the ubyssey
Investing in the madness since 1918
volume 77 issue 12 Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Soggy Trekkers fight the cuts

by Chris Nuttall-Smith

They came on foot, on skateboards, in strollers and by police escort. In a remarkable affront to student apathy, hundreds of umbrella-toting students, faculty and staff from UBC, Langara College and local high schools braved the rain last Friday to 'Trek for Education' and fight cutbacks to post-secondary education.

A group of about 150 trekkers met at Connaught Park in Kitsilano, grew to over 800 people en route and walked to UBC to send the government a message that students will not bear the weight of cuts to federal transfer payments.

"It was pouring rain and we had 1,000 people trekking up to UBC. Today we showed the provincial and federal governments that we are very serious about keeping university education accessible to all Canadians," AMS Coordinator of External Affairs Dave Borins told *The Ubyssey*.

Borins, who organized the march, said the goal was to call upon the federal government to end corporate tax breaks and subsidies instead of cutting education funding, and to ask the provincial government to legislate a limit to tuition increases.

Trekkers screamed "hey hey, ho ho, tuition hikes have got to go," and "Stop the hikes" as they walked towards a rally outside the SUB.

As shoppers poked their heads out of store windows along Broadway and Tenth Ave, they were greeted with signs and banners reading "Stop the Madness" and "Philosophers are rolling in their graves."

Ironically, a few banners for the low-budget trek were made from ripped sections of a banner used to promote last year's $40,000 flopped "Spirit" campaign.

One high school student who would only identify herself as Jen, said she probably wouldn't be able to go to university if the government allowed tuition to double. "Unless I want to pay for student loans for the rest of my life, I just won't be able to afford school," she said.

Langara English department member Roger Holdstock agreed the cost of education is growing out of reach of some students and said faculty must support students. "I think it's important that faculty and students come together to recognize that faculty depend on accessible education for their jobs, and students should have the right to an education."

Long time UBC activist Nancy Horseman said she couldn't believe the Trek's turnout. "I've never seen anything like this since the sixties," she yelled over the noise of the rally. But when asked if the demonstration would have any effect on government policy she said; "No. Not at all."

Horseman said students cannot expect one march and rally to affect university administration and government policy. "Eventually this kind of protest is going to have weight, but this corporate mentality is just on the go and there's no stopping it right now. But when the kids recognize that, they'll fight really hard."

But Desmond Rodenbour from Langara's Student Union was more positive about the future of post-secondary education.

Rodenbour drew raucous applause from the rain-drenched crowd with a poem inspired by his favourite professor, Dr. Seuss.

SCORES OF STUDENT PROTESTORS fill the streets of Kitsilano at last Friday's Trek for Education. PHOTO: CHRIS NUTTALL-SMITH

Wage gap shocks researchers

by Douglas Quan

A new study on the salary gap between whites and visible minorities suggests that Canadian employers have some explaining to do.

Earning Differentials among Ethnic Groups in Canada reveals that white, male immigrants earn two percent less than their white Canadian-born counterparts, while immigrant males of a visible minority earn fifteen percent less than their white male counterparts.

Krishna Pendakur, an assistant professor of economics at Simon Fraser University co-authored the study with his brother Ravi, who works in the federal government's Canadian heritage department. While he "expected to see that immigrants earn less," he didn't expect to find such a large gap between white immigrants and those of a visible minority.

He says it is not a new fact that visible minorities earn less than white people in Canada, but "[the differences] have commonly been blamed on...immigration status. The natural test of that is...do Canadian-born visible minorities earn any less?"

He expected no differences, but the research proved otherwise. The Pendakurs found Canadian-born males of a visible minority earn 10.2 percent less than their white counterparts.

"That's big," he said. "Such differentials cannot easily be shrugged off on cultural differences, langugage skills and education quality."

Eric Wong, director of the BC multicultural education society, agrees with Pendakur. He said "too often, our conclusions are drawn from casual observations."

Wong says the numbers concern him because they suggest that "certain attributes like education may, in fact, not be the equalizer we think it might be."

The study is based on 1991 census data. 150,000 cases from six major cities were examined and used to compare the wages of Canadian and foreign-born males and females, aged 20 to 64, who are a visible minority, with those of white, Canadian-born males and females.

In the full report, no interpretative analysis was made beyond what Pendakur says is the study's "rejection" of the misconception that visible minorities earn less because of their immigrant status.

UBC sociology professor David Schweitzer says Pendakur's conclusion is not enough. According to Schweitzer, income differentiation is usually based on jobs and education, a "structured inequality."

Given this study's measures to control for language, schooling and occupation, Schweitzer said, "there seems to be a hidden message that there are discriminatory practices being combined with, perhaps in the realm of ideology, a form of racism."

Pendakur emphasizes, however, that the results are "not proof." He conceded "you could still think that [the differences] are due to something left out of the analysis, some kind of unobserved variable."

Women immigrants of a visible minority earned about seven percent less than white Canadian-born females. Visible minority females born in Canada, however, earned about the same as white females born in Canada.

Dr. Schweitzer expected wider percentage differentials among women. Pendakur suggests the smaller gap can be attributed to females in general already being at the lower end of the payscale.

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'TWEEN CLASSES

Wednesday Oct. 18
Composting Day
Presented by the Student Environment Centre. Outside SUB (South), 11:00am - 3:00pm.

Wednesday Oct. 18
Mini Film Festival
The Women's Centre presents three films for and about women. SUB Auditorium, 12:30 - 5:00 pm.

Thursday Oct. 19
Bob Cavill speaker
Presented by Students for Forestry Awareness. 12:30pm.

October 19 -22
Interdisciplinary Conference
Trash: Class, Culture and Waste in America, 1607-present. Renaissance Vancouver Hotel, all day.

