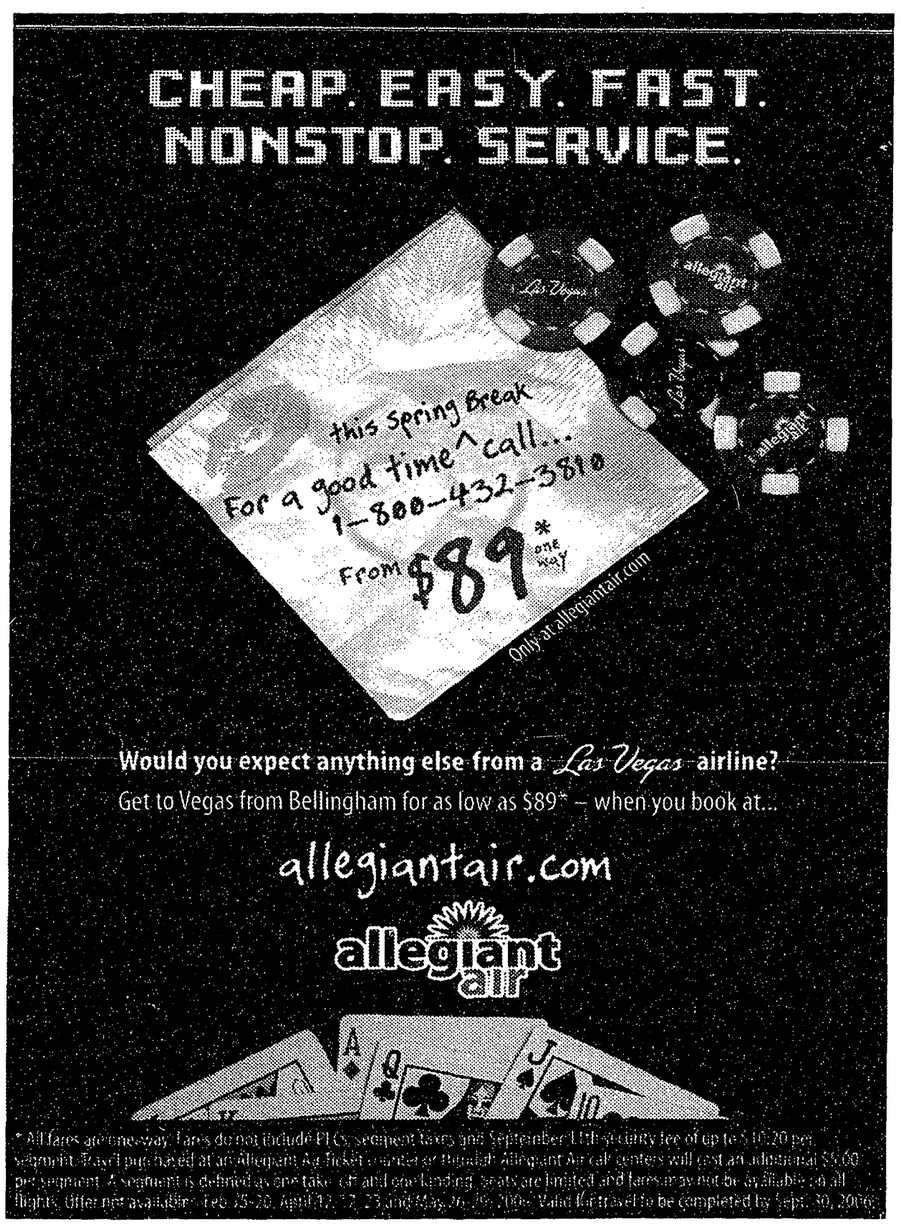


# Harper makes a date with new parliament

## Arctic sovereignty a priority for new Prime Minister

by Nadya Bell
CUP OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF

OTTAWA (CUP)—After narrowly winning the federal election, Stephen Harper said his government would "get to work on delivering change," starting on February 6.

On that day, the Governor-General will swear in new MPs, read the speech from the throne, and the Cabinet will be named.

Prime Minister Designate Stephen Harper spoke to journalists in the foyer of the House of Commons on January 27, responding to a select few questions.

"There will be difficult situations, minority governments are never easy, but all parties recognise that Canadians have chosen the second minority parliament in less than two years," said Harper.

"They want us to get to work on delivering change, and we will be ready to lead that change."

First in French, then following in English, Harper outlined his plan for the next week and repeated his priorities from his victory speech election night.

Accountability legislation is Harper's top priority, which will follow the second Gomery report on February 1. Tax reductions, including cutting the GST, and resolving the fiscal imbalance between the federal and provincial governments are also on the agenda.

For social issues, Harper said he would implement their day-care plan, toughen up the criminal justice system and consult with the provinces to reduce healthcare wait times. Harper also said he would like to call a free vote on same-sex marriage "sooner, rather than later."

Harper said he will work on issues that are supported by all parties. Although all parties included a dedicated post-secondary education payment to the provinces in their election platforms, education issues did not make Harper's list of priorities.

In preparation for the speech from the throne, Harper said he would consult with the other party leaders when drafting the speech.

"I'll be open to hearing as much input as they want to give, but it will ultimately be my decision," said Harper.

In Paul Martin's first term, Harper and Bloc leader Gilles Duceppe introduced amendments to the throne speech, which were accepted by the Liberal party.

After speaking with provincial and several world leaders, including US President George Bush, Mexican President Vicente Fox, and Governor of the Bank of Canada David Dodge, Harper said he would be meeting this week with the Chief of Defense Staff Rick Hiller, and the head of the RCMP.

Harper said his conversation with George Bush was largely congratulatory, and he did not discuss any serious issues. Harper had been strongly critical of Paul Martin for failing to discuss many issues with the American president, including softwood lumber, mad cow disease, and the situation in Iraq.

Frank McKenna resigned as Canadian ambassador to the US on January 25. Harper said he would replace the diplomat with someone close to the Prime Minister. In the past, he had been critical of the political nature of the appointment, saying the job should be a non-partisan position.

Harper said it remains to be seen whether his government will recognise the Palestinian election results.

"We support a secure Israel and a democratic Palestine, but for a nation to be truly democratic that nation must renounce any use of terrorism," said Harper.

Arctic sovereignty was an important issue for Harper, as he specifically responded to US ambassador David Wilkins's statement that they don't recognise Canada's claims to the Arctic.

Harper said that they would be reinforcing Canada's presence in the North. "The Canadian government will defend our sovereignty," said Harper. "We have significant plans for national defense and defense of our sovereignty, including artic sovereignty. We believe we have a mandate for those from the Canadian people, not from the US ambassador to Canada." ■

# T-Birds sweep over Calgary Dinos

## UBC's second-ranked women's volleyball team pulls through tough third sets over the weekend

by Cheata Nao
SPORTS WRITER

The UBC women's volleyball team cleaned house this weekend as they won both games against the Calgary Dinos, both times needing four sets to dispatch of the Dinos.

Saturday's game was a game that the second-ranked Thunderbirds should have won in three sets, but a rash of errors and mental mistakes in the third set forced the women to take the game in four against the third-ranked Dinos. In the end the T-birds defeated the Dinos 25-18, 25-22, 24-26, 25-19.

In the first set of Saturday's game both teams were see-sawing for points until Calgary was able to take a 15-12 lead. However, that didn't last long as UBC went on to take the next eight points. The Dinos tried to fight their way back into the set, but strong serves that looked as if they were barely going to clear the net by middle Shelley Chalmers and a block by fellow middle Danielle Van Huzein won the set for the birds 25-18.

Again in the second set Van Huzein took the set point.

The third set was not as dominating for the Birds as the first two were. They came out strong and were on serve for match point at 24-23, but the resilient Dinos fought back to save match point by capitalising on T-Bird errors and taking the next three points and ending set 26-24 in their favour.

