UBC Archives Serial

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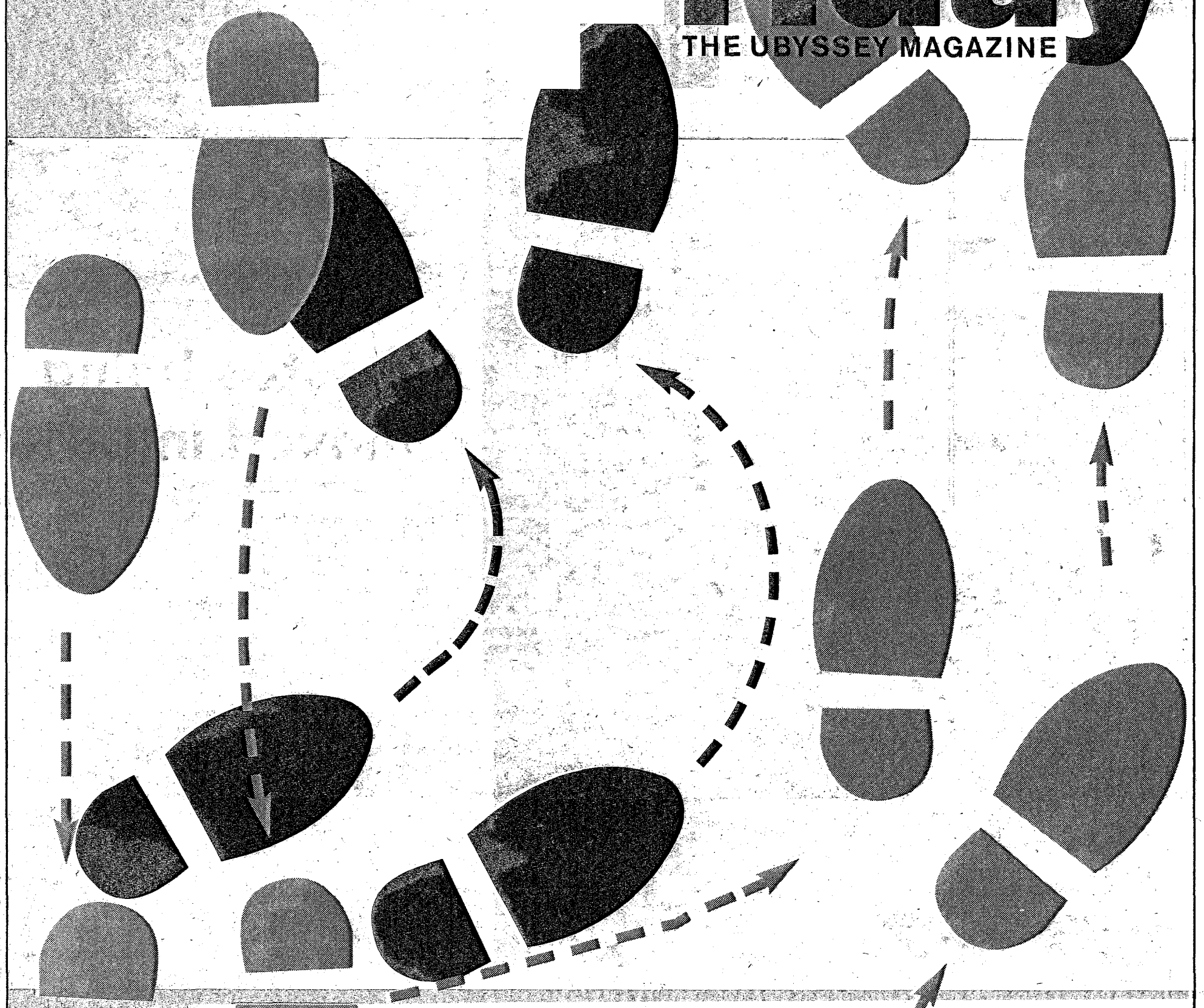
THE UBYSSEY MAGAZINE



LET'S DANCE!

The Vancouver dance community has a new home. Page 4.

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Announcemen, cont.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM (WILPF), the oldest and largest international peace and justice organization wants to form a UBC Chapter. Contact Beth: 604-301-1849, lauraej@interchange.ubc.ca

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WHERE ARE MY TILES? Renovations in Buchanan Tower are removing ceiling tiles which contain asbestos. NIC FENSOM PHOTO

Asbestos being removed in BuTo

by Hywel Tuscano

Getting rid of asbestos has been a problem for UBC in the past, but a project to remove the possible carcinogen from Buchanan Tower is meeting current safety standards, according to the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB).

Although construction using asbestos—a fireproof insulator that damages lung tissue and is thought to cause cancer—was banned in the 1970s, many of UBC's buildings still contain the substance. A costly and slow campaign has been put into action to remove all asbestos from campus buildings.

Ceiling tiles containing asbestos are currently being removed from Buchanan Tower, and stringent safety precautions are being enforced. The project is scheduled to take eight weeks.

Gail Townsley, UBC supervisor of health, safety and environment for Land and Building Services said the work was necessary.

"Essentially asbestos is a health threat when it is actually disturbed, usually when it is being moved or changed. When it is airborne it can be inhaled. It is awfully hard to make sure those tiles aren't moved," she said.

Between 1997 and 1998, UBC received a total of $35,000 in fines from the WCB for failure to train and supervise workers handling asbestos removal. An incident last year in Place Vanier residence also elicited concerns about the safety of campus workers and residence occupants, but the WCB did not charge any fines.

In a WCB inspection of Buchanan Tower on September 11 the asbestos removal procedure was passed "in compliance with, or exceeding, the minimum requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation." The university has also agreed to ongoing air tests for the duration of the project.

Workers in Buchanan Tower are already three weeks into the asbestos abatement project, and another five weeks of removal work is expected for all 11 floors.

Occupants of Buchanan Tower expressed confidence that the dangerous material would be handled with care.

"I would like to have some time to not be here, but I think people are pretty careful about asbestos anyway," said Dawn Mills, a history professor who works on the 11th floor of the tower.

Carlo Finamore, manager of the project explained that for less disruption and increased safety, work is occurring after office hours.

While safety seems to be the largest concern in the building, most of the occupants are not informed about renovations until the day before, or the day of, asbestos removal. Although plastic containments and workers in masks may be unnerving for uninformed passers-by, occupants of Buchanan Tower should remain largely unaffected by the work unless they are in the building late.

"We set up at 4pm and the actual removal of the tiles occurs at 7pm. People still in the building at those times shouldn't be affected as the work areas are within plastic containments," said Finamore.