Mondays
Lunch Social
GLBUBC. SUB 125N, 12:30pm.

Discussion Group
GLBUBC. Student Graduate centre, 5:00pm -7:00pm

Wednesdays
General Meeting
GLBUBC. SUB 125N, 12:30pm.

Wednesdays
General Meeting
Amnesty International. SUB 212, 12:30 -1:30pm.

Ubyssey Staff can vote!

The following people are eligible to vote (as of October 16th):

Desiree Adib
Paula Bach
Federico Barahona
Andy Barham
Andy Bonfield
Peter Chattaway
Joe Clark
Charlie Cho
Allison Cole
Wolf Depner
Steve Emery
Sherri Farquharson
Andy Ferris
Sarah Galashan
Noelle Gallagher
Shelley Gornall
Scott Hayward
Areni Kelleppan
Ben Koh
Jenn Kuo
Chris Nuttall-Smith
Sarah O'Donnell
Christine Price
Siobhán Roantree
Simon Rogers
Doug Sewell
Matt Thompson
Dan Tencer
Wah-Kee Ting
Janet Winters

The following people have made one or two contributions:

John bolton
Christopher Brashaw
Darren Campbell
Darin Clisby
Sage Davies
Julian Dowling
Alison Dunnet
Bryce Edwards
Rick Edwards
Ron Eichler
Bill Gaspard
Chris Gatchalian
Hugh Gerring
Kristi Gordon
Matt Green
Quinn Harris
Bruce Hennel
Ron Herbert
Rick Hunter
Matthew Kennedy
Mike Kitchen
Natasha Lena
Alison Luddit
Scarlett McGluddery
Pat McGuire
Chris Mauran
Jeff Miles
Joe Moran
Joe Muller
Christian Obeck
Jeff Orr
Doug Quan
Rachana Razaida
Jim Rowley
Rachel Russell
Betta Shun
Diana Stein
Jeremy Valeriote
Kim Wyatt
Oscar Zuniga

AMS Update

To all Faculty, Staff and Student Representatives of UBC,

I am writing this letter to urge you to vote against the motion to reopen the Political Science Graduate Program. The governing body of the Alma Mater Society (of which all students of UBC are members) recently passed a motion to support the Graduate Student Society's recommendations in regard to the Political Science inquiry. One of the recommendations states that closure of the department is necessary until the other recommendations have been implemented. Please take the decision of the Alma Mater Society into consideration when voting on the Political Science issue.

Sincerely,
Namiko Kunimoto, AMS Vice President

Political Science Update:

The Faculty of Graduate Studies defeated the motion to reopen the Political Science Department of Graduate Studies. The Faculty of Graduate Studies passed a motion (with an overwhelming majority) to support Dean Grace and his efforts towards a university free from discrimination and harassment.

If you share the goal of improving the climate at UBC and of promoting change throughout the institution, please support efforts to address issues of racism and sexism by joining the Coalition for an Inclusive University.

UBC Senate will facing a motion to reopen the Department of Graduate Studies of Political Science on Wednesday, October 18th at 8:00 pm in the auditorium in the Curtis Building. All concerned individuals should attend.

ALMA MATER SOCIETY
STUDENT SOCIETY OF UBC
Prepared by your student society

AMS Update

TUESDAY SPECIALS

Want to *s-t-r-e-t-c-h* your student dollar *f-u-r-t-h-e-r*? Try the Tuesday Specials at the following AMS food and beverage outlets.

THE GALLERY LOUNGE
11:30 am to 2:30 pm
Half the daily special sandwich (vegetarian) and a cup of soup for only $2.75.
After 2:30 pm: Chips & Salsa for $1.35
Tsatziki with pita for $1.35

THE PENDULUM Meat or Vegetarian chili reduced to $3.00 plus GST

SNACK ATTACK LARGE hot dog for the price of a regular

THE PIT BURGER BAR Veggie Burger for the price of a beef burger

BLUE CHIP COOKIES Juice "rejuiced" from $1.68 to $1.43 plus GST

PIE R SQUARED Pizza slice for $2.25
8:00 to 1:00 am, Tuesdays & Thursdays
7:00 to 11:00 pm, Sundays. GST included.

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ALMA MATER SOCIETY
STUDENT SOCIETY OF UBC
Prepared by your student society

Grad Studies council votes to keep poli sci closed

by Sarah O'Donnell

UBC's Dean of Graduate Studies received an overwhelming vote of confidence last Wednesday when the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FoGS) council defeated a motion to reopen graduate admissions in the political science department.

The 43 to 9 decision is a strong show of support for Dean John Grace, who may face a tough battle this Wednesday as the university's Senate considers a similar motion to reopen admissions.

Students attending the meeting openly applauded as Grace spoke out against the drubbing he and others have received from his university colleagues and the mainstream media.

"To characterize my actions as 'McCarthyism,' or political correctness,' to label students who are legitimately seeking improvements in their educational environment as 'Red Guards' and 'dissidents,' and to dismiss genuinely concerned women scholars as 'hysterical feminists' is to debase efforts to encourage much needed change."

Grace reminded FoGS council that more than three years had passed since the initial complaints of racism and sexism in the political science, and said department had done little to address the problems previous to the admissions embargo.

The Dean warned of the consequences of prematurely lifting the admissions ban, saying he found it "unlikely" that the reform process would continue if the suspension were lifted.

"Overturning the suspension would send a message to many graduate students that a narrowly conceived notion of faculty privilege is more important than providing an appropriate and hospitable learning environment for their studies."