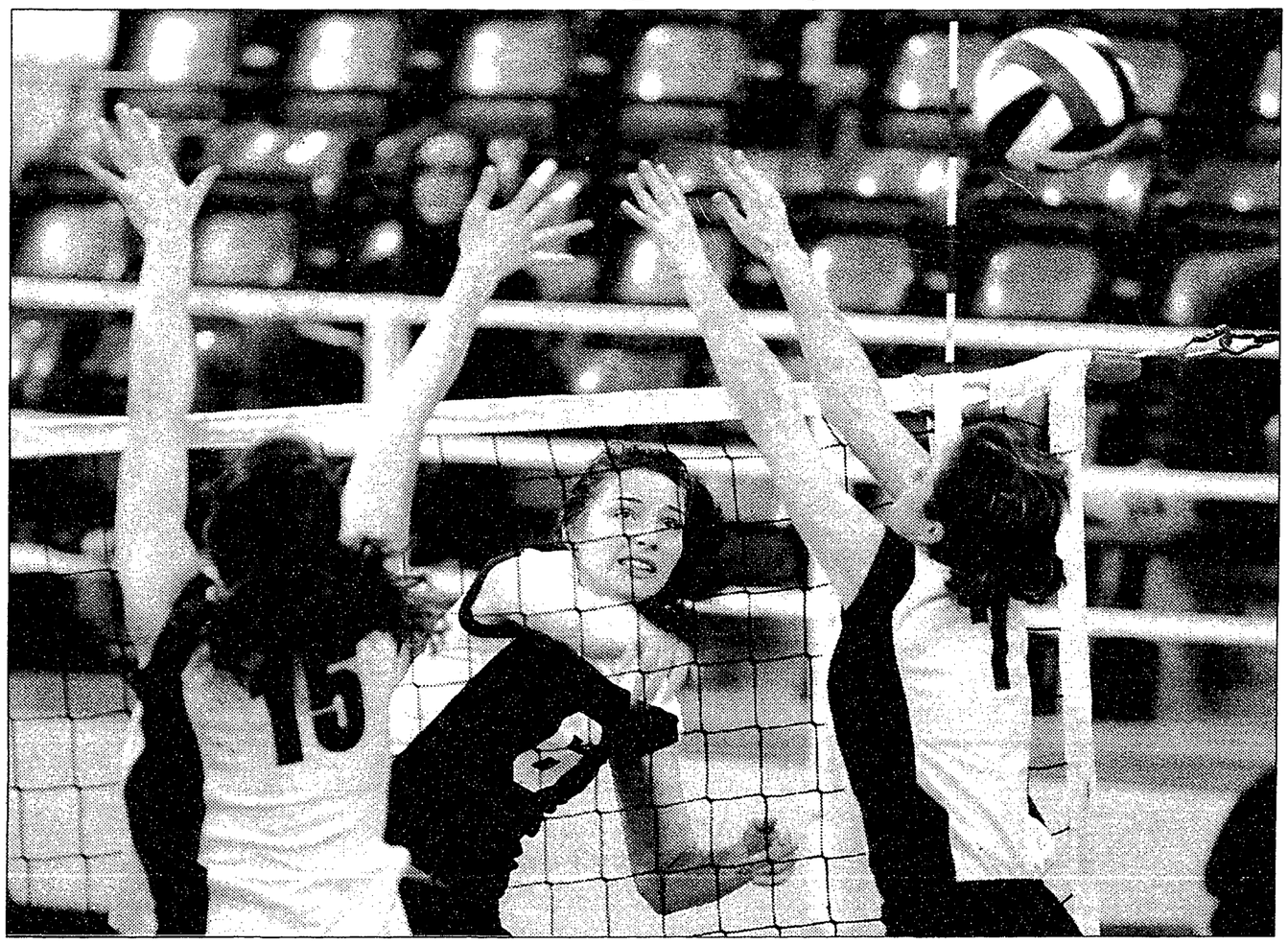
"Against a team like Calgary if you give them a little bit they'll take it," said coach Doug Reimer. "I could see them playing with a little bit more bite."

The Dinos came out hitting in the fourth set, but it wasn't enough against the Birds. UBC got strong net play by Chalmers and Van Huzein and powerful hitting by Emily Cordonier, including the kill to win the set and the match. Cordonier lead all players with 23 kills in the match. While Chalmers and Van Huzein, combined for 20 kills and nine blocks. Defence was key to winning Saturday's game as fifth-year Kirby Dow had a team high of 14 digs and no player on the Dino's reached double digit numbers in kills.

"I felt the game belonged to our middle blockers. When we have great middle blockers it opens it up for our outside hitters. It was a good team effort," said Cordonier of how the team was able to win Saturday.

Sunday was much the same as Saturday. The Birds came out and dominated the first two sets of the match. They took an early lead in the first and wouldn't let the Dinos get back in it.

It was again the third set that gave the Thunderbirds trouble. UBC was leading the set 16-13, but Calgary went on to take seven of the next eight points and the next thing you know it was set point for the Dinos. A cross-court kill from Dow managed to save one set point, but it wasn't enough as the Dinos went on to take the set 25-22.



**BIRD BLOCK:** The UBC women's volleyball team took down the Dinos twice in last weekends games.
YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO

The Birds could have let the third set bog them down, but as a true testament to their character they fought back to take the set easily 25-16. In the end the T-Birds defeated the Dinos 25-17, 25-15, 22-25, 25-16.

"It was more of a character-builder today," said Chalmers. "We didn't have that energy and we had to push harder in certain aspects of the game."

The T-Birds were strong in all aspects of their game on Sunday. Fifth-year players Van Huzein, Cordonier, and Chalmers led the offense with a combined total of 39 kills.

The hard hitting by the Birds was too much for Calgary to handle as they only racked up a total of two team blocks on Sunday. The T-Bird defense was firing on all cylinders during Sunday's game.

"We needed to bring our blocking more," said Chalmers. "They were beating us a lot cross court yesterday from their right side and we need to bring that in and I think we did. We shut them down for a while."

UBC heads out to Langley for a pair of games against conference rivals Trinity Western on Friday and Saturday. Trinity Western is currently sitting in second place in the Pacific division just behind UBC.

"Trinity runs a really fast offense," said assistant coach Jesse Knight. "I expect a packed house....and a lot of energy and a playoff atmosphere for sure. [UBC] is excited about that situation. We'll be ready."

SPORTS

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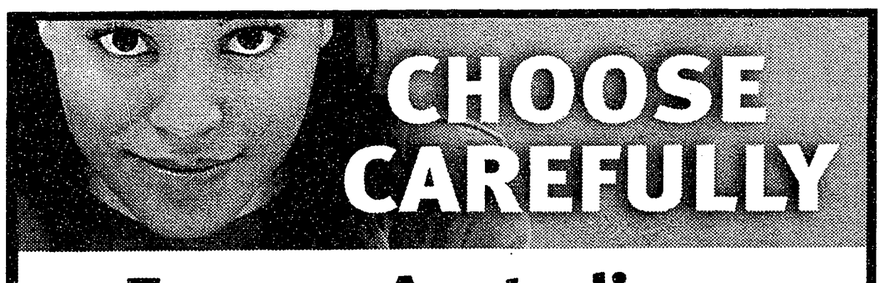


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# Swimming by the numbers

by Tia Town-Schon
SPORTS WRITER

Numbers on the clock are the most important aspect of any swim race. UBC Swim Birds managed to put up some strong numbers this past weekend. Hosting the Canada West Championships, UBC took it to the visiting teams. Records fell, medals were won, times were bested, and another Canada West Championship (CW) was bestowed upon the swim team. UBC finished the weekend in first place, the women collecting 864 points, the men 948. Calgary came in second; their men had 569.5 and their women 507.

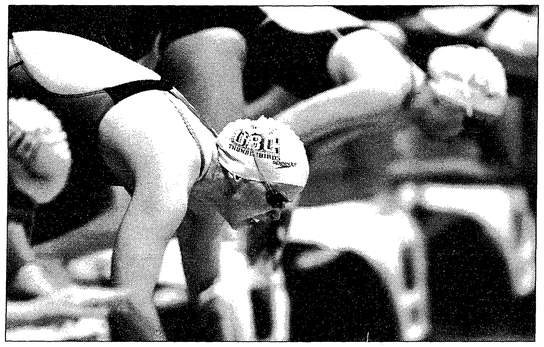
Out of 38 events UBC won 28, came second in 22 and third in 16, meaning out of a possible 114 medals UBC took 66. UBC placed a swimmer in the top three of every event, except one. There were 118 top eight finishes by UBC swimmers. Eight pool records and 11 meet records were broken. Scott Dickens broke one of the longest standing records, from 1990 in the 200m breaststroke. Second-year Callum Ng broke the meet record in the 100 backstroke, previously held by Mark Versfeld; Ng's turns and starts pushed him far ahead of the pack.

Swimming, however, is also a team sport. UBC swept the relays, with the men's 4x100m medley relay smashing the CW record. The swimmers worked together to sweep five events: men's 100 butterfly (placing one through six), women's 200IM and men's 200 Fly, (one through four), men's 200m backstroke and 100m breaststroke (one through three).

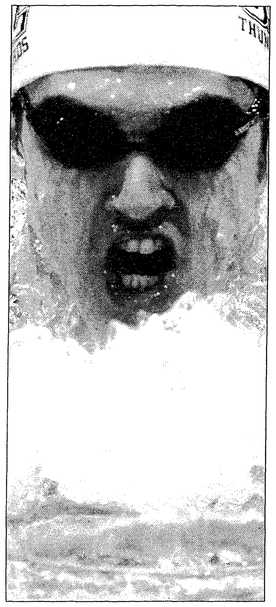
Rookies Erin Miller, Sandy Lockhart, Leo Ho and Carmen Block all strongly contributed to the medal count, Miller tying and breaking records in the 50m and 100m fly. Lockhart swam to a second place finish in the 1500m freestyle, to win male Rookie of the meet. Ho and Block also placed in the top three. Rookie Agatha Soful achieved her CIS standard time in the 400m Freestyle while being cheered on by the team from the deck.

Commonwealth team members Scott Dickens and Brian Johns were golden in five events each. Following her recent World Cup successes Caitlin Meredith took home the most hardware with eight medals. Directly behind her were Hayley Doody, Ng and Commonwealth team member Darryl Rudolf with seven. Doody also won the female swim of the meet for her 400m freestyle in which she broke ex-Bird Jessica Deglau's record. Rudolf also broke meet records in the 50 and 100m fly.