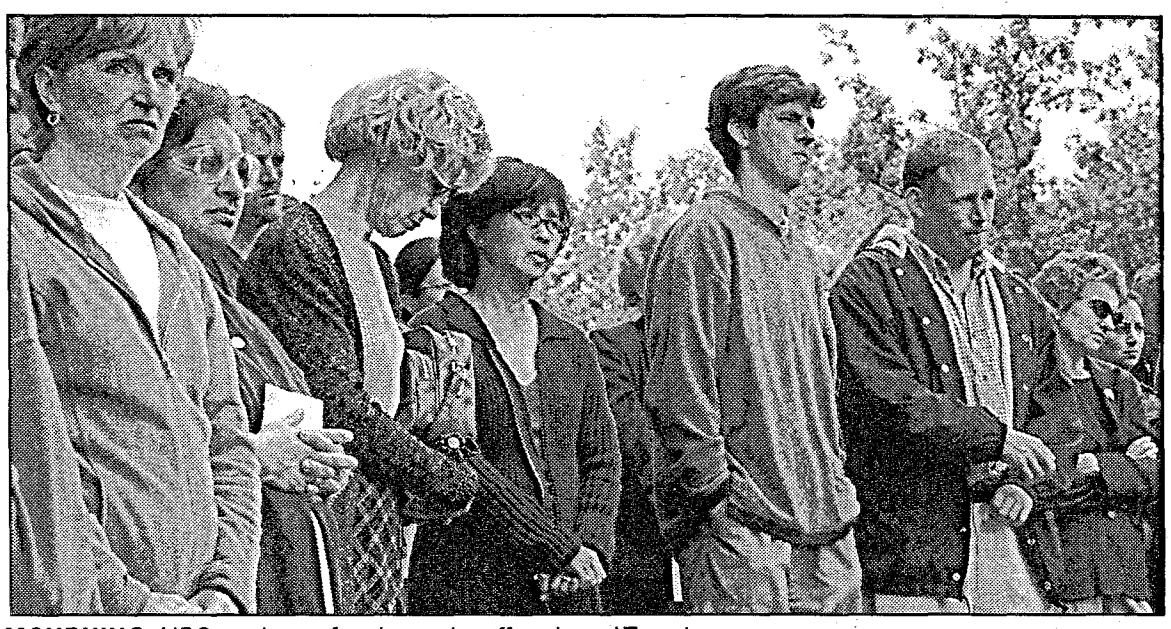
Paul Stanwood, an English professor that works on the fifth floor didn't seem to mind the work.

"I received a notice not really asking me to leave but to remove stuff from the desks to make the work easier. Work didn't start until after I'd gone, and now I don't have ceiling tiles," he said.

"One initial worry was safety within the buildings. Especially with all of the asbestos in the air in New York [after the collapse of the World Trade Centre towers], people are more aware of the health hazard," said English professor John Kealy. "I've heard of problems in the past, but it seems like they have it under control." ❖

Correction

In the September 14 article, "Asianness explored," *the Ubyssey* incorrectly spelled the name of actor and director Tong Lung as Tony Lung. *The Ubyssey* regrets the error.



MOURNING: UBC students, faculty and staff gathered Tuesday. SARAH MACNEILL MORRISON PHOTO

UBC mourns

University gathers to remember victims of last week's tragedy

by Sarah MacNeill Morrison

A sombre grey sky seemed to echo the feelings of those who gathered on Tuesday to reflect on last week's tragic events in the US.

To mourn those killed in the September 11 terrorist attacks and to consider the lessons that can be learned from them, UBC's vice-president, students office; the Alma Mater Society (AMS); and the Graduate Students Society (GSS) held a 15-minute ceremony of reflection.

UBC President Martha Piper addressed students, staff and faculty who gathered at noon on Tuesday by the Rose Garden flagpole.

"We are assembled today as a university community, united in grief and compassion for those who have died and for those who are suffering. We come together to mourn the loss of innocent lives and to seek strength as a learning community to face the future of an uncertain world," Piper said.

Piper spoke on the role of education and its importance in consideration for the future.

"It is impossible to predict the future. Let us affirm, instead, the role of an educated society, one that values all human life, one that is based on respect and tolerance, one that is built upon openness and individual rights," she said. "We must look to ourselves and to each other for the wisdom and the fortitude to build tomorrow's societies of justice, tolerance and mutual respect."

AMS President Erfan Kazemi also spoke about the event's impact at UBC, and emphasised how important it was for the university to meet while grieving.

"Although the events of last Tuesday were focused on the United States, their reverberations were felt across the world," Kazemi said. "As a UBC community, we feel these waves, the impact, whether we work or study here."

"We feel that it's important as a community that we recognise these events, not only for the innocent lives lost in the wake of terror, but also recognising them is an important step in the healing process, in which we are all in different stages," he said.

St John's College Principal Grant Ingram focused on the importance of communication following events such as last week's tragedy. He spoke to those gathered about the potential for good things to come out of bad events.

"Words may fail when we try to come to terms with the events of last week, but perhaps it is words that can take us forward into the future—a future where diversity is not merely tolerated, but celebrated," he said. "If you and I make last week's tragedy a reason for open dialogue, if we can listen, open our eyes, ears and hearts to others, we can make a difference."

But Annick Gauthier, president of the GSS, spoke of the event as something "that places new light on our daily routines, and where we can appreciate the loved ones in our life and rely on them when we try and comprehend these recent events."

"These events have impacted many," she said. "not only if you knew of a friend or family member, or an acquaintance, but society as a whole."

The service was followed by a moment of silence. Before and after the service, members of the UBC community signed a book of condolences which will be sent to the US Consulate in Vancouver. ❖

Digital library provides scientific journals online

by Chris Shepherd

The selection of electronic journals available at UBC libraries has increased since the university became involved in the Canadian National Site Licensing Project (CNSLP), an initiative which has 64 member universities across Canada.

The CNSLP was created to help members negotiate better access to electronic journals, and due to the many Canadian universities the project represents, it was able to secure lower prices for members.

Anyone with a library card from a participating university can now access over 700 electronic journals which are available as a result of the project. While UBC already had access to most of the journals that were negotiated in the project, the university was able to save money from its involvement in the project.

"UBC was able to move costs for these journals onto the CNSLP project, even though we already had some of these resources," said Catherine Quinlan, the university librarian.

With the money saved, the library has been able to buy other full-text materials that were not previously part of the collection. In addition, Quinlan added, the library has regained some journals that it had been forced to cut from its subscriptions due to budget restrictions.

Most of the CNSLP journals are science and medical journals. According to Deb deBruijn, the executive director of the CNSLP, there are several reasons for this focus.

"When we looked to the participant universities for a sense of what their priorities were and where they were experiencing the primary problems in terms of costs of materials, they were unanimous in their view that it is the area of science technology and health literature that is very expensive to acquire," she said.

In addition, the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), which contributed $20 million to the project, has a mandate to encourage research and innovation in the areas of science, health and engineering.

"We needed to keep the focus of our proposal to them in alignment with their mandate," said deBruijin.

The CNSLP cost $50 million to create, of which $20 million comes from the CFI and $30 million comes from the participant universities. UBC's share is $1.5 million dollars, to be paid over three years, but $1 million of it is being covered by the British Columbian Knowledge Foundation, a provincial government organisation.

The CNSLP is scheduled to operate for three years, after which time the funding will run out. But deBruijn said there is hope that the digital library can remain operational for longer.

"[This is a] demonstration of a national strategy that we thought would work," she said.

The presidents of the 64 participant universities have signed an agreement saying that they will sustain and support the initiative after the CFI funding ends. Whether this means adding more universities to the project, finding alternative organisations to fund the project, or finding another solution has yet to be determined.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien was supposed to attend the official announcement of the launch of the CNSLP, scheduled for September 11. The announcement was cancelled because of the terrorist attacks in the United States. ❖

Liberals criticised for lifting grizzly bear moratorium

by Kathy Deering

The BC Liberal party's decision to lift the moratorium on grizzly bear hunting in BC has caused a stir among many British Columbians.