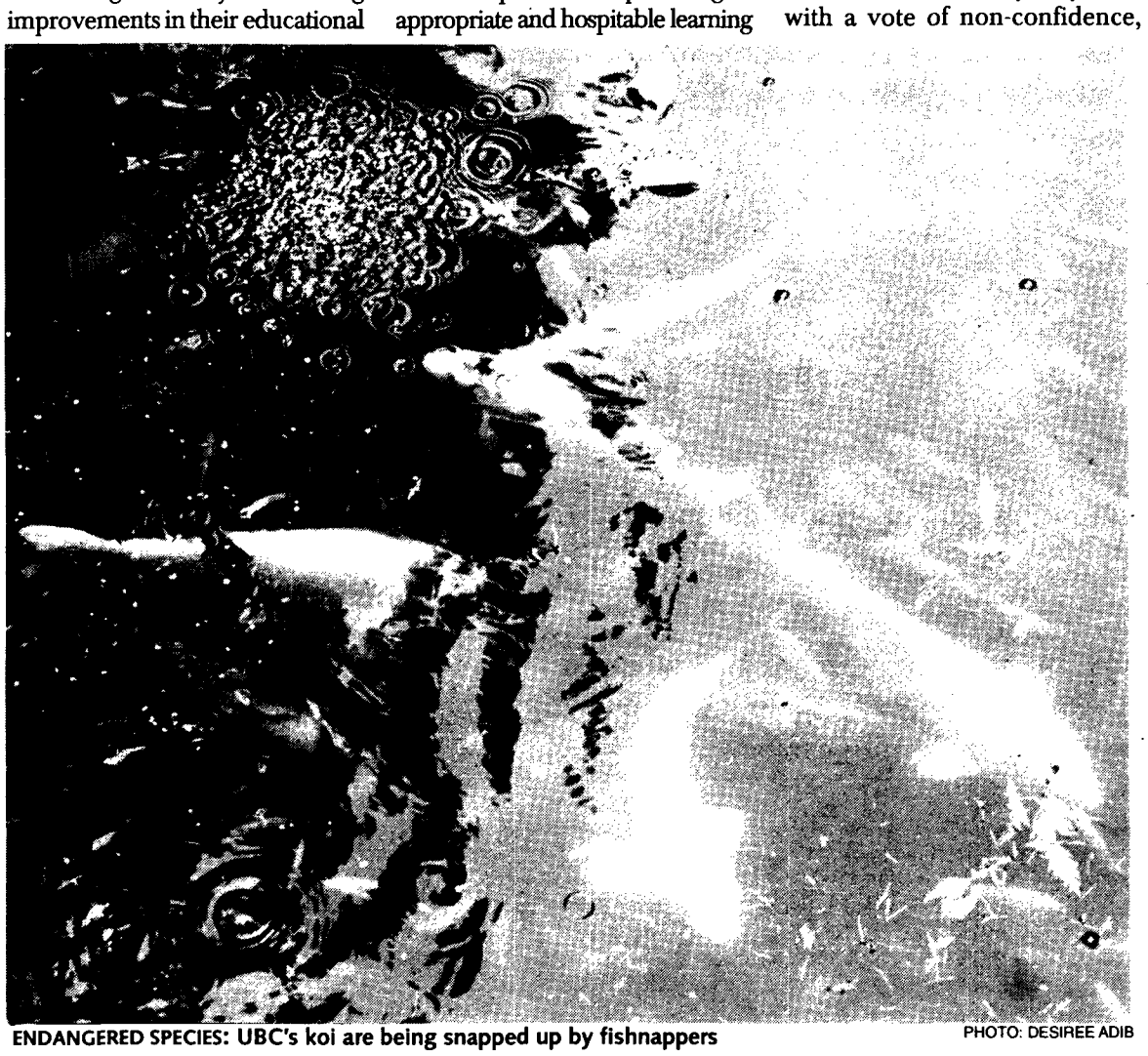
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL votes not to reopen political science dept. PHOTO: SARAH O'DONNELL

William Benjamin, the music professor responsible for the motion, challenged Grace's assertion that a vote to reopen admissions would be synonymous with a vote of non-confidence, arguing there was no direct link.

Benjamin said it was inappropriate to halt admissions for its symbolic effect. "The act is not ostensible if it is intended as a wake-up call. You don't wake up somebody by stabbing them in the back.

"Put simply, laudable ends do not justify morally repugnant means."

Although faculty spoke both for and against the motion, the final vote was decisive. Not a single student representative voted in favour of Benjamin's motion.



ENDANGERED SPECIES: UBC's koi are being snapped up by fishnappers PHOTO: DESIREE ADIB

Fishy disappearances

by Desiree Adib

The Koi at Naitobi Memorial Gardens are mysteriously disappearing from their pond.

Koi are rare Japanese carp worth anywhere from $200 to $10,000 each and are considered one of the Gardens' most valuable treasures.

There are currently three "suspects" for the "crime": raccoons, heron and humans. Their respective motives are food, food and money.

"In March there were 35 Koi in the pond, and by late August only eighteen were counted," said Gardens Gatekeeper Veronica. "We usually know when the raccoons have eaten them because fish carcasses are found, and since March we have only recovered three [of 17] carcasses."

The Naitobi Gardens grounds crew has found broken bushes, clothes and smouldering campfires left by trespassers. Staff, however, believe that while these vandals are stealing night time swims, they are not the fishnappers.

Although staff twice reported missing fish to the RCMP, police have no leads.

"We have no leads or suspects right now," said an RCMP spokesperson.

"It's a great shame really," said Botanical Gardens Director Bruce MacDonald, "because it's not just the value of [the fish] that's important but the enjoyment people get from seeing them.

"The odd thing is that it hasn't really happened before. This year has been the first [when the fish have been stolen]. I suspect that we've had these fish for 20 to 25 years."

For now, staff say they will put up a 'No Trespassing' sign outside the Naitobi gate. They can only hope it will be enough to deter the thieves.