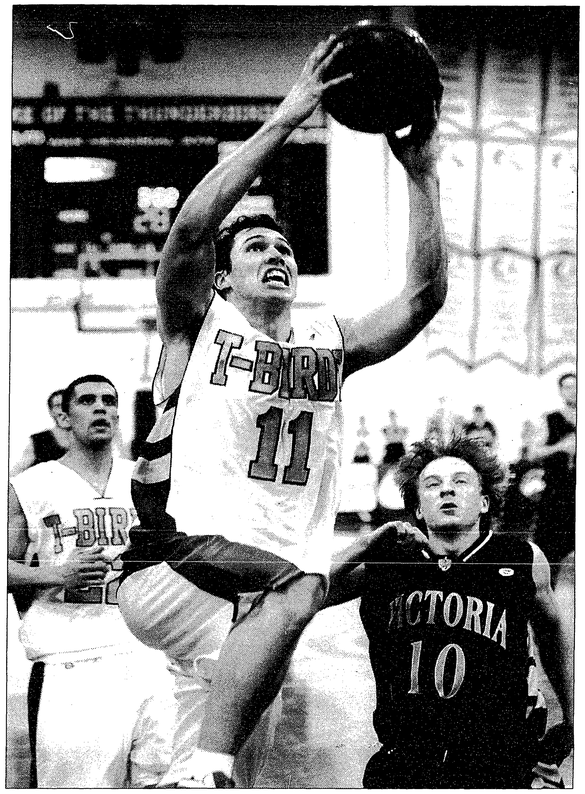
Pushing all the way to the wall and losing by .04 seconds: heartbreaking. Beating your closest competition by the largest point margin ever recorded: priceless.



**READY, SET, GO:** Block and Cooper take to the water for the Thunderbirds. YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO



YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO



**GOING IN FOR THE KILL:** T-Bird Casey Archibald, #11, jumps up for another shot during last Friday's game against UVic. The Birds reigned supreme. YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO

# UBC wins low scoring affair

## Sixty-five points—a season low for high-octane T-birds

by Boris Korby
SPORTS STAFF

UBC has been winning with offence this season, but it's their unheralded defence that's the reason they remain undefeated after Saturday night's win at the War Memorial Gym.

The T-birds were able to escape with a 65-62 victory despite scoring a season low against the Nation's No. 4 ranked University of Victoria Vikes.

"I think [our defence] is overlooked because we score so many points and we like to play that up-tempo style of basketball, but we know that when push comes to shove we're able to guard as well," said guard Chad Clifford, who earned player of the game honours.

Pasha Bains led the way for UBC once again with 20 points, eight rebounds and four assists, and Clifford came off the bench and chipped in with 13 points, including four critical free throws down the stretch to push the Nation's No. 1 ranked T-birds to 16-0 in conference play and 22-2 overall.

The Thunderbirds managed to hold the Vikes to 39.7 percent shooting from the floor, containing a UVic team that had won nine of its last ten before entering the weekend series against UBC.

"Sixty-five to 62 is definitely more suited to the UVic style of basketball but I feel like that just shows you how versatile we are as a team. We're able to guard, and to hold a great team like UVic to only 62 points is a great accomplishment defensively for our team," added Clifford.

The T-birds dominated most of the first half before going cold in the last five minutes to let UVic back within seven as they headed to the dressing room.

A 13-5 UVic run to start the second half got the Vikes back into the lead for the first time since the opening minutes at 41-40. The teams traded leads the rest of the way until Chad Clifford took control with the Vikes ahead 60-59 with two and a half minutes left to play.

Clifford completed a three-point play after going hard to the rim and then got to the line and drained a pair on UBC's next possession to put the T-birds ahead by four.

After Bains sunk one of two from the stripe to put the Thunderbirds up 65-62 with 30 seconds left, former UBC guard Brandon Ellis missed three attempts from long distance in the game's final seconds, giving UBC the sweep in the weekend series.

"We didn't score for the last four or five minutes of the first half and then the first couple minutes of the second half. Credit to their defence, but at the same time we were just unable to execute some of the things that we wanted to do on the offensive end, and I feel like when we got our low post established, got some easy buckets, then we were able to get a little bit of a rhythm. But at the same time Uvic is a great basketball team because they force you to play their style of game," added Clifford.

Ryder McKeown scored ten points, Casey Archibald had nine points and eight rebounds, and Jordan Yu added eight points and four assists for UBC in the victory.

The win allowed the T-birds to clinch first place in the Canada West Pacific Division with four games still to play in the regular season, guaranteeing them home court throughout the playoffs, which begin in mid-February.

In Friday night's game, Casey Archibald dropped 32 points to lead UBC in a 93-74 route of UVic.

Next up for the Thunderbirds is a home series against rivals SFU at the War Memorial Gym on February 2 and 3.

# T-Birds hang on for hard-fought win

## UBC continues their winning ways with 2-1 victory over the University of Regina

by Boris Korby
SPORTS STAFF

Centre Darrell May got the game winner on the power-play with four minutes left in the second period and goaltender Gerry Festa made 23 saves, as the T-birds held on for a 2-1 win over the University of Regina Cougars at the UBC Winter Sports Complex on Friday night.

With head coach Milan Dragicevic serving a one game suspension for a post game altercation in Saskatoon last Saturday, the Thunderbirds elevated their play in his absence, out-shooting the Cougars 30-24 and outplaying them throughout most of the game.

Special teams were the difference for UBC Friday night, as the T-birds went two for six with the man advantage while the penalty kill was perfect in killing all six Regina power-plays.

"Our power-play won us the game tonight," said Dragicevic. "We've been working on specialty teams all week and we were rewarded with two power-play goals."

"We generated some offence putting the puck on the net. The biggest thing was defencemen getting some shots through and getting some rebounds and that [allowed us] to score."

Gerry Festa had a stellar performance in goal for UBC in the victory, making a number of difficult saves in the second and third periods to preserve the win.

"I thought Festa was dominant throughout the whole game but especially in the first ten minutes of the second period when we didn't play very well. I thought he really rose to the occasion and really won the game for us right then," added Dragicevic. "He was the difference [tonight]."

Regina opened the scoring mid-way through the first period on a goal from forward Jason Weitzel. However, UBC was able to equalise six minutes later on the power-play, when defenceman Jarrett Winn snuck down from the point and fired a one-timer from the high slot past Regina goaltender Clint Chalmers. UBC took the lead for good with four minutes left in the second frame when May slid a rebound past a scrambling Chalmers for the eventual game winner.

In the backend of the two game series, Jarrett Winn, Chad Grisdale and Kyle Bruce led the way for UBC with two points each, as UBC rolled to a 6-2 victory over Regina.

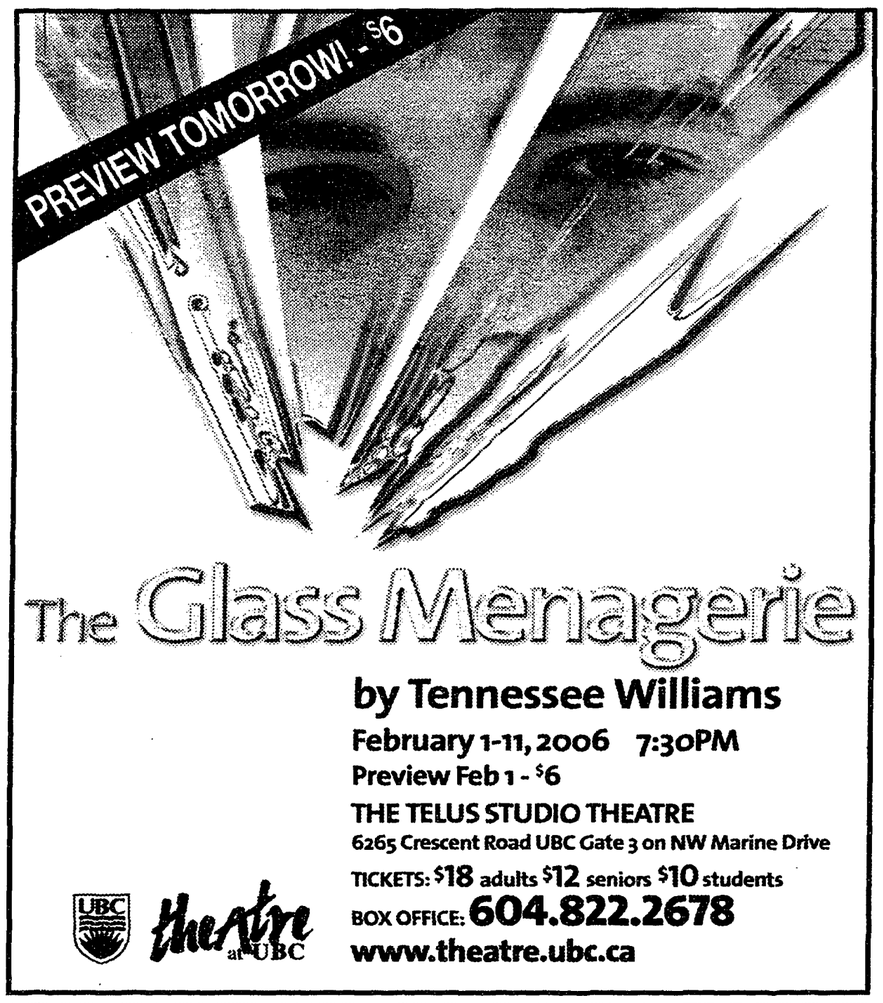
The T-birds have won six of their last seven games and maintained their slim one point lead over the University of Calgary in their quest to secure a home playoff berth for the first time in 35 years.