The three-year moratorium was imposed by the NDP government in February, 2001, at the end of its term. The ban, which prohibits sport hunting of the bears in all parts of BC, was lifted by the Liberals shortly after coming to power.

Shauna Sprules, a member of the UBC Student Environment Centre (SEC), is worried that the Liberal government is not taking public concern seriously.

"I think...a very basic point, not even including environmental concerns, is that the Liberals are not listening to British Columbians," she said.

A Vancouver Strategic Communications poll, conducted for the Canadian office of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) in February, 2001, showed that 78 per cent of British Columbians supported the then-imposed moratorium.

"You have to ask who they're catering to if they're not catering to British Columbians," said Sprules.

She said that she believes that more research needs to be done on the grizzly bears, whose slow reproductive rate and diminishing numbers have caused increasing concerns about the animals' long-term survival in some parts of BC.

NDP media spokesperson Jim Ridkowski also disagreed with the recent decision to lift the ban on sport hunting of bears.

"We think it's a bad move," he said. "The Liberals have a different agenda, one that doesn't exactly cater to environmental or public concerns."

Ridkowski said that the NDP imposed the moratorium because research conducted on the bears provided inconclusive results about their sustainability in BC.

Both he and Sprules are concerned that the Liberals have lifted the ban prematurely without conducting a sufficient amount of research on the possible impact of their actions.

"The Liberals like to take the 'shoot first, ask questions later' method," said Ridowski, adding that some conservation groups have reported dangerously low numbers of bears.

"It could be under 4000," he said. Based on ministry biologist research, the government estimates that there are over 13,000 bears in the province.

But Alex Dabrowski, a spokesperson for the Liberal party, said that the government was simply following its election promises, and emphasised that the party is still concerned about the welfare of grizzly bears in BC.

"[The Liberal party] made a commitment during the election campaign that they were going to allow hunting where there were no hunting concerns and keep the hunt closed where there were concerns," he said.

Dabrowski said that the Liberal government has gathered a scientific panel of independent experts to review grizzly bear management in the province.

"We've appointed the scientific panel to review and comment on our management practices to ensure public confidence in the way we're managing the grizzly bears," he said.

The panel—which includes six scientists, including a UBC professor, Frederick Bunnell—will look at how the ministry manages and maintains the population and habitat of the bears.

The group's final report will guide the government's actions regarding the moratorium and is due by December 31, 2002.

Although the province-wide moratorium has been overturned, regional moratoriums have been implemented in certain parts of BC where the grizzly bear population is considered endangered. Part of the panels' research will be to determine if the regional moratorium has been enforced in the places that will best maintain the bears' population.

But BC Young Liberals President Cameron Walls said that he supports the recent lifting of the ban on bear hunting.

"The majority of BC, I believe, has had it lifted," he said.

Walls also said that he believed the controversial topic of hunting has been mixed up in the logistics of the moratorium.

"There are people morally opposed to hunting, and if you want to have a debate on hunting, I say let's have a good honest debate on hunting," he said.

"[However], the problem with the moratorium was that it was put in place solely for political reasons to do with that moral issue."

Walls maintained, however, that the welfare of the bears is important to the BC Liberals.

"There are areas of BC [where] the bears might have a slightly threatened population," he said. "We want to protect the bears. We agree with that as much as anyone."

But people like Sprules are still worried about environmental welfare under the Liberals.

"I think a lot of environmentalists wanted to give the Liberals a chance to live up to their promises and they haven't done that so far," said Sprules. "I hope that they can turn it around, but I'm not convinced that they will." ❖

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Dancing in the streets... and in a new home

by Ron Nurwisah

The Vancouver dance community celebrates the opening of a new dance centre

There's something magical going on at the corner of Granville and Davie. A crowd has gathered, and everyone there is staring up at the sky, watching something coming down on them. As the music starts, the scenario looks even more bizarre.

But when curiosity finally gets the better of you and you approach, joining the crowd, you see people—two men and two women—descending from above, taking to the air in choreographed motion. They're aerial dancers, and their floating dance in the downtown sky is celebrating the opening of the Dance Centre.

In a lot formerly home to an old bank, the new Scotiabank Dance Centre now stands. It's a seven-storey building dedicated to serving the needs of Vancouver's dance scene—an artistic community that, until very recently, did not have a place to call home.

Spencer Herbert, assistant artistic director of DanceArts Vancouver, is all smiles. When asked about the new Dance Centre, he can't help but gush.

"Everybody's smiling...Just the physical space itself—the window, the light. There is real joy," he said.

The excitement is understandable. Neighbouring a drab Howard Johnson hotel and crusty, run-down stores, the Dance Centre is a thing of beauty, and seems a little out of place. Windows and glass let sunlight stream into the building. An old 1930s-bank facade merges with curving glass to create something modern, yet firmly rooted in the past.

The building houses five studios for rehearsals, a performance space, and just about every other amenity a dancer could need—from obvious needs like changing rooms, to perks such as a laundry room and a physiotherapy clinic.

Simone Orlando, a five-year veteran with Ballet BC, has only worked in the building for a couple of weeks, but already feels at home in the new space.

"The work space is very inspiring. There's a lot of natural light and it just provides an environment and an atmosphere that...helps make our job a little bit easier," she explained.

The new building solves one of the biggest problems facing the community—a lack of good rehearsal space. The five studios in the centre are easily the best in Vancouver. The floors are made of layered strips of wood and engineered to prevent dancers' strain and injury. The large performance space can seat 150. The seats retract and when they're put away, the space expands to be the same dimensions as the Queen Elizabeth theatre stage, allowing even the largest productions to rehearse at the centre.

Herbert remembers the problems he used to have finding spaces for rehearsal.

"We used to have huge difficulties finding a studio that we could book at all in town. I remember hunting down all these little venues that we heard about in a rumour," he said.

As a member of Ballet BC, Orlando also remembers practicing in the company's old space on Broadway. It was a former office space that had housed the Vancouver Real Estate Board.

"There were little things, like there were no showers...Our dressing room was located in what used to be a kitchen that they used for banquet events. The lighting wasn't that great; especially in the winter it got dark in there really early. It was a bit oppressive," she recalled.

LOOKING AHEAD: Dance Centre executive director Mirna Zagar is excited about the future of dance in Vancouver. RON NURWISAH PHOTO

Mirna Zagar, executive director of the Dance Centre, agrees that a number of the old rehearsal spaces in Vancouver were often inadequate. Many were too dark, improperly ventilated, or had bad floor surfaces that were downright unsafe. Zagar has the horror stories to prove it. She remembers her time at local company Kinesis Dance, which rehearsed at a space near the Downtown Eastside.

"I recall going into rehearsal, stepping over a person—a drug addict injecting themselves. It was not at all pleasant to go into that space, day in, day out. I encountered dancers, their stuff being stolen, the studio broken into, their equipment stolen, yet they persevered," she said.

The instant chemistry between dancer and Dance Centre is easily understood. And yet, the Dance Centre was almost not built. Like any large-scale project, it had to clear dozens of hurdles.

Ideas for a centralised rehearsal and performance space for Vancouver's dance community have been around for decades. In the 1970s the federal government and local dance groups both concluded that a centralised locale for dance was needed. But it was not until 1986 that the Dance Centre society, an organisation helping the dance community, as well as planning for the future construction of a centre, was founded. In the early 1990s, the struggle for a dance centre gained more momentum, and by 1995, the society had received a commitment of $3.6 million from the federal and provincial governments.