Students still sardined into buses

by Stanley Tromp

Students packed into overcrowded buses will have to wait for relief while 28 old BC Transit buses await repairs.

Transit spokesperson Trace Acres said students can continue to expect delays and overcrowding until full transit service to UBC resumes at the end of this month.

"With so many buses in repair, certain runs may be cancelled, like high volume 'trippers,' which are short runs during rush hours," Acres said. "So with a UBC bus you may have a ten minute-wait instead of a six minute one."

First year UBC science student Francine Perrault said she's had to grin and bear it.

"The bus was so crowded at 7:30 in the morning that when people were jammed against the door inside, the driver still opened the door to let more in," she said. "I thought that was really dangerous. And he drove slower because it was full, so I was five minutes late for class."

Nicos Fassler, second year arts, was luckier. Taking a diesel bus direct from West Vancouver, he said he can always find a seat. "But when I take the number 9 or 10 downtown, it's very crowded."

In the past three weeks, badly corroded sections of the rear frames of trolley buses–such as the rear axles and suspensions–have weakened and fallen off. The buses were bought in 1982 and have a 20 year life expectancy.

BC Transit has plans to buy more diesel buses in January.

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- Use a cloth handkerchief instead of tissues (it's nicer for your nose too).

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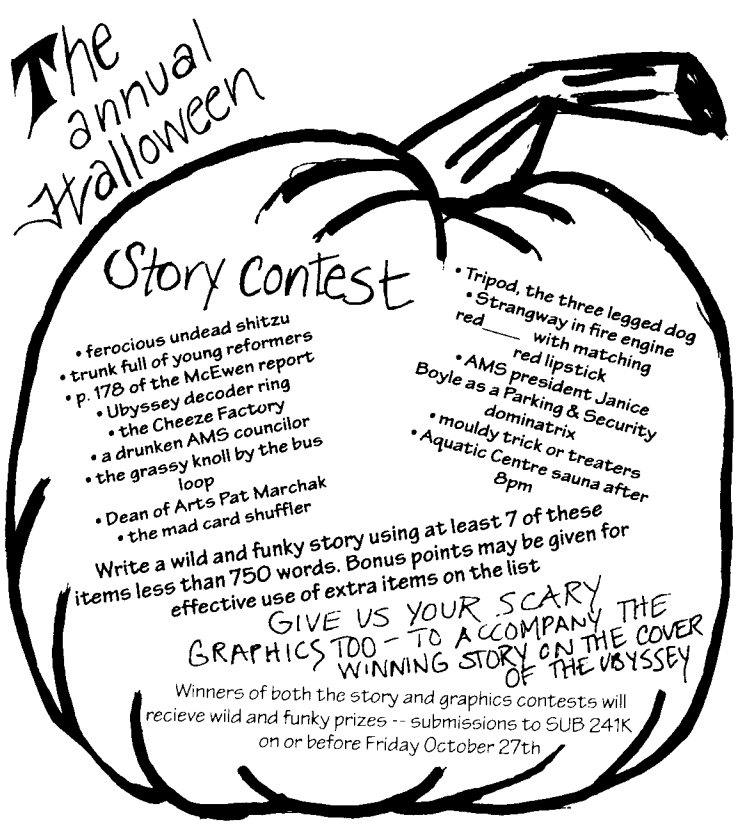

Native rights forgotten by Quebec seperatists

by Samer Muscati

OTTAWA (CUP) – Quebec sovereigntists will need more than a mere referendum to achieve independence from Canada, say some native leaders. They will also need the go-ahead from aboriginal nations within the province, or Quebec's claim should be deemed invalid and rejected by Canada and the world community.

A new royal commission report reinforces that view, and states that the federal government should resort to "whatever measures it deems necessary" to protect Quebec aboriginal and treaty rights in the event of a unilateral declaration of independence by the province.

The federal government should take appropriate action in protecting aboriginal rights, but only after consultation with native groups, says the study released Sept ember 15 by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

Some of these actions may include denying Quebec recognition as an independent state and lobbying the international community to do the same, as well as instructing federal officials to disregard the declaration, states the study.

The federal government would be responsible for protecting aboriginal rights because safeguards currently in the Canadian constitution would disappear with Quebec sovereignty.

"Even if Quebec included protections of aboriginal and treaty rights in its new constitution, those protections could be removed by Quebec at anytime," the report says.

Allen Gabriel, head of communications for the $60 million commission, said that he has received no political response on the study from either the federal or Quebec government.

John Bray, director of communications for Indian Affairs and Northern Development, said the federal government would not issue any comment until the commission submits its final report early next year.

However, Indian Affairs Minister Ronald Irwin announced last May that the federal government would honour its constitutional responsibilities towards aboriginal peoples and that they would have the option of staying in Canada with their territories, if the province separates.

He added that aboriginal people have been living in Quebec for 10,000 years and have the right to self-determination.

Aboriginals claim they should be able to redraw Quebec's borders if the province separates. They maintain that only they can choose whether to join a new nation of Quebec or remain in Canada.

The Cree Nation has taken an active role in the referendum debate, since Quebec independence could make their plight in the province even more bleak.

Last month, the Cree flatly rejected a provincial government invitation to help draft a new constitution should Quebeckers vote for independence.

The Parti Quebecois have had problems gaining the trust of aboriginals in Quebec and convincing them to separate because of past hostilities by the PQ towards treaty and aboriginal rights.

In the 1970's, the Cree were forced to allocate large segments of their land for mega-power projects.

Bill Namagoose, executive director for the Grand Council of the Cree, says his people's connections with their lands have existed for thousands of years before Quebec and Canada even existed.

He is bewildered by PQ leader Jacques Parizeau's claim that the federal government's responsibilities to the Cree were terminated with the 1977 James Bay agreement.