The Thunderbirds are in Alberta in the upcoming weeks, facing the University of Alberta in Edmonton on February 3 and 4, and then traveling to Calgary to face the Dinos in a critical series the following weekend.

**CLOSE CALL:** UBC goalie Gerry Festa blocks out Regina's goal, keeping the T-Birds in the lead. YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO

### Game Notes

The T-birds are now 10-11-1 in regular season play and are above .500 (14-12-1) overall for the first time since the beginning of the season. Defenceman Chad Grisdale earned player of the game honours. Left-Wing Dustin Paul was playing in his 100th career game with the Thunderbirds. Assistant coaches Mike Ikeda and Ian Lampshire ran the bench in the absence of head coach Milan Dragicevic.

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6) Events
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8) Post Mortem

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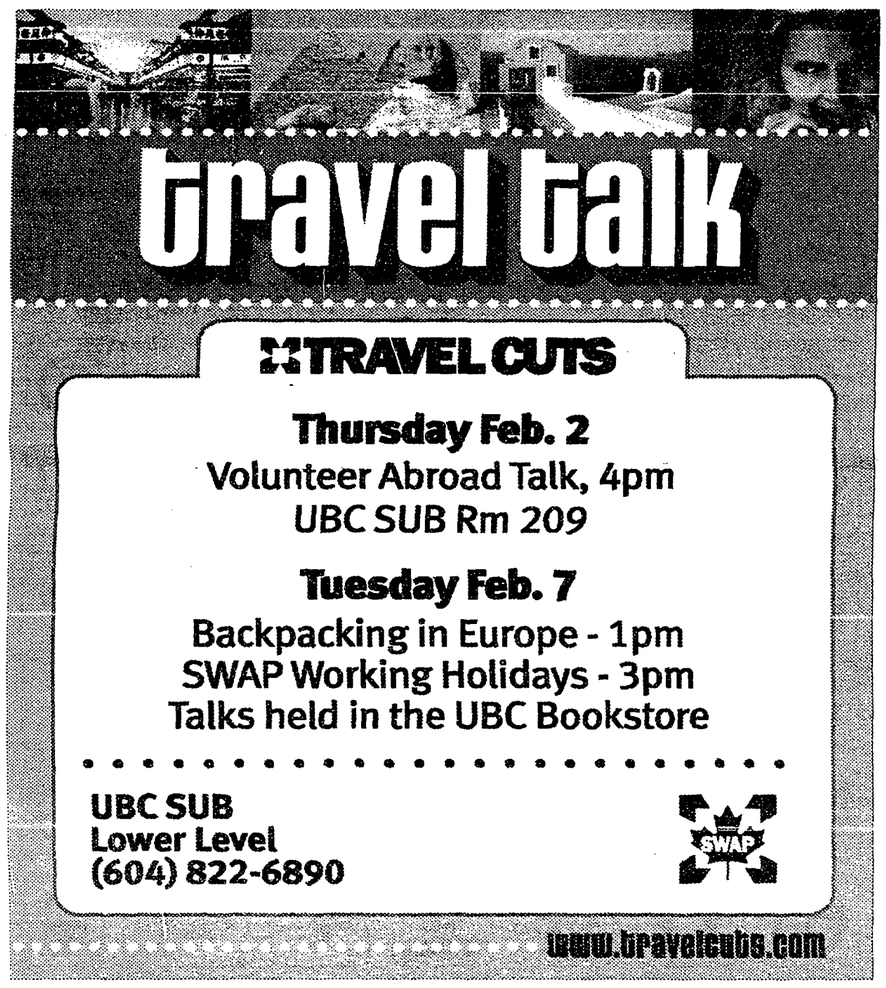

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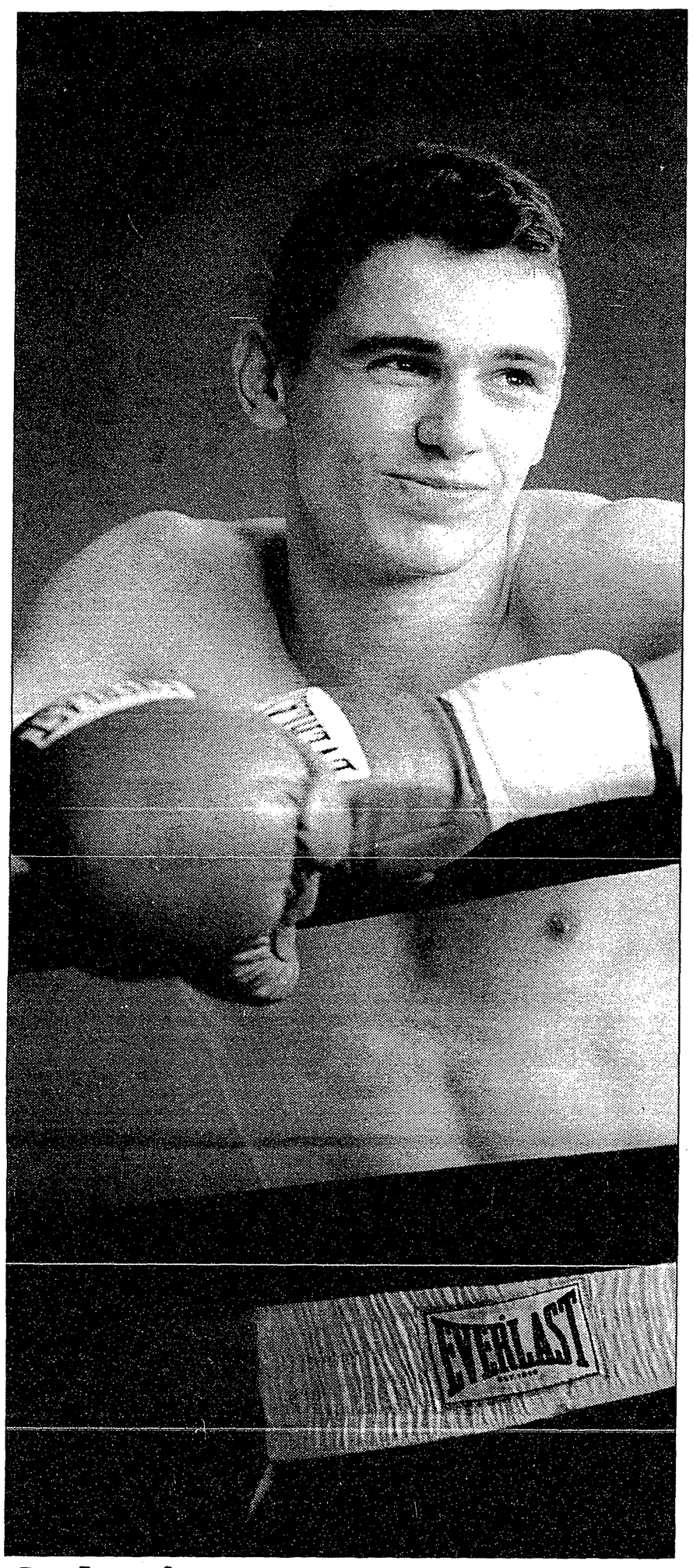



# Saluting James Franco

***ANNAPOLIS***
***now playing***

**by Peter Warren**
CULTURE WRITER

I'll admit that when I sat down to watch *Annapolis*, I did have my doubts. The premise just seemed so clichéd; a kid from the wrong side of the tracks achieves his dream of entering the naval academy, but once he arrives, nothing is as he expected.

Sounds an awful lot like the standard feel-good-movie formula—kid has hard time, kid thinks of quitting, kid receives motivational speech that inspires him to try harder, musical training montage, kid reaches his goal and wins adulation. Oh yeah, and somewhere in there he also gets the girl.

To be fair, some of the aforementioned narrative is retread in *Annapolis*, but the film provides enough twists and surprises to make you forget the expected cookie-cutter pattern.

For one, the casting is excellent. There are no huge names making an appearance simply for the sake of being big names, and the actors make their characters quite believable.

James Franco, in particular, does a commendable job. His portrayal of Jake Huard's desire to attend the academy is intense. Even though Huard's reasons for wanting to attend are a little ambiguous, Franco makes you believe that this kid really wants to go.

The direction is likewise praiseworthy. Justin Lin is clearly a talented director. He effectively captures the intimidation of academy instructors without making it too over the top. He also manages to develop close friendships between classmates without coming off too sappy.

No one is claiming that Annapolis is a brilliant ground breaking movie. It isn't. What it is, however, is a fun way to kill a couple of hours, and isn't that what you're looking for in a movie, more often than not? ■

# Our musical melee

## In which Korn gets unforeseen props, Big Boi brings perp, and System of a Down returns

***BIG BOI PRESENTS***
***Big Boi Presents...Got Perp? Vol. II***
***Virgin***

**by Kian Mintz-Woo**
CULTURE WRITER

Big Boi wastes no time reminding us that the other half of Outkast will not appear on his label's debut disc. But can Big Boi's gritty flow can succeed without Andre 3000's poetic lyricism?