The project nearly died in 1998, when initial plans to locate the site at the corner of Pacific and Granville died due to zoning and planning problems. Fortunately, by May, 1998, an alternate plan to place the centre at its current location at Granville and Davie, was finalised.

But construction also had its fair share of glitches. Three very large boulders were found by workers digging the building's new foundation and removing the rocks was an enormous headache. Other problems accumulated. Building in the middle of downtown Vancouver proved to be a logistic nightmare, and an ongoing pain.

"There's a very small lot between us and the hotel and the [back] lane is very small. We're also on one of the busiest corners in the core of downtown. So all that caused a lot of challenges," Zagar explained.

Today, with a completed building, those delays and building pains are largely forgotten. In fact, with the completion of the centre, for the first time in a long time, it seems there is a euphoric optimism in the city's dance community.

"For the first time the Vancouver dance community has an opportunity to plan...a season, several seasons ahead. There's a venue, and studios available...It gives productions additional opportunities to rehearse more, to eventually present more," Zagar pointed out enthusiastically.

For Herbert the impact of the new building is almost immeasurable.

"Every aspect is changed for us here in the building, and I'm sure it will change for people outside who aren't housed in the building," he said.

For the first time, many of the groups, including DanceArts Vancouver, have office and rehearsal spaces in the same building—something that Herbert feels is also a large improvement.

"You can go from creative meeting, board meeting, staff meeting upstairs, right into rehearsal and back again," he said.

"Our office staff, more than ever, can work together with the performers, with the dancers, with the actors, so there really is a cross-pollination of ideas," he added.

The Dance Centre also does something unique, bringing together more than two dozen dance companies in the same building. Ballet dancers can rub shoulders with classical Indian or Chinese dancers. The possibilities for collaborations and artistic exchange are dizzying.

Herbert remembers marvelling at the aerial dancers who performed on the roof of the building.

"It forces me to go further," he said. "To see all this different kind of dance and all these dancers everyday just furthers the great possibility of theatre and dance and other forms of dance working together."

On a more day-to-day level, having a Dance Centre also means that dancers get to see their peers more frequently. On a given day, any number of rehearsals could be going on in the studios. Just weeks after the Dance Centre's opening, dancers from Ballet BC and DanceArts Vancouver are already busily using the space. On their breaks the dancers can be seen relaxing, taking naps and chatting in the dancers' lounge.

"You're just more aware of what other people are doing, whereas in the past we didn't have the opportunity to go downstairs and look and see what somebody else was working on," Orlando said.

This building will hopefully also put Vancouver on the dance map.

"There's nothing similar to this in North America. [The centre is] built with a community in mind, and the community spirit in mind. It doesn't give preference to any single form. It's embracing. Also it's not built around the needs of a single company either. In that sense it's very unique," Zagar said

"Given some time, it will definitely and substantially contribute to better funding for dance to Vancouver. That'll mean increased production, more employment to the sector, all contributing to a higher national presence and contributing to international cultural exchange," she added.

But perhaps the building's most important role for Vancouver's dancers, choreographers and dance-lovers, will be to put Vancouver dance in the spotlight, increasing public attention to, and appreciation of, the local dance community.

"I'm simply overwhelmed with the acceptance from the public, and many volunteers, and people asking how they can contribute to our endeavor. It offers us a support mechanism that we were not aware existed before," Zagar said.

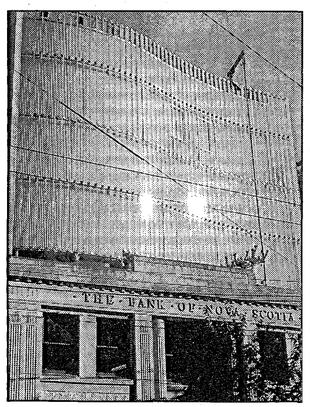
Moving downtown has been a big boost for the dance community. The large number of pedestrians along Granville and Davie automatically generate interest and knowledge about dance.

But Simone Orlando explained it best: "It feels like we're important."

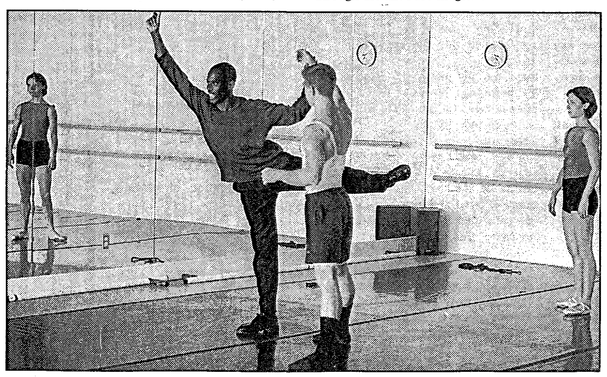
"I'm just really grateful that I'm here at this point in time, in the [dance] community in Vancouver, and have the chance to be here in this building," she said. "We're very fortunate because I don't think there's anything like this in any other city in Canada."

Vancouver's dance community got its wish—a new building, new rehearsal space, and, finally, a venue where they can feel like a part of the city.

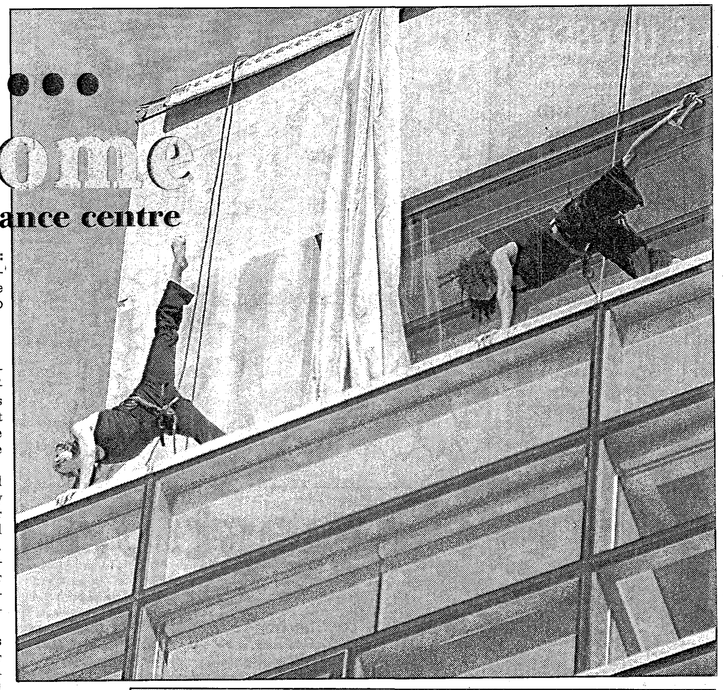
In the end, members of the dance community aren't the only ones smiling. Looking around as four aerial dancers take to the air above the Dance Centre, you can't help but notice the crowd. It seems as if all the faces around—of dancers, of office workers, of tourists, of everyone—is smiling. Sounds of delighted gasps and clapping hands filter into the fall air as the dancers swoop and swoon through the air. Pure magic. ❖



SHINY AND NEW: Years in the making Vancouver's new dance centre is finally complete. RON NURWISAH PHOTO



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT: Ballet BC choreographer John Alleyne works with dancers James Henry and Acacia Schacte. RON NURWISAH PHOTO



UP, UP AND AWAY: Aerial dancers inaugurate the new dance centre. NIC FENSOM PHOTO

The power of images

by Michelle Rosa

World Press Photo Exhibit at HSBC building until Oct. 3

The power of the image is something we have not taken for granted lately. Ask anyone who has not been able to turn off CNN or who couldn't stare at a front-page photo. It is with the power of the visual in mind that the *World Press Photo Exhibit* should be considered. The exhibit is a collection of images from the last year taken by photojournalists around the world and brought home to you.