The agreement extinguished the native groups' traditional aboriginal rights in exchange for compensation, but cannot be amended without the approval of the federal and provincial governments, and the aboriginal peoples.

Namagoose said if Cree rights were extinguished, then Quebeckers similarly extinguished their rights when they surrendered to the British at the time of the conquest of 1760.

"They have absolutely no moral or legal ground to take Cree land with them. We have a treaty with Canada," he said. "The Cree nation is being kidnapped . . . you can't just stake your claim on the globe and make a country."

Namagoose said Canada is constitutionally obligated to protect native rights, and the Cree are considering legal action to force Canada to protect those rights.

The Cree and Inuit will each hold separate referendums on Quebec sovereignty before the rest of the province votes. The texts of the questions will be released later this month.

Cree and Inuit land claims currently represent more than half of the province.

David Cliche, Quebec Premier Parizeau's special adviser on native affairs, has said an independent Quebec will retain it's territorial integrity, and that his government would not respect the outcome of any referendum that gives aboriginals a mandate to secede.

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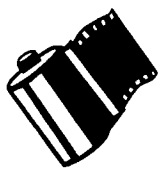

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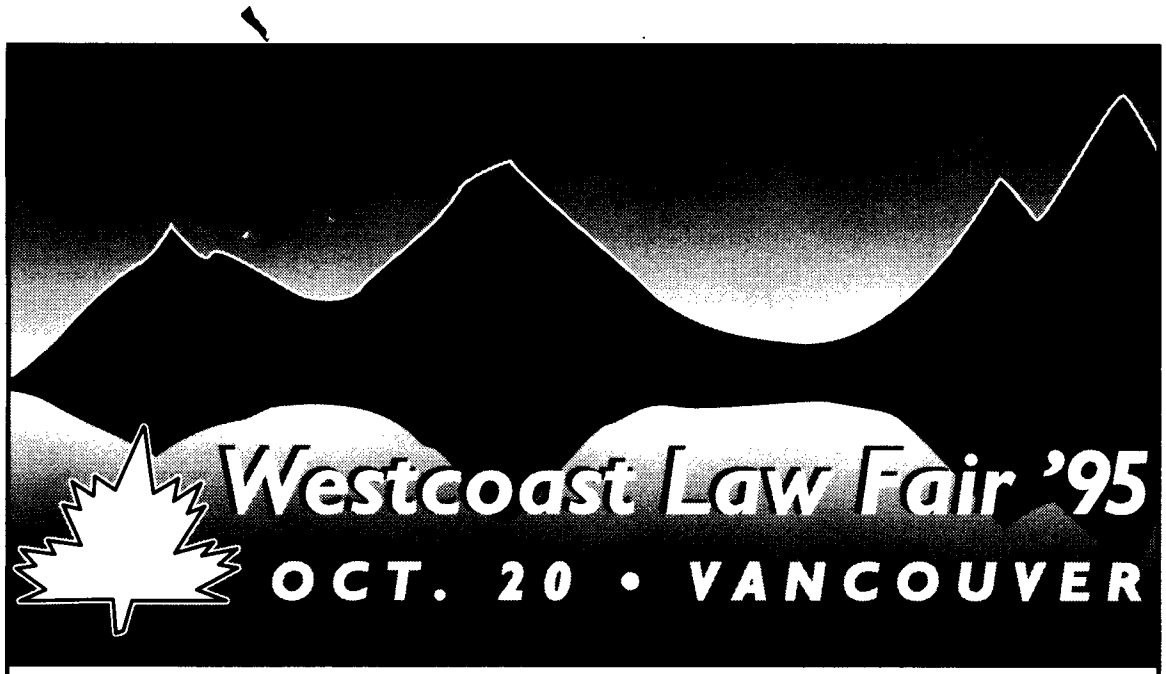
The main duty of the **PRODUCTION COORDINATOR** is to facilitate and coordinate the design and production of all editions of *The Ubyssey*.

The Ubyssey Publications Society is seeking one individual to fill the position of PHOTO COORDINATOR and one person to fill the position of PRODUCTION COORDINATOR on the editorial board.

The expected time commitment for each position is at least 60 hours per week. Candidates will be screened by a special committee on November 1st. The final selection for both positions is by secret ballot between November 2nd and 8th with all Ubyssey staff eligible to vote. All candidates must submit a position paper by October 24th. The position paper should indicate the position desired and include a written or graphical explanation of why that position is desired.



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KAPLAN The answer to the test question.

SCOTT HAYWARD PHOTO

MUSICAL CHAIRS has become a popular pastime among the masses of students in some Science classes. The music has stopped, can you find an empty chair?

AMS OPEN MIKE SESSIONS:
Students stay silent

by Simon Rogers

Government cutbacks to post-secondary education may have been on everyone's minds at the last AMS-sponsored open mike session, but few students were willing to say much about it.

Last Wednesday's session drew a larger crowd than the AMS' last open mike attempt in September, but students were still reluctant to get up and speak their mind.

Most limited their participation to signing petitions pleading that the Federal House of Commons and B.C.'s legislative assembly put students' concerns first.

According to AMS Vice President Namiko Kunimoto, the monthly student forums are the AMS' latest attempt to "foster a communicative link between the Board of Governors and the student body, to create a university community that embraces students."

Board of Governors representative Heather Hermant suggested that it would probably take students a while to get used to the monthly meetings and to feel comfortable about voicing their concerns in public.

"UBC students are basically apathetic and for the most part don't care what goes on on campus because they're not informed," she added. "The only information they get about the university is from what they read in *The Ubyssey*."

A date and topic for the next open mike session, to be held sometime in late November, has not yet been announced.

Science classes ready to burst

by Michelle Zeleschuk

First year science professors are lecturing to packed classes after UBC's faculty of science enrolled two hundred more students than it expected.