Big Boi has been busy assembling an answer, preparing a diverse mix of the Dirty South's up and comers (Scar and Janelle Monae) and a few established artists (Bubba Sparxxx and Sleepy Brown). The success of *Big Boi Presents...Got Purp? Vol. II*" hinges on the combination of these artists and Big Boi knows it—when this album works, it is because of the contrast he creates between the guest stars.

In the lead single "Kryptonite (I'm On It)," Big Boi and his new crew carefully discuss narcotics against what sounds like an Egyptian ringtone. This is classic Big Boi; the track could have easily fit amongst the fare of 2003's *Speakerboxxx*. But what's interesting is where Big Boi takes the rest of the CD.

Sleepy Brown's "Me, My Baby and My Cadillac," is a straightforward pop road tune that almost evokes the spirit of Britney Spears' *Crossroads*. "It's just me and my baby in my Cadillac/Fifth wheel on the back/Yeah, rollin', rollin'..." Sleepy croons. It's such an interesting and contradictory musical choice that the song works in a cartoonish way.

Unfortunately, Big Boi isn't often so successful. His bouncing "808" is the kind of lazy rap that permeates the mainstream. G-Rock brags: "Superstar grills / I reflect like a mill."

And Janelle Monae's "Time Will Reveal" is an empty exercise in R&B money-making. She lacks vocal strength and charm so the beat inevitably feels stronger than her. It seems that Big Boi needs more than a strong single to propel his entourage forward.

***MEGAN MCCAULEY***
***Megan Mccauley***
***Wind-up Records***

**by Colleen Tang**
CULTURE STAFF

Megan McCauley is your typical I-have-something-to-prove-I'm-so-angry-and-badass teenage girl. And the American pop-rock singer-songwriter's self-titled EP other angst-ridden members of her ilk. McCauley must be doing something right—one of her songs, Die For You, was featured in the Fantastic 4 soundtrack.

But I've long passed this adolescent stage—Avril got to me first.

This eponymous LP consists of four tracks, each written by McCauley. The songs do have nice rhythmic and guitar sequences that don't overpower the singer's voice. In fact, her range is quite powerful and her voice is distinct enough. But the songs are unbearably melodramatic. They aren't particularly mind-blowing, and the lyrics seem oddly familiar. For example, in Fragile, she sings, "I am fragile but I'm strong enough". These lyrics remind me of songs of tortured souls and screaming agony performed Evanescence-style. Not to mention that McCauley looks like a mini Bif Naked and has the trademark smoky voice to boot.

I would definitely recommend Megan McCauley to those of you still grappling with whether to hate your self or the world you inhabit—these songs will definitely give your fuel. I, on the other hand, won't get any fonder of listening to "I'll pay you to shoot him now. I will pay you to take him out. I will pay you to shoot him now. I'll pay you to blow his brains out," over and over again.

***KORN***
***See You on the Other Side***
***Virgin***

**by Aaron Carr**
CULTURE STAFF

Hardcore Korn fans may have been fearful of what hideous lovechild could be spawned from the union of Korn and production team The Matrix—best known for their work with such acts as Avril Lavigne, Michelle Branch and Hilary Duff. But breathe easy: *See You on the Other Side* is a Korn album through and through.

In the absence of departed guitarist, Head, Korn has become a tighter quartet, expanding their soundscape to new stygian depths of chaotic cacophony. Added to the mix this time around are the pop sensibilities of The Matrix and the svelte electronica stylings of synth maestro Atticus Ross (half of the trip-hop/alt rock duo 12 Rounds)—who recently worked with Trent Reznor on the last Nine Inch Nails album, *With Teeth*. The result of this amalgamation of aural oddities is a rich, brooding brew of eerie sounds, pounding rhythms, and—of course—crunching guitar riffs.

From singer Jonathan Davis's creepy echo in "Throw Me Away," to the ghostly synth background of "Love Song", to the ambient static noise behind the melancholic piano melody in "Tearjerker," each track is layered intricately. The whole album is one massive stereophonic clusterfuck. Trust me, this isn't a bad thing.

*See You on the Other Side* isn't a complete departure from what came before. Songs like "Coming Undone" and "Getting Off" showcase the chugging crunch of guitarist Munky's 7-string onslaught, while bassist Fieldy keeps the rhythm cemented to the auditory depths with his hallmark synthesis of jazz-inspired slap n' pop swing with typical metal chug. Drummer David Silveria keeps the beat rock solid throughout it all. Hardcore Korn fans will also be happy to know that they can hear Jonathan Davis's breed of metal scat on "Liar". And oh yes, never fear, the bagpipes are back!

In the realm of lyrics and message, this is perhaps the deepest album Korn has released since *Issues*. Davis covers a broad spectrum of topics here: from perennial musings about love, life, and misery in tracks like "Souvenir"; to the religious indictment that is "Hypocrites"; to the antisocial manifesto of political ranting in "Politics" ("Don't want to talk about politics/Don't preach or talk about politics/Don't make me talk about politics/Don't give a shit about politics"); to the downright pornographic in songs like "10 or a 2-way" ("Doesn't matter she'll be doin it her way/Doesn't care if it's a 10 or a 2-way") and "Getting Off" ("Licking your own skin, so trippy/Squeezing your own ass, so pretty/ Suck the ways it's used for shitting?").

*See You on the Other Side* sees Korn steering towards what appears to be a fusion of their roots in raw, aggressive metal and ambient electronic synth-pop. The album's first single, "Twisted Transistor"—remixed to no end for the mass-market night club scene—may not be a good measuring post for the whole album, but given the new direction the album alludes to, it may be indicative of where the band is headed.

***WE ARE SCIENTISTS***
***With Love and Squalor***
***Virgin***

**by Serena Lam**
CULTURE WRITER

"Lucid, discerning people with amazing taste and salacious physiques."

According to We Are Scientists, these are the people that make up their fan base. The implicit message here then is to make haste to the nearest record store and pick up a copy of their debut LP, *With Love and Squalor*.

The quirky Brooklyn trio consists of Murray (guitar, lead vocals), Cain (bass, backing vocals), and Tapper (drums, backing vocals). This typical indie rock band arrangement coupled with an early UK release have led some to dismiss the band as mere latecomers to the increasingly oversaturated genre of danceable pop rock led by Franz Ferdinand and the Killers, We Are Scientists dispel such notions upon closer listen.

Standout tracks include the fantastically frantic, "The Great Escape," complete with an infectious yell-along chorus, "Cash Cow," with its with hooky guitar riffs, and the slightly slower but still melodious "Lousy Reputation." Given the fast pace, energy, and lyrical and vocal style of their CD, We Are Scientists are perhaps then best described as a slightly cooled Hot Hot Heat. Throughout the twelve tracks, the band commendably provide just enough variation to establish their sound yet keep fresh, floundering only on their last two tracks, which are altogether forgettable. Overall, the band does a solid job of blending soaring guitar and bass lines with catchy lyrics, producing a genuinely fun album that showcases their potential.

So although We Are Scientists' debut is not groundbreaking for the new new-wave pop rock scene, it does succeed in distinguishing itself from its peers and serves as an enjoyable listen as we wait for the next band to revive this revivalist movement.

***SOMETIMES***
***City and Colour***
***(Dallas Green)***
***Dine Alone Records***

**by Sean Lee**
CULTURE WRITER

Black and white; dog and cat; liberal and conservative—each are diametrically opposed by their very nature. If we extend this simple line of reasoning, one would not logically align a set of acoustic ballads with any of the members of Alexisonfire, let alone guitarist Dallas Green. In this case, however, making such assumptions would serve only to 'make an ass out of u and me'.

Following Alexisonfire's massive success in both Canada and the United States with the 2004 release of *Watch Out!*, many would expect Dallas Green to kick back and enjoy the success his band has enjoyed recent years. But befitting of a tortured artist, Green has proved that there is indeed no rest for the wicked.

To be perfectly blunt, City and Colour, Green's solo acoustic side project, is an astounding showcase of his abilities not only as a guitarist, but also as a singer/songwriter. While he has lent his vocal skills to many of the melodic Alexisonfire tracks, this new creative outlet reveals his wide range as a vocalist.

The *Sometimes* EP, released in late 2005, is truly an amazing achievement: it not only manages to totally blindside the listener with its stark contrast to Green's work in Alexisonfire, but also wins you over thanks solely to the talent and passion that oozes from every track. While I've admitted to liking sappy emo rock in the past, this doesn't really fit that narrow classification—*Sometimes* is a collection of heartfelt songs, and while it may embody a few central themes of the emo movement, this record is really more about reliving a time when music was a more about the art itself rather than the massive marketing machine behind it.

It'd be sacrilege to compare this album to anything released in the heydays of other great singer/songwriters such as Johnny Cash or Bob Dylan, but in the back of my mind I'm temped to say it really is that good. With this fantastic first effort, Dallas Green has proved that he refuses to be classified or labeled as a one trick pony— the man is truly a well-rounded musician and deserves to be acknowledged as such. *Sometimes* is undoubtedly one of the best albums released in 2005, and one can only hope that we'll get to see the sophomore release roll onto shelves in the next twelve months.