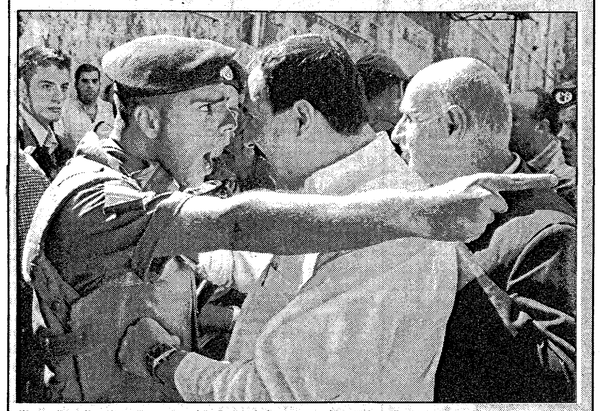
But rather than tell you the 'what,' the photos you will see, the places, the faces, will tell you the 'why.' Behind all those images you witnessed last week was a person taking that picture, someone who may have risked life and limb to put an image before your eyes. It had to be seen. It had to be known.

Take a moment to think to yourself. What do I expect from this year's *World Press Photo Exhibit*? What issues or events do I want represented? What events have defined the last year?

Now take an hour out of your week to go to the atrium of the HSBC bank office in downtown Vancouver. Try to ignore the inconvenience of being in the belly of a giant multinational bank. Don't forget to dodge the bike couriers running in and out. Ignore the ugly enormous swinging pendulum looming overhead. It is, after all, free admission and besides, the foot traffic through this location is far better than if you were across the street tucked into the Vancouver Art Gallery somewhere.

What you will see is the combined effort of various sponsors and the World Press Photo organisation. Independent, non-profit and uncensored are the reigning ideas. So throughout the 200 photos that you will see, remember that over 42,000 were initially entered in this year's competition, and ultimately these were narrowed down by a panel of peers from the international press.

Chosen from the thousands will be a scattering of photos with which you will be familiar and others that will stun you into silence. For me, it was the poignancy of seeing the faces of ordinary people from Iraq and Afghanistan that left my head re-playing the newsbites of the past week. I don't have to tell you what next year's exhibit will inevitably include, but I look forward to it nonetheless. ❖



"Israeli policeman argues with Palestinian man, Jerusalem." AMIT SHABI/REUTERS

THE UBYSSEY

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In a far off world, there lived a happy little princess named Duncan McHugh. At least she was until a recent election voted a tie between Chris Shepherd, Sara Young and herself to be Princess Charming. However, one member didn't vote. Ai Lin Choo and Sarah MacNeill Morrison had found a glass slipper outside of the voters' box and reports from Ron Nurwisah and Scott Bardsley said a young woman had been seen fleeing before the vote, from Fairy Godmother Julia Christensen, screaming "no more pumpkins, no more pumpkins!" They searched, trying shoes on Laura Blue, Alicia Miller, Marta Bashovski and Kathy Deering but none of them fit into the slipper. Nic Fensom then decided to ask Jesse Marchand for help. Unfortunately, all she could offer was a poisoned apple. As he was leaving, Hywel Tuscano, the gingerbread man, came out of her house screaming "Don't eat me, Don't eat me!" As he was running he ran into a group of three unusually tall dwarves, Graeme Worthy, Rob Stotesbury-Leeson and Alejandro Bustos. Although Hywel looked rather tasty, they were vegetarians and wouldn't eat him. Besides, they were also trying to find the slipper wearer. They came across a girl and forced the shoe on her foot. It fit and Michelle Rosa was the missing voter. She was so happy, she kissed Michael Schwandt. She voted for Michael and nothing was every really solved, but they all lived, and that was enough.

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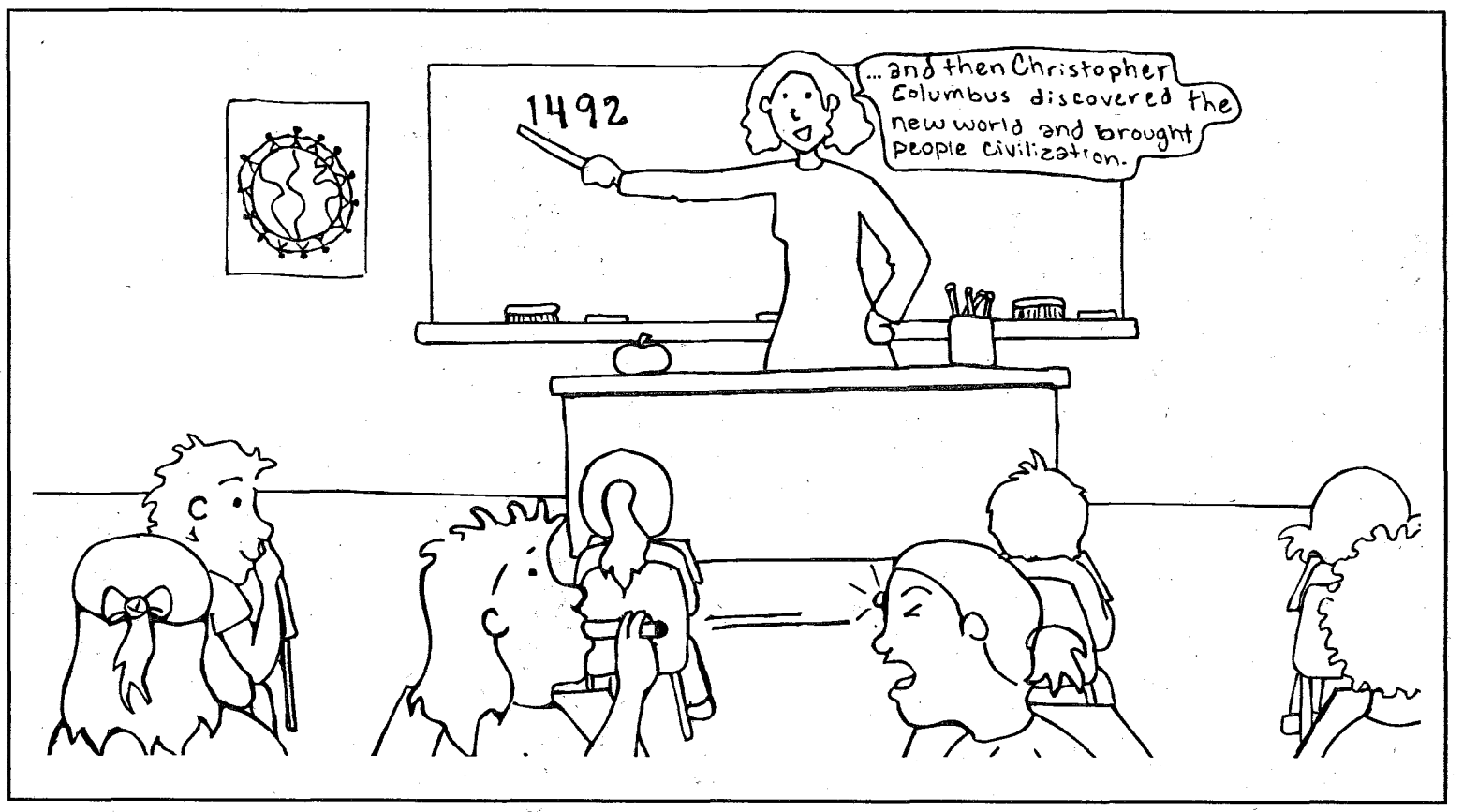


A question of 'civility'

Civilisation is a lofty concept. Look at the current battle of words and military might between the US (and its puppet-like friends in NATO) and the Taliban. We in the Western world cling to the elaborate imagination that we are 'civilised' democratic countries and, therefore, superior to 'uncivilised' nations like Afghanistan or Iraq.