Science exceeded their anticipated enrollment of 1,300 student by over 200.

Animal biology student Colleen Campbell was told by her professor that "registration [was] down his year," despite the fact her lab class doesn't have enough chairs for everyone.

Heather Svendsen, another biology student, said her professor signed the forced entry form of large numbers of students not yet registered in her class. As a result, "some classes such as Human Nutrition's lecture in the Woodward Building have up to ten people sitting in the aisles because every seat is occupied," she said.

The influx is a result of a change in UBC's academic requirements this year. The admissions office now considers only four grade twelve marks rather than the previous system of five grade eleven marks and four grade 12 marks.

The change may give high school students the incentive to focus on academic courses in grade twelve; however the long term effects will be extremely high student GPA's, raising the number of applicants accepted by the faculty.

UBC Admissions says the change is intended to bring UBC's entrance requirements in line with other universities.

SFU and Uvic have been using the four grade model for some time.

Review of Student Health Services

A committee chaired by Dr. Carol Herbert, Head of the Family Practice Department in UBC's Faculty of Medicine has been established to conduct a review of Student Health Services (SHS). The committee's terms of reference are:

- To review and make recommendations on: the mission, vision and goals of SHS; the quality and scope of service provided by SHS; the staffing of SHS given the size of the UBC student body and the apparent demand for service; the indicators being used to assess quality of service and cost effectiveness; and the management and operational structure for SHS.
- To identify the key challenges facing SHS and the opportunities for change.
- To recommend courses of action to enhance the strengths and eliminate any weaknesses of SHS.
- To comment on how the unit compares to other units with similar mandates.

The committee will welcome **written submissions** from individuals or groups. Submissions should be received **no later than October 27, 1995** and should be addressed to:

Diane Kent
Secretary, Student Health Services Review Committee
c/o Registrar's Office
2016 – 1874 East Mall
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z1
Fax: 822-5945 e-mail: diane.kent@ubc.ca

Students with an interest in Student Health Services are invited to an **open meeting** with the Review Committee on **Thursday, November 2 from 1:30 to 2:20 pm in IRC #3.**

A Typical Student Association Meeting

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The Film Festival was such a lovely party ... pity to see it go ... we miss you already ... come back soon ...

Marks (Japan)

by Jordan Robinson

Sai Yoichi's brutal detective thriller is intriguing, yet ultimately puzzling. Following a haunting opening scene where a young boy walks down an isolated snowy road away from the car his parents have just committed suicide in, the film shifts to present-day Tokyo where rebel Detective Goda (Nakai Kiichi) is breaking the strict rules of Tokyo police investigation as he struggles to find the connection between the similarly styled savage murders of a lowlife thug and a justice minister in different parts of the city.

Like all good movie cops, the stonefaced Goda must cut through much red tape before he gradually comes to a partial understanding of the relationship between the mentally disturbed young murderer, the blackmailing of former members of a highly unorthodox university alpinist club and MARKS, a group of violent extreme left-wing student demonstrators.

Except for Hagiwara Masoto's eerily convincing portrayal of the dazed young killer, Hiroyuki, the rest of the performances in *MARKS* are merely adequate. The compelling but complex plot, based on a novel by Takamura Kaoru, compensates somewhat for these flat performances but the film's meandering, uneven flow and the almost total absence of a soundtrack do little to tighten the film into a taut thriller like *Seven* or *Manhunter*.

Definitely not for prudes, *MARKS* will most likely be remembered for its unbridled sex scenes and excessive brutal violence. A sweaty scene involving Hiroyuki and his girlfriend gives new meaning to the term locker room sex. Another scene lasts fifteen minutes and intercuts three scenes of continuous stomach kicking, crowbar pulverizing and vicious headbashing comparable to that practiced by Sailor Ripley in *Wild at Heart*.

Yoichi also inserts humour into otherwise dark scenes, such as when a corrupt businessman leaves his couch and casually walks out a nearby window to his death. Like Lynch and De Palma, Yoichi is clearly aiming to shock, as evidenced by the way in which a slow motion shot of Hiroyuki's girlfriend being blown into midar, a hail of gunfire ripping a hole through her torso, is repeated in flashback three times.

It's no wonder that Detective Goda ends each day in a ritual of scrubbing his shoes until they gleam with whiteness, cleansing the soles and his own soul of the gore of Tokyo's dark underside.

A Shadow You Soon Will Be (Argentina)

by Knut Ivanov

Is this film *Highway 61* set in Argentina?

Well, not really, but Hector Olivera's *A Shadow You Soon Will Be* is a road movie set in the windswept pampas of Argentina. The main character, known only as "the engineer" (Miguel Angel Sol-), returns to his homeland after years spent exiled in Italy. The film opens with him hitchhiking in a barren wasteland trying to find work.

The film's highlights are the eccentric characters he meets along the way: a gypsy fortune teller, a gambler, a drifter, soccer-playing priests and a mute rocker and his girlfriend who are trying to get to Cleveland. The most memorable character he meets is Coluccini (Pepe Soriano), a con artist and retired circus performer. Coluccini has an unshakable zest for life and an impish propensity for getting into trouble.

The sense of emptiness that enveloped Argentina after the fall of the military dictatorship permeates the atmosphere. While this film doesn't really go anywhere, the quirky and endearing characters we encounter along the journey make the trip worthwhile.

Nothing Personal (Ireland)

by Hugh Gerring

Directed by Thaddeus O'Sullivan, *Nothing Personal* chronicles the harsh reality of life in Belfast in Northern Ireland in 1975. The story revolves around the lives of family man Liam Kelly and Kenny, a leader and hitman for the Loyalist movement. Two of the bigwigs of the opposing movements seek to obtain a truce because they are fast growing weary of the ever increasing violence.