***SYSTEM OF A DOWN***
***Hypnotize***
***Sony***

**by Aaron Carr**
CULTURE WRITER

Six months after the release of *Mesmerize*, the folks that make up System of a Down have finally released the second half of the double album. In what is possibly one of the coolest packaging concepts in recent memory, the *Hypnotize* case actually slides into the one that came with *Mesmerize* to bring the two halves together as one.

Sonically, *Hypnotize* is a much more unified album than its predecessor. Each song on the album flows seamlessly into the next to create a solid, cohesive whole, highlighting the fact that this is, after all, a concept album. Anyone familiar with System's lyrics will notice that they've changed very little on this outing, ranging from from radical left-wing rants, to over the top sarcastic mockery, to the just plain ridiculous—all in the same song. The tag-team singing of Serj and Daron continues in this motif, often shifting from serious, emphatic singing, to frenzied screaming, to a sort of high-pitched parody of singing that sounds like a chorus of Smurfs on crystal meth.

For long-standing System of a Down fans, Hypnotize is a must own. Not only does it complete what they started with Mesmerize, but it's also a great SOAD offering in its own right. Starting with the opening song, accurately titled "Attack", it gets your blood pumping and your vocals vibrating, only occasionally letting up to mix in some Pink Floyd inspired spaced-out grooviness in songs like "Holy Mountains" before plunging head-first backing to its frenetic hyper-riffing of skirling guitars and vocal acrobatics that have come to typify System of a Down. ■

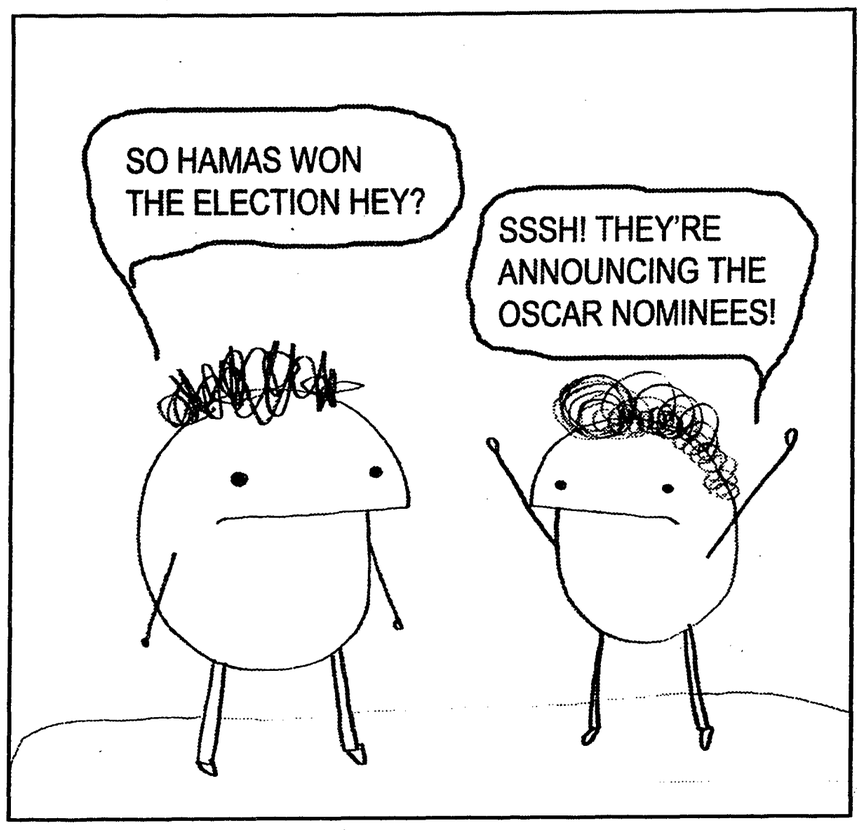
# Today's lesson: thinking beyond the ballot box

With the close of the AMS elections, the federal elections and even the Palestinian elections, *the Ubyssey* is now officially in election withdrawal. After much debate we had to ask ourselves: is it really possible to write an editorial on something that doesn't have to do with an election? We thought we'd take the chance, so here's a look at some of the things that have been going on behind the election scenes in Canada and abroad.

**Municipal government:**
Remember back in November when we voted in the Vancouver municipal election? (That's right we couldn't resist sneaking an election topic in here somewhere). But remember the back of that monster-sized ballot that asked if we approved of borrowing x dollars for x amount of services. Well for many people it seemed like a good idea at the time. There isn't really anyone who doesn't support increased library hours, better roads, higher pay for police officers and so on. But what most voters failed to realise was the word "borrow." Now Sullivan has announced that this year's budget is $29-million over budget. And since they don't want to cut what's already been promised it looks like homeowners and business owners will taking care of a big chunk of the shortfall by paying up to 7.6 per cent more in taxes.

With Vancouver already coming in as the most unaffordable housing bracket in Canada and the 15th worst in the world, an increase in taxes is hard to swallow. If Vancouver housing gets anymore expensive our advice for the UBC grads of 2010 is to hightail it to Alberta.

**Olympics:**
The Olympics belong to Canada not just Whistler, Mr Harper. At least that's the tune that our municipality is singing now that $80 billion Olympic costs have escalated 40 per cent higher due to rising building costs. When you factor in that Vancouver is not only footing the bill for new Olympic facilities but also for new roads, including huge upgrades to the Sea-to-Sky highway, and a new sky train line to the airport, it's not surprising that the Olympic budget is quickly turning into a gong-show.




**Oscars:**
Nominations were an-nounced today. Unexpect-edly and unfortunately, *the Ubyssey* didn't receive an advanced secret copy of the nominations last night, so we have had to make our own predictions. *Brokeback Mountain* has already received four Golden Globes, but did not receive any in the acting category. Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger played the lead roles in the complicated and touching story about love and life in the 1960s—both actors deserve nominations.

**Liberal leadership:**
How many Liberals does it take to lead a party? Well just one, but that doesn't stop the rumour mill from putting forward a slew of names. While Frank McKenna and John Manley both thwarted whispers that they would try to take the Liberal helm many more are still making the list of hopefuls. Among them are journalist Michael Ignatieff, other wise known as the "thinking woman's crumpet"—whatever the hell that means—Brian Tobin, who's not even in politics right now and practicing law, Scott Brison and Bob Rae. Who we don't want to see? Belinda Stronach. After losing the race to become the Conservative leader, jumping fences and dumping her ex in front of the whole country, we hardly feel that Stronach is ready to head up the official opposition... just yet.

## ASK COACH STEPH

***Dear Coach Steph,***
*My life has become so boring. I wake up, go to class, do my work, workout, go to bed and just repeat the next day. I have a pretty high GPA, am fit, have good friends and all that, but somewhere along the way I seem to have lost excitement in my life. What do you think?*

***—Charles***

***Dear Charles,***
Take a risk! Try something you've only dreamed of! Make a mistake! Do something that totally excites you, makes you feel kind of nervous, and does not guarantee success!

You're playing in your comfort zone. And while it's bringing you okay results, it's not allowing you to experience your true potential or enjoy your life to the fullest. So get out of it.

While it's all well and good to have a routine, study hard, get good grades, and play it safe doing what you know you should; making mistakes isn't necessarily a "bad thing" either. Sometimes it's the best thing we can do to learn new things and create different results in our life. You've probably heard it before—if you keep doing what you've always done, you'll probably keep getting what you've always gotten. And it doesn't sound like that's what you want.

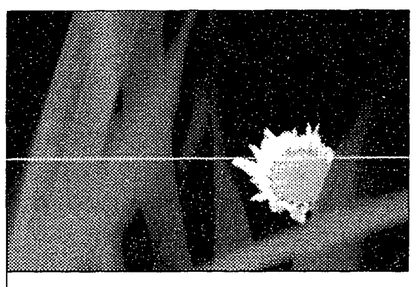
If taking risks and being okay with the mistakes you could make is new for you, start small. Spice up your life with one of the following, or make up your own:

* Get a new haircut and/or color. Let your hair stylist choose what they want.
* Paint your room a wild color. Get an artsy friend to choose what it is.
* Be the first one on the dance floor. Request Peaches.
* Go running when it's pouring rain. Wear bright pink.
* Ask out your secret crush. In person.

Once you've done a few silly things, try something that will shake up your routine:

* Start playing a sport you've never tried before.
* Apply for a different kind of job than you've ever done before. One-up your last one.
* Become actively involved in a cause you feel passionate about.

If none of these sounds like they'll do the trick, what's something you've really wanted to do for awhile? Take one step today to move yourself in that direction. Sometimes the biggest mistake we can make is trying to avoid making them.



Ask Coach Steph is a bi-weekly advice column appearing in the Ubyssey. If you have a question pertaining to life management, career preparation, self actualisation or just need general advice email steph@visionswithoutborders.ca.

Stephanie Tait is a Personal and Professional Leadership Coach who works with young professionals helping them create the lives and careers they truly desire.

## PERSPECTIVE OPINION

# AMS accomplishes far more than pageantry feature implies

by Trevor Gilks

I would blast Alex Leslie's recent feature ("What the AMS election and the Miss America Pageant have in common," Jan. 24, 2006) for being too long, full of factual errors, and embarrassingly unfunny. But what was more important to me and a host of others, was that the article served as nothing more than a bitter endorsement of apathy and ignorance.