The 'us' and 'them' rhetoric is dangerous. If we are brave enough to look at ourselves in the mirror, we will see that many of our claims of 'civilisation' have very shaky foundations indeed.

Canada is certainly a country that enjoys patting itself on the 'civilised' back. But a look through current national affairs tells a different story on Canada and its level of so-called 'civility.'

Was it in the name of 'civility' that Constables Ken Munson and Dan Hatchen left Darrell Night, drunk and wearing nothing heavier than a jean jacket, to freeze to death in an open field, kilometres outside of Saskatoon last January? At 5:30 on the morning of January 28, 2000, Night was left at the end of a gravel road 4.5 kilometres from his home in -22°C weather. Had Night not quickly sobered up and made his way to a power plant where he was able to phone for a taxi home, he would have surely perished that winter morning.

Night's is not the only case of Aboriginal people being rounded up by police cruisers in downtown Saskatoon and left to fend for themselves in the cold, kilometres out of town. In fact, police officers are suspected of four instances of dropping natives outside of Saskatoon, but Night's is the only case to go to trial. Charges have not been laid in two incidents, in which two men froze to death. A third death is still under investigation. And these are just the deaths that have occurred in the past year. Others have been talked about or reported in years prior, but nothing was done and so they became urban myths.

In other Western Canadian communities, reports have emerged that police commonly dump intoxicated Aboriginal people and force them to walk back to their communities. In Winnipeg, for example, the practice has been coined the 'midnight ride.'

Hard to believe, perhaps, that such cruelty could occur in a country like ours: a 'civilised' country. In fact, it sounds more like something one would expect from police in Georgia in the 1950s—not Canada in the 21st century.

This is the same Canada that claims to be 'civilised'—well, whatever 'civilised' means. We link arms with the United States in this most recent battle against the 'uncivilised,' 'barbaric' and 'terrorist-harbouring' nations of the Middle East. And yet we have seemingly waged our own tragic war against our First Nations peoples, silently allowing 'accidental deaths' like the one that Darrell Night narrowly missed, to pass underneath our noses.

Since Night reported his near-death experience that cold January morning, more than 100 Aboriginal people have come forward with similar stories—so many that the RCMP has set up a 1-800 number to hear their allegations of abuse. And that is just in Western Canada. A conspiracy of silence is being waged in Canada against First Nations people, as hate and violence and dismissal and resentment cause many of us to turn our faces away from the 'silent ethnocide' that is digging its claws into Aboriginal peoples.

We boast about our social security net in Canada. But it's a net that has gaping holes, and many Aboriginal people in Canada are falling through every year. Structural violence, beginning with the process of colonisation, metamorphosing itself into the residential school system, and now perpetuating itself in a heap of social problems ranging from extreme suicide rates to abuse to unemployment. A cycle of neglect has been in motion now for centuries and it's something that can't just be written off in the land claims process or in government programs that really only pay lip service to the problems.

The fact that two police officers in Saskatoon would think it was all right to drive Darrell Night to the outskirts of town in the dead of winter and leave him there speaks a loud message about our country's way of operating. The fact that this same thing has allegedly happened before but people who knew about it refused to come forward, for fear their words would fall on deaf ears, also speaks a loud message.

The irony is stifling as we read the newspapers this past week: the jock talk about the face-off between Good and Evil, the need for countries like the US, Britain and Canada to make the world safe by protecting the good, democratic and 'civilised' peoples of those countries. Rather than use this past week's tragedies in the US as inspiration for our own examination of injustice, violence and prejudice in Canada, we have turned it into a foiling of characters that only exist in our imaginations. And as we stand in defiant opposition of those we regard as evil, perhaps we, as a country, should look in the mirror a bit. It won't be pretty, but we might start solving some of these problems rather than perpetuating them.❖

letters

Terrorism can't topple the ivory tower

When devastatingly horrific events, like the one we witnessed on Tuesday, September 11, occur, it is the duty of all of us to comfort one another. I'm shocked that absolutely no mention of the tragedy was given in ANY of my five classes. For a credible and worldly institution like UBC, there is absolutely no excuse for this! Students come to this institution from around our planet to acquire the knowledge and skills we need to be the leaders of the future.

Unquestionably, terrorism is a major world issue that our generation will encounter time and time again. In order to come up with a solution, the ideas of many bright people must be combined in open discussions. A course dedicated to examining the topic from all possible angles would be a positive way for UBC to contribute to this world dilemma. The interest is there; let's make it happen!

—Jamie Dunnett
Human Kinetics 1

Retaliation: a questionable response to US events

Hopefully, the US government (and other such powers) will not follow the plethora of irrational, inhumane advice—even with all of the innocent lives that were (will be) lost in this incredibly atrocious attack against US citizens—flowing freely throughout the news media.

I would agree with the warmongers of the West if we could somehow get all of the evil people (including those of the US, while we're at it) into the same safely isolated room. Then we could perhaps morally justify US 'retaliatory' bombings; however, that's not how it goes and innocents will get slaughtered in the proverbial crossfire.

Way too many innocents already intensely suffer for the deeds of the very few—e.g. millions of Iraqi children because of the sanctions against them—and to increase this immoral injustice would only fuel greater anti-US sentiment, which may result in even greater terrorist attacks against innocent Americans. As human beings, we're obliged to acknowledge all human beings as individual persons, with accompanying ideology, morals and rights.

It would definitely be ideal if every war-monger on this planet could be forced to watch the incredible movie *Enemy Mine* (with Dennis Quaid and Louis Gossett, Jr), a film about how the very worst of enemies can, once they learn a bit about each other, become the very best of friends.