Nonetheless, the violence and the hatred are evidently deeply ingrained in the minds of nearly all levels of Belfast society. Even the very young are drawn into the desire for revenge. Regrettably, this desire to quell the other side occasionally results in street battles and riots. *Nothing Personal* spares little of the graphic nature of these fierce riots and their inevitable consequences.

Pacifist sentiment among a few members of either side do not go very far among the sea of hatred as we find out during the course of the film. The efforts of the few are, however, laudable. Nonetheless, *Nothing Personal* is, if nothing else, a testimony to the evils of ingrained hatred. Owing to the success of this film it is more than likely to come back to Vancouver theatres.

The War Between Us (Canada)

by Alison Luddit

History can mean so little until there is a face put on it. *The War Between Us* takes the Japanese internment in BC during World War II and gives it just this: faces, names, a place to live. It acts as a reminder of, and for some an introduction to, this complicated and painful segment of BC history.

The War Between Us is a sensitively molded story of a Japanese family who are evicted from their home in Vancouver and shipped to the Kootenay town of New Denver, along with many others. It traces the relationships between the Japanese families and their next door neighbours as prejudices are overcome, understandings are reached and friendships are formed.

Considering the writer, Shannon Gibbon, had such a delicate subject to deal with, the script was extremely well crafted. This, along with solid performances, results in a film that has the ability to move the audience both backwards in time and elsewhere in emotion, to relive history.

Perhaps the film's most impressive element is the way it handles the inevitable changes in attitude, especially in Peg (Shannon Lawson), the main non-Japanese character. Her awakening to the injustice of the families' situation is a gradual process, not a one-night wonder of an epiphany, that culminates in her tearful questioning, "how did all this happen? How did I get in the middle of this?"

It is a question that many Canadians today might ask themselves of the complex mesh of cultural relationships that weave across our country. Director Anne Wheeler and the others involved in *The War Between Us* remind us that the answer lies in the past and the resolution lies in individual understanding.

Portrait Of A Young Girl At The End Of The 1960s In Brussels (France)

by Janet Winters

Chantal Akerman's portrait of Michelle (Circe), a fifteen year old girl coming to terms with her sexuality, leaves many unanswered questions. The film's puzzling ending compliments the laughable mistakes in direction, production and the characters' peculiar behaviour.

It is almost impossible to take this film seriously when tourists on the streets of Brussels are staring into the camera, evidently fascinated by the fact there is a movie being shot and they are going to be in it. Oops! And couldn't the producers have budgeted to hire extras?

This story takes place in 1968 and probably won't win any awards for best costume design: I did not spot any beehives, false eyelashes or bellbottoms; people on the street are dressed in nineties attire.

Despite the mistakes and the ambiguous moments, the film does have some interesting scenes, such as the one in which Paul (Julien Rassam) rubs Michelle's knee in a theatre. Even more stimulating is his later seduction of Michelle, played to Leonard Cohen's 'Suzanne'.

The plot becomes confusing, but somewhat amusing, when Michelle's lesbian tendencies toward her very beautiful buddy, Danielle (Joelle Marlier), become more apparent. However, this awkwardly portrayed twist threw the entire show over my head. A stronger flow was desperately needed to fill the many gaps in the storyline.

The Young Poisoner's Handbook (UK/Germany/France)

by Jenn Kuo

Who has ever heard of a young kid pursuing a career as a poisoner? Well, if you haven't, then let this movie be the first true account of one such person.

If you can enjoy a fine piece of morbid, bizarre humour, this film definitely fits the category. Set in Britain in the sixties, Graham Young is a fourteen year old chemistry buff who lives with his family in a small flat. After being falsely accused and then abused by his parents, Graham decides to slowly murder his father, stepmother and sister. He slowly poisons his parents' food, experimenting each time with a different combination of elements procured from the local alchemist. Ironically, because he is the family's "chemistry genius," the doctor assigns him to take care of their medication.

After another family member dies, Graham is picked up by the police, convicted of murder, and put in a hospital for the criminally insane. A wonderful example of a sociopath, Graham convinces the parole board after a couple years that he is reformed. At first, he really does seem reformed, but then he has an accidental run-in with his old friend Thallium...

Graham's warped nature is consistently exposed during the course of the film, and it is especially hilarious if you can handle rather morbid humour. (After his mother dies, he decides to bury her in a walnut coffin "because she had always liked walnuts.")

The painful misunderstandings of youth are also portrayed in this film. An effective and grotesque picture from Graham's point of view, this film blends successfully dark comic humour with a first person look at the angst of a sorry sociopath.

Nadja (USA)

by Joe Soroka

Director Michael Almereyda makes a noble attempt with *Nadja*, but it's not without its faults. The vampire genre has enjoyed a comeback in recent years, and as a consequence Almereyda treads familiar territory. Unfortunately, he does not cover much ground.

The story begins with Nadja, played respectably by Romanian-born Elina Lowensohn (*Amateur*), a vampiress soaking up the atmosphere and some blood in New York City. We meet Martin Donovan, who recovers from a boxing lesson gone bad only to learn from his wife Galaxy Craze that his crazy uncle (Peter Fonda) has just been arrested for driving a stake through someone's heart. Of course that heart belongs to Nadja's father, who may be Bela Lugosi's quintessential Dracula. When the cat's away the mice will play; when Donovan goes to bail out Uncle Fonda, Craze meets Nadja in a local bar and they explode in passion ending with a transforming exchange of bodily fluids.

False serendipity abounds in the fairly predictable script. Where *Pulp Fiction* had fully separate stories, *Nadja* takes one story and tries to split it up. *Faux* philosophical rambling is another ingredient in the bitter stew of Nadja's cauldron. Almereyda raises the interesting idea of the sense of impermanence in a vampire's eternal existence, "the pain of life is the pain of fleeting joy," but fails to develop it or any other issue fully in any of the monologues.

But perhaps the worst spice in the whole ragu are the totally misplaced and barely funny attempts at black humour: *SNL* writers seem to possess the characters at points. The acting is decent, and in the case of Nadja's brother and her servant Rainfield, actually pretty good. Fonda carries himself like a poor man's Dennis Hopper, awash in Hopper's patented wild-eyed old coot persona, and actually bears a striking resemblance to Robert Carradine's senile Kane.

Nadja has its share of setbacks, and it almost overcomes them. It *is* much better than the standard fare at your local Blockbuster, so rent it if you get the chance.

Ballot Measure 9 (USA)

by Jenn Kuo

LOVED THE MOVIE

THE MOVIE SUCKED

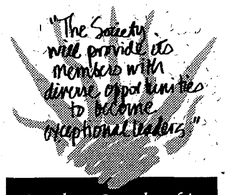
This is a frightening and inflaming documentary on the neverending fight for gay rights. Heather MacDonald inspects the war between the sides during the 1992 Oregon election. One of the ballot initiatives would have declared gays, lesbians, and bisexuals as "abnormal, wrong, unnatural, and perverse."

The campaign for the Yes side was filled with lies focusing on the supposed violence and sex acts of gay people. Ignorant pro-ballot supporters were then brainwashed to believe and regurgitate that it is gay men who are the pedophiles and that gay sex involves eating each other's feces. During this campaign, homes, churches and offices were fire bombed and at least two people died directly stemming from one of these incidents.

People on the streets, in the campaigns, and pro and anti-activists are interviewed in this documentary. Although her message is anti-ballot 9, MacDonald let both sides speak without comment on which side was obviously wrong or right. When making the film, she did not tell her interviewees which side she was on; she therefore got fresh, truthful reactions from people.

This documentary is a poignant look at the on-going battle for basic human rights. Although the subject matter was rather serious, some of the comments are humourous and break the tension.

This ballot initiative also showed up on the ballot of another state in the 1992 election. The Oregon ballot initiative was defeated: 43% for, 57% against. Colorado was the other guinea pig state in which the ballot question was tested. Horrificly enough, there the initiative passed.



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The Film Festival may be over and all, but that hasn't stopped *this* humdinger of a movie ...

Safe

opens Oct 20 at the Ridge and Plaza theatres

by brett josef grubisic

Safe is difficult to enjoy. But enjoyability is not really part of its mandate. Todd Haynes, its writer and director, has claimed that he made his film ambiguous and hard to digest because so much contemporary American cinema gives easy answers in neat packages. *Safe* is thoughtful and cool, an unsettling contemplation of identity, hysteria and spirituality.

Unlike Haynes' first feature *Poison*, whose subversive perspective was tempered by an ironic (and captivating) visual style, Safe is shot cooly, like science fiction. The landscape he investigates is as strange as the moon's.

For most viewers, the world under *Safe*'s gaze is, well, safe and comfortable. In fact for many, the life of its central character, Carol White (Julianne Moore), would seem idyllic. She lives with a supportive spouse and well-behaved child in an affluent Californian suburb. She drives a Mercedes and follows a routine that consists of luncheons, aerobics and shopping.

Like a heroine in a Victorian novel, she is infantile and unformed. Her one outstanding feature—a vast wardrobe of frilly pastel get-ups—only confirms her meek invisibility.

A good child, Carol does what she should. Her life is altered, however, when she begins to get sick. Her nose bleeds, she feels faint, her breathing is laboured.

Unable to find a cure through traditional medicine, she consults a healer who claims that she has a heightened chemical sensitivity which is, in turn, part of an environmental illness syndrome. Her world is poisoned and she can no longer live in it.

Once diagnosed, her sickness accelerates. Soon she is unable to leave her specially fitted room unless acompanied by an oxygen tank.

Unable to remain in her toxic suburban environment, she flees to a New Age retreat in Mexico, which is where she remains to the film's end.

Watching *Safe*, you expect certain conventions to be upheld. For instance, that Carol will become enlightened through her ordeal. Haynes stymies those expectations. It's difficult to like Carol, the New Age spiritualists, or the suburban culture. There are no readily available solutions.

Carol remains a cipher. In the final scene, when she weakly tells herself (on the advice of her healer), "I love you," the audience is left wondering who that "I" is.

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Blue in the Face

Laying Roots: An Interview with Carmen Aguirre

Chile Con Carne
at Station Street Arts Centre until Oct 21

by Federico Barahona

Carmen sits in a busy coffee shop on Commercial Drive, talking about her new play and the concept of being Canadian. The play, she says, is a true Canadian play because it deals with truly Canadian experiences. She doesn't want her piece to be considered the "other" reality. No, she insists, *Chile Con Carne* is about "the" reality. That is, the "Canadian" reality.

But in Canada, the line between what is and is not Canadian is a blurry one. That is a Canadian thing in itself. Does Carmen consider herself Canadian? "Oh, man," she sighs. "It's very funny because when I'm in Canada, no, I always say I'm Chilean, I'm Chilean, I'm Chilean. But when I go to Chile or Argentina, I say, no, I'm Canadian."

Carmen admits she considers herself a bit of a hypocrite for feeling the way she does. But, I think, it's all so Canadian.

- - -

Carmen Aguirre was born in Chile, but her family moved to North America when she was five years old. She's lived in Argentina, Bolivia and the United States. Yet Carmen considers herself Chilean—sort of.

She graduated from Langara's Studio 58 in December 1993. Since then, she has had two plays produced: *Maqui & the Southern Cross* (Women in View) and *En El Pais