Just like Miss America can't save Africa, no AMS Executive is going to overhaul the campus in a year. It's a constraint many student organisations—including *the Ubyssey* newspaper—struggle with: accomplishing something lasting in the short time their members study at UBC.

But by contending that our student society is irrelevant to students by asking the question, "Why is it that, year after year, the AMS executives accomplish nothing to change the lives of students at UBC?," Leslie sacrifices reality at the altar of sarcastic hyperbole. Did she fail to notice tens of thousands of students using their U-Passes to commute to school, hundreds of women having benefited from the Sexual Assault Support Centre, new spaces for Sprouts, the Bike Co-op, and the food bank? And don't forget that just three years ago campus was going to be cut in half with a highway: because of meaningful changes to campus development voiced by students, that hasn't happened.

That was just in the past three years. I wouldn't call the campaign promises that led to these actions "slogans with no necessary connection to future performance."

If she wanted to write a hilarious, relevant feature, Leslie might have penned a scathing rebuke of the AMS's real shortcomings: its wastefulness, its restrictive bureaucracy, or the handful of candidates who don't understand the limits of their power.

Leslie did touch some real issues: the poorly attended debates, the incomplete, idealistic platforms and the disheartening election turnout. One explanation for these problems is that the AMS consistently fails to attach its accomplishments to its identity. But another explanation is typified by Leslie herself: students who sit in the vapid, fact-free world of the beauty pageant, ignorantly indulging their own imagined superiority to all those who are just so silly and naïve to stand up and make a positive change for a student body they care about.

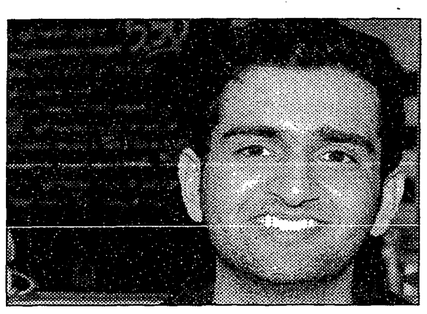
***—Trevor Gilks is a fifth-year psychology student and the executive coordinator for the AMS Student Services***

## STREETERS

WHAT WAS THE BEST FILM OF 2005 AND WHY?

***Brokeback Mountain***
"Because it challenged the status quo of the movie world."

***—James Beresford***
***Arts 4***



***Walk the Line***
"I don't know, I just liked it."

***—Ashmeet Kapoor***
***Engineering***

***Batman Begins***
"It totally turned the whole franchise around."

***—Brian Hori***
***Engineering 3***

***Scared Sacred***
"It took him six years to make... it was so beautifully shot."

***—Rebecca Geddes***
***Science 4***

***Brokeback Mountain***
"It simply broke boundaries with regards to conventional views about what homosexuality is."

***—Millie Bogic***
***Arts 2***

***—Streeters coordinated by Paul Evans & Kellan Higgins***

# Wanted: fresh ideas

by Patrick Bruskiewich

While listening to the David Orr talk entitled the "End of Education" at the Chan Centre last Friday, I cringed when he mentioned staring "down the barrel of the gun" to effect change. I was so disturbed by this that I asked a question after the talk about "a young American president taken from us before his time with a legacy that lived on...and whether the race for the moon is a good model to use to change the body politic."

John F Kennedy understood the potential of democracy and technology. He was able to build concordance towards a grand challenge. His legacy lived on because it embraced the imagination of what JFK called "the best of all mankind." My point in asking the question was that at the end of the day you solve great human problems by building consensus, not by a call to confrontation. Much of the technology that we have today that allows us to communicate across, study and understand our planet comes from the Apollo era. The solar cells that Orr described were developed.

My question represented an antithesis to some of David Orr's comments. We should not turn our backs on technology, nor presume to lead public debate about complex issues unless we have taken the time to learn and understand the fullness of these issues. If we are uneducated, we are limited in our options as to how best to solve our human problems. Disraeli's observation that "the more extensive a man's knowledge of what has been done, the greater will be his power of knowing what to do" is a plea for a well-rounded education. David Orr's pedagogical philosophy goes more along the lines of Dewey and social engineering.

I am tired of listening to media celebrities lament about the environment. It is time to expand our horizons and listen to tangible experts. If UBC had invited a Toyota engineer to talk about Hybrid cars, or Dr Ballard to talk about fuel cells, or an engineer from say a wind turbine project then we would learn something new—instead of the "same old same old." You don't have to look far to find such expertise.

Some three decades ago the Oakridge shopping centre won a federal government Award of Excellence for energy efficiency using a novel heating system. A member of the team that recently won an engineering award for UBC's Health Sciences project is the mechanical engineer on record for both award-winning projects. He has worked on some 2,000 projects over fifty years including UBC's EcoTrek audit. He knows more about energy and engineering than the likes of David Orr. I'll share a with secret (in the late 1950s he worked on one of the technical reports which outlined the operational needs and costs of the Avro Arrow, a report which landed on the desk of the Prime Minister of the day). The University should be drawing more on this type of proven Canadian expertise instead of media celebrities.

If we heard a talk about the Nexus Fuel Cells, I bet Dr Ballard he could tell UBC how replacing the central steam plant with his technology would provide both heating and electricity, dual generation, at the same time. Their fuel cell technology is being installed in homes in Japan, the most modern nation in the world.

On March 13th instead of our resident media celebrity, why doesn't UBC show a little imagination and invite the leader of the Green Party of BC to come talk. She is a UBC alumnus and has earned the right to speak. Recently, I walked her over to the Main Library and introduced her to the 21st century. She in turn informed me that the Province was looking for candidate projects for solar power. I suggested the new library and five other UBC sites. Dr Piper, will probably go to bat for her old alumni and help to get solar cells here on campus. If you do I will go to bat as well, and your odds on getting solar cells at UBC goes up 1,000 per cent.

So many of us are frankly tired of the "same old same old." There are those who generate ideas and see them to fruition. They represent the "best of mankind." At the end of the day we will sort out our human problems by grace of intellect, consensus and a well rounded education, and only if listen and learn from those who have something noteworthy to teach us.

***—Patrick Bruskiewich is a graduate student in physics.***

# The Knoll and UBC Third Party hypocritical

by Quinn Omori

While I'm sure most of the student population was blissfully unaware, some of the drama in this year's AMS elections came in the form of a leaflet turned blog—the former put out by *the Knoll* and the latter by the "UBC Third Party"—both of which promoted the same selection of candidates. I have no qualms about people promoting who they think are the best candidates. In fact, as someone who's been involved with the AMS for the last three years or so, it's encouraging that anybody cares enough to weigh in on the election. That being said, I feel compelled to comment on the characterisation of Sean Kearney.

Let me be clear, that this is not a shot at VP Administration-elect, David Yuen, who himself was the victim of anonymous slander during the course of the campaign. I have the pleasure of knowing both David and Sean, and during the election was confident that either of them would do a great job, and I remain confident that David will be a fabulous VP Admin. Again, my issue is only with some of the comments about Sean.

The UBC Third Party blog asserts that Sean's campaign was "largely devoid of content." Ironically, both David and Sean admitted during the campaign at several points that their platforms were quite similar. Also ironic is that they'd attacked a lack of substantive content, since the rest of the blog's critique of Sean is based on a) what he looked like in his posters ("smiling like a used car salesman"), b) the fact that he's in a fraternity (overlooking the fact that David is too) and c) anonymous hearsay that Sean would allow beer gardens to become "a horrific disaster for anyone concerned about safety."

Throughout the blog the word "progressive" is thrown around a lot. And, while I would never deem myself the arbiter of all things progressive, I question how progressive it is to judge someone based, not on their actions or ideas, but on appearance, membership in the Greek system, and what—no matter how you phrase it—boils down to unsubstantiated rumour. Also ironic, and even hypocritical, is that a group that contains several members of Allies—a group that promotes judging individuals, not on preconceived notions, but on their own merits—would make such a superficial (not to mention stereotypical) judgement of someone.

***—Quinn Omori is 4th year arts student***

# The challenge of eating locally

by Chris Hergesheimer
THE PEAK (SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY)

BURNABY, B.C. (CUP)—Eating an entirely local diet today is by no means a small feat. But in the days before advanced refrigeration and subsidised fossil fuels, eating a local diet was commonplace out of necessity. It also provided food consumers with a sense of place in relation to their most basic necessities of life: good, healthy food.

These days, it is not at all uncommon for all kinds of food to be making the trek thousands of kilometres, passing through warehouses, bathing in preservatives, and being trucked to your local grocery store because of a comparative price difference of a mere few cents per piece.

But the social, ecological and political injustices that this destructive system perpetuates cannot continue. These days, it's not just food activists, but ordinary people who are beginning to question the current system's validity and then search diligently for alternatives.

An experiment in eating locally produced a set of articles chronicled on thetyee.ca and gave some people their first wake-up call as to what it really means to "live on the 100-mile diet." For all basic purposes, this means eating nothing that does not grow or cannot be harvested from outside of a 160-kilometre radius from Vancouver proper.