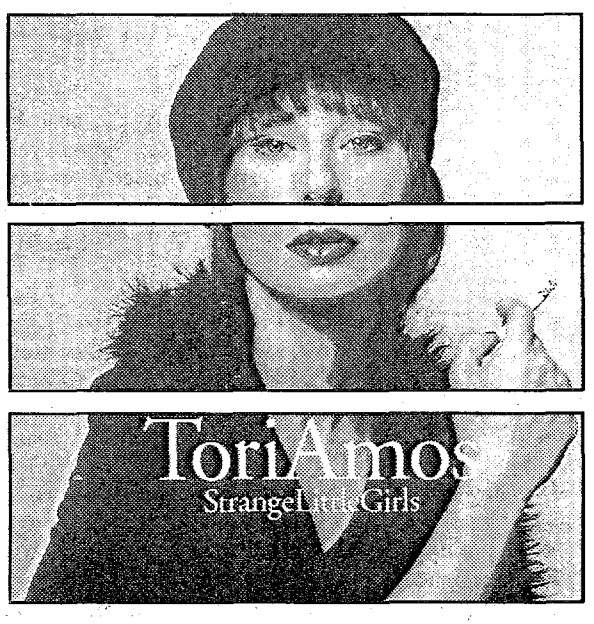
Unfortunately, however, one of the most tragic truths of human existence is that it seems it requires the peaceful conduct/cooperation of literally 100 per cent of the world's populace in order to ensure/maintain 100 per cent global stability 100 per cent of the time; meanwhile, it can take only one person to cause the disintegration of global stability and then catastrophe—e.g. the lone assassin who alone triggered the domino effect that eventually resulted in the brutal First World War.

—Frank G. Sterle, Jr
White Rock

Tori & Doug get strange

TORI AMOS
Strange Little Songs
[Atlantic]

Leave it to Tori Amos to be unique, unusual, and push hidden limits even with a cover album. Instead of a fluffy, loosely-put-together mix of all-time favourites, sung Tori-style, you get a collection of seemingly disparate pieces: everything from Eminem and Slayer to the Boomtown Rats, hacked beyond recognition and then re-built in Tori fashion. The result is an album that, while quite bizarre, wears on you until you're playing it on repeat.



The album opens with a salute to the Velvet Underground, as she covers their song "New Age." Smoky and raw, one can't help but picture Tori on a stage in an alley club, singing amidst the cigarette smoke, while two drunk lovers are the only ones brave enough to dance. A beautiful piece, unfortunately, it's quickly forgotten as you go deeper into the album.

Tori's cover of Eminem's "'97 Bonnie & Clyde," was highly criticised even before the album's release. Her attempt to reclaim the anti-woman lyrics by singing them is poignant. It's almost funny how successfully she co-opts Eminem's previously abrasive rhymes. The song is eerie, frightening and, certainly to Eminem's dismay, pretty. Be cautious, however, because this cover is guaranteed to scare the living daylights out of you.

The cover of Neil Young's "Heart of Gold" is almost unrecognisable. If you're a hardcore Neil Young fan, and Lawrence Gowan's cover of the same tune almost put you in an early grave, you might want to skip this track on Tori's album. The lyrics are the same, everything else is not. This is definitely the track where Tori gets the most experimental and she doesn't miss the mark.

Tori also experiments with the Beatles tune "Happiness is a Warm Gun." John, Paul, George and Ringo are nowhere to be found, but Tori's anti-violence message is definitely there. To hammer the message she includes clips of voices talking about violence in America and 'the right to bear arms.'

By far, the best pieces on the album are those where the lyrics shine though; tracks where you have to double-check the liner notes to make sure she didn't actually write them. "Strange Little Girl," a Stranglers track, flows so sweetly from Tori's mouth it could have been a track off her own *From a Choirgirl Hotel* album.

But Tori is at her best when she sings the stories of common women. Her cover of the Lloyd Cole and the Commotions' "Rattlesnakes" fits her like a favourite sweater. While her interpretation of the Boomtown Rats' "I Don't Like Mondays" is also sure to become a fan favourite.

The album is full of strange little songs. Using her distinct voice, Tori Amos brands these songs as her own. Like a fingerprint, her voice is entirely unique and makes this album raw, vulnerable and strong, all at the same time.❖

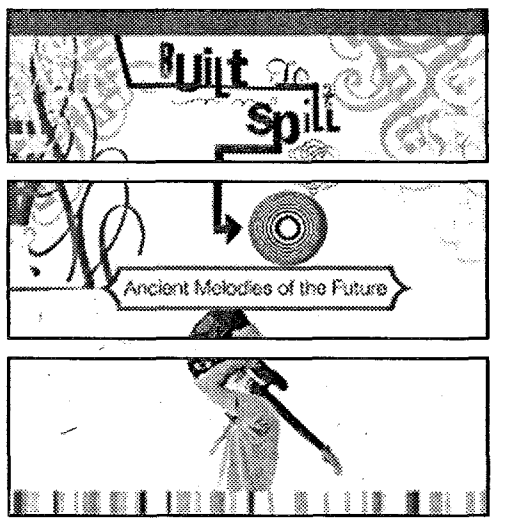
–Julia Christensen

BUILT TO SPILL
Ancient Melodies Of The Future
[Warner]

Built To Spill has been pouring out quality indie rock for a long time, and the Boise, Idaho trio has shown no signs of stopping. Their devoted fan base has been waiting since 1999's stellar *Keep It Like A Secret* for new material, with only a live album to keep their hunger for similar epic pop balladry in check. With this summer's release of *Ancient Melodies Of The Future*, old Built To Spill fans and new admirers alike will soon be humming the infectious and complex tunes, whether they like it or not.

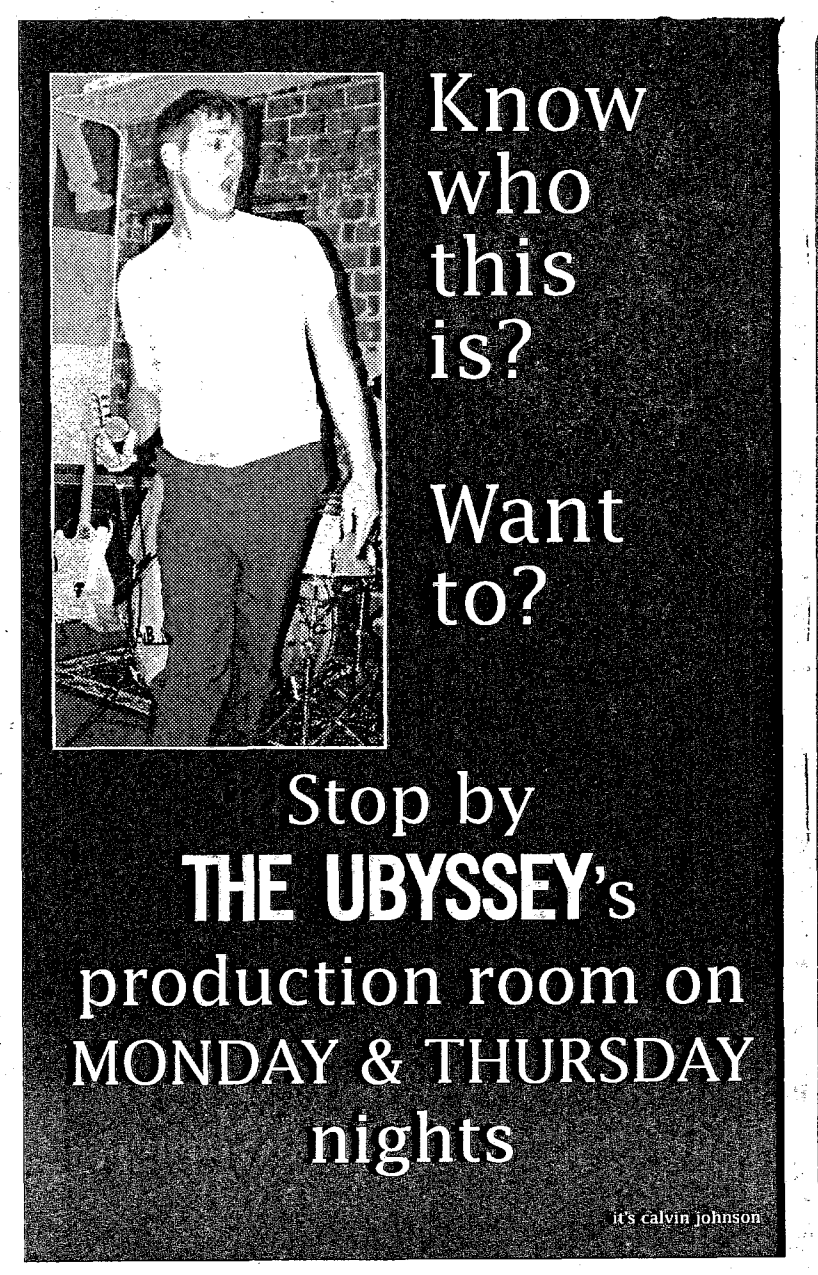
The album is appropriately titled. These *Ancient Melodies* do sound as if they could have been conjured up in years past. The music feels as immediately familiar as decades-old classic rock. However, the *Future* speaks up throughout the album as well. At a time when guitar solos on commercial radio rarely go beyond mimicking lead vocal lines, it doesn't take much to be regarded as an innovator. But here, singer/guitarist Doug Martsch comes off like a more highly evolved subspecies of rock musician, one of the most imaginative guitarists in this genre. On the chugging first track of the album, "Strange," Martsch gives his effects boxes a workout probably undreamed of by the manufacturer. Then there's the straight-ahead rock number "Happiness," owner of some of the best sliding riffs in recent memory.

Martsch's voice, as usual, borders on a Neil Young impression, which really isn't such a bad thing since it works so well with the band's sound. The lyrics earnestly talk of time-honoured topics of love and loneliness. They are very creative, but it feels at times as if Martsch would rather stick to his guitar. For example, the lyrics in "You Are" consist of only one phrase. After lackadaisically crooning the words, Martsch reverts to what he's known best for, and soars into an extended whale song of a guitar solo.



As difficult as it surely is to assert themselves amidst all of this, the other members of the band (bassist Brett Nelson and drummer Scott Plouf) are a rock-solid foundation for Martsch's efforts. Forming a great rhythm section, they propel the melodies along through mid-song time signature changes more than competently. Cello and piano instrumentation grace a few of the songs, a pleasant—if unnecessary—addition to an already densely arranged sound. *Ancient Melodies Of The Future* has the smart songwriting to win over listeners who hear just one song on the radio, and enough depth to make a purchase and repeated listening worthwhile.❖

–Michael Schwandt



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Third time's the charm

Is this the year UBC's cross-country teams make it to the NAIA champs?

by Scott Bardsley

Three years ago, the UBC cross-country team made the difficult transition from the CIAU to the NAIA. It lost all but thirteen of its runners and has been facing stiffer competition in meets ever since. But all the team's work in the tougher league is starting to pay off. After narrowly missing the regional meet's two qualifying spots last year, this year the team has a *strong* chance of winning the regionals and going all the way to the NAIA cross-country championships.

The men's team is led by David Milne and Byron Wood, who have placed seventh and tenth respectively in the NAIA nationals last year. Almost all of its athletes are back and ready to run this season.

"This year's team is deeper than any of the previous years' that I've ever been a part of," Milne said. "It's the first year where the team really is a team. We actually have a sense of winning as a group and trying to do the best as a group in all the races."

Milne said that with strong performances from runners such as Wood, John Luckhurst, Dave Roulston and the Titus twins, Joren and Morgan, they're going to be in "a great, great position to win the NAIAs as a team." Previously only Milne and Wood had ever qualified for the nationals, and only as individuals. But if the team places first in the regionals, or is ranked as one of the top 25 teams nationally, then the whole team qualifies.

Coach Marek Jedrzejek said that last year the team was very young; their focus was to get as much competitive experience as possible. The team had to make do without Milne, who was red-shirted due to injury.

Milne, who is now in his last year of eligibility for the team, has only been running since Grade 11, but won the 1998 Junior Canadian National Championships and the 2001 CIAU 3000m. According to teammate Dave Roulston, he is "an international class athlete."

Heather MacDonald leads the women's team. She placed fifth in CIAU cross-country in 1997 and 13th at the World University Games in Beijing this summer. The women's team is welcoming several new members this year, but the team still feels that this is going be a strong season.

"It's kind of a building year," said Roulston. "There's more depth this year then there was last year and Heather MacDonald is probably going to be a good team leader."

"It's great to see all these girls down here [at practice]," said MacDonald. "It's just going to be a matter of keeping them going. Sometimes they get scared by the amount of running they have to do here."

Jedrzejek is also excited about the potential of some of the women runners, particularly that of rookie Sarah Swann, who placed fourth in 3000m and the steeplechase at the BC high school championships.

"[She's a] very talented athlete and she has a lot of potential...to be one of our top athletes."

According to Roulston, the difference this year will be "staying injury-free and staying positive. Everything from there will sort itself out. Just keep training hard and everything will work out well."

And some of the men have introduced a new element to their training: weight training. Three times a week, seven of the runners go to the gym as a group and try to push each other.

"I think it's really going to supplement our running. We go in probably three times a week and do full body, upper body and lower body. Hopefully we'll start seeing results from that," Roulston said.

"When you put something like that on—a weight program—it's going to take away from running because they're not going to be as fresh at practice," Milne said. "[But] we're trying to be our best at the end of November...Until then everything else is kind of geared up for that goal."

The team will be in Seattle this weekend for the Sundodger Invitational, the team's first meet of the season. ❖

RUN, RUN, RUN: (Above) The UBC cross-country team practises on Tuesday. With strong returning runners, the team might just have what it takes to win the NAIA regionals and go on to the nationals. NIC FENSOM PHOTO

BIRD droppings

Football

The football team is playing away against the Regina Rams tonight. The undefeated Rams will be very stiff competition for the Birds, who scored their first victory of the season just last Friday. According to UBC coach Jay Prepchuck, the Rams are "very powerful on offence. They've got two of the better players in the country." To beat the Goliath, he said, "offensively [UBC has] to be much more consistent...and establish a bit more of a running game than [it has] done in the past."

Field Hockey

The women's field hockey team plays its season-opener this weekend in Calgary at the first Canada West Tournament. This year's squad is a young one, having lost six of its best players last year.

"We have potential to be a very good team...A lot of teams from the CIAU lost a lot of players, so it's like whole new teams that are meeting this weekend...It'll be interesting to see what happens," said fifth-year player and captain Stephanie Hume.

Soccer

The UBC men's and women's soccer teams are travelling around Alberta this weekend, playing Lethbridge on Saturday and Calgary on Sunday. The 1-0-1 men play the 1-1 Pronghorns on Saturday, and should have an easy game on Sunday against the winless Dinos. The winless women start the weekend off against 0-2 Lethbridge and play the tough 3-0-1 Dinos on the next day.

Women's Rugby

The women's rugby team and its new coach, Spencer Robinson, have their home-opener against Varsity Bay this Saturday at 11:30am on Wilson Field. ❖