One thing made obvious to those with a sweet tooth was that we would have to kiss sugar goodbye. Yes, I cringed too. Another thing, and a more traumatic find for me, was that there are next to no places within this target radius where we can find grains—at least ones that are not destined for the mouths and stomachs of livestock. The corn grown in this region is not for milling, thus eliminating the possibilities of cornbread, corn cookies, corn pie-crust.

Working in collaboration with a community group called Farm Folk City Folk, whose mandate is to spread the message of healthy, local, sustainable food production and consumption, I have embarked on a collaborative search for historical testimonies about local grain production while also exploring the possibilities of renewing grain production on a local scale.

Testimony from *The Mainland Guardian*, a journal published out of New Westminster in 1872, shows that not long ago, our own local Fraser Valley area was producing wheat, oats, barley, and other cereal grains at quite handsome yields. The existence of grain-threshing machines at the BC Farm Machinery and Agricultural Museum in Fort Langley along with pictures online showing farmers at work in vast fields of oats and wheat in Surrey and Chilliwack confirm the region's potential for this type of agriculture.

In an age of rapidly decreasing fossil fuels, heart-breaking environmental degradation due to technological and industrial large-scale agriculture and the flight of capital to international markets which leaves community and family farms with no choice but to create mono-cultured food products, the movement to eliminate the separation between us and our food could not be more appropriate.

The search for local grain needs to become a community-based project with community-based support behind it. We cannot let food become a commodity controlled and distributed by those in power at the expense of ecological systems and small cooperative farms that are part of the foundation of strong community life. The search for local grain goes on.

Who knows, maybe five years from now you could be eating a loaf of bread or an apple pie made from grains grown, milled, produced, and consumed locally—keeping the capital where it ought to be: in the hands of those in our bioregion who work hard and commit to social, ecological and economic justice as well as produce good, healthy food.

***—Chris Hergesheimer SFU student***

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# A tale of two Vincents

***VINCENT IN BRIXTON***
***Playhouse***
***til Feb 11***

**by Amanda Truscott**
CULTURE WRITER

"Vincent in Brixton," which dramatises Vincent van Gogh's interactions with the women who ran the boarding-house in which he stayed during his time in Britain, takes place entirely within the confines of the residence's simple, Victorian-style kitchen. There is little in the way of physical action or spectacle, making the success of the play largely reliant on the skill of the actors in conveying the threads of passion embedded in the play's sometimes subtle dialogue.

Luckily, actor Vincent Gale does an excellent job of capturing van Gogh's volatile sensitivity. His accent may leave something to be desired, but Gale otherwise convincingly delivers often poignant lines such as, "That man had been robbed of his sense of beauty, when beauty was right in front of his face, in his builder's hands." Indeed, "Vincent in Brixton" is as much about awakening to the existence of beauty as it is about love and the triumph of inspiration over madness.

Seanna McKenna is utterly captivating as Ursula Loyer, the middle-aged schoolteacher and boarding-house proprietress, whose repressed passion and secret need for love throws her into fits of despair that only Vincent can understand. Likewise, Moya O'Connell is charmingly pert as her beautiful, down-to-earth daughter Eugenie. Andrew McNee is also endearing as Eugenie's lover Sam; together, he and O'Connell convincingly project both the electricity of young love and the resignation of marriage. Meg Roe is hilarious as Vincent's sister Anna, who's excessive but well-meaning bluntness offends the sensibilities of the subtler, more decorous Englishwomen.

"Vincent in Brixton" not only successfully depicts the repressed sexuality of the Victorian era, it also demonstrates the comical misunderstandings that sometimes occur as a result of cultural difference. The script is heartbreaking and funny, and the cast is skillful and sincere. Just as van Gogh created beauty from a pair of old leather boots, the play succeeds in making beautiful a kind of love that might otherwise appear grotesque, and making poetic the insanity of genius. ■

# Don't be dissuaded by the venue—*"The Seagull"* is a theatrical gem with grandiose wings

***THE SEAGULL***
***Beaumont Studios***
***Feb 1-4***

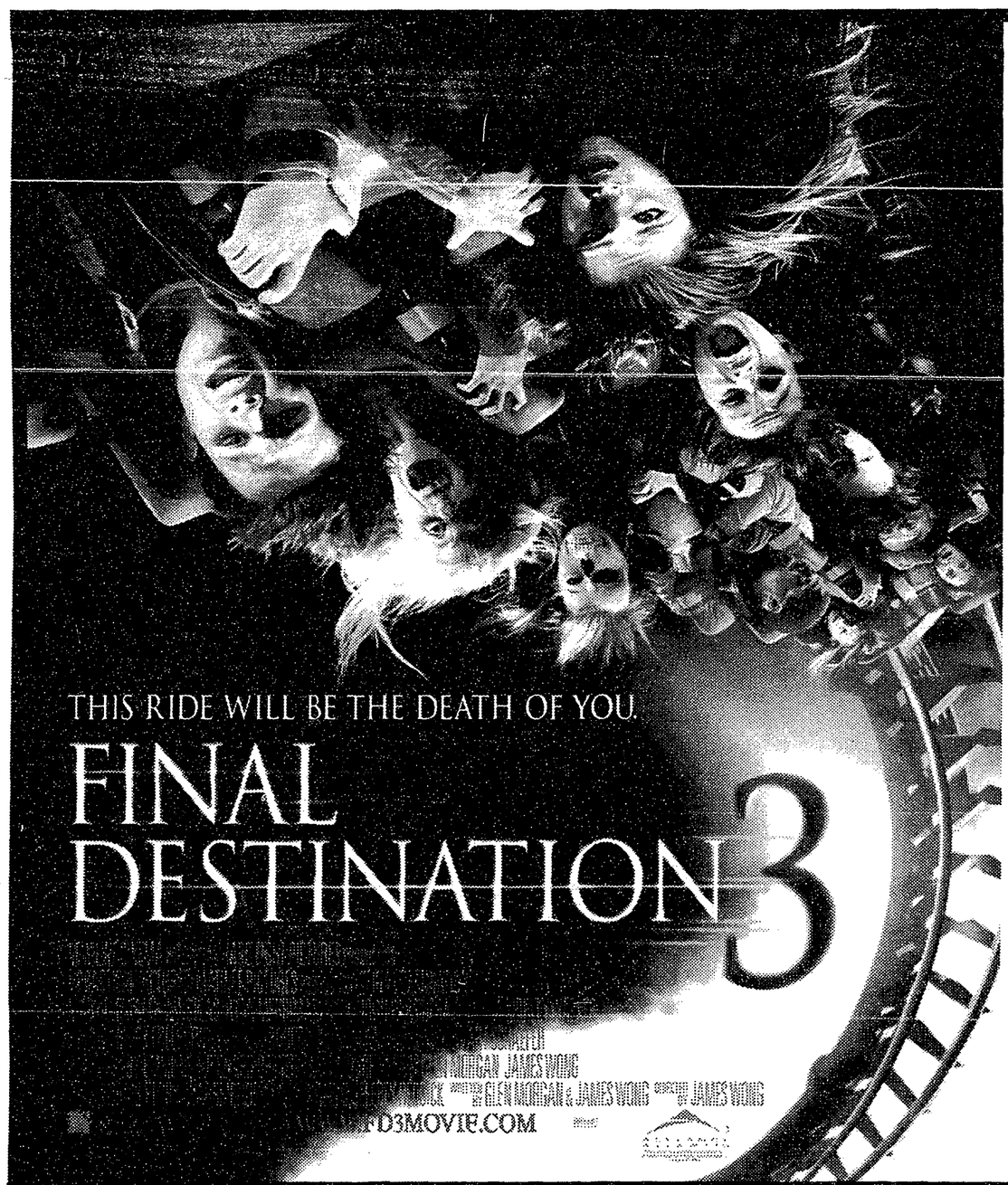
**by Jill Orsten**
CULTURE WRITER

The day was drawing to a close and the night was settling in with a slight sense of anticipation as we drove towards what seemed to be the wrong address. In a dark and quiet industrial/commercial area, we found Beaumont studios (316 W 5th) where a performance of Russian writer Anton Chekhov's play "The Seagull" was to be performed.

A "play" on Hamlet, "The Seagull" tells the story of several characters interlocked by covert and overt love, and differing opinions on art and talent. Although the main conflict is between the fading actress mother and her fledgling writer son and their lovers, the aspiring actress and the mediocre popular writer, all the characters in the play are very well developed. Each character and their role in the plot feels complete, but is revealed subtly through indirect conversations laden with innuendo.

I mounted the stairs to the theatre feeling as though I had crashed some sort of private party. The foyer, a room with several unmarked doors leading to perhaps strange art studios and possibly dusty storerooms housing jilted relics of since deceased theatre companies, was white and varied, smelling of a wood-shop.

But as I sat in the ratty fold-down seats interspersed with wayward chairs, I was mesmerised by the calibre of the acting and the derelict quality of the theatre was soon forgotten. Housed in this extraordinarily small venue and performed with grandeur befitting of a much larger venue, this play impresses the audience to feel as though they are witnesses to very private goings-on. All the characters were believable—most notably the doctor was played with marvelous zest and attention to detail. If you have a chance this weekend, I strongly suggest attending this wonderful little gem of a play. ■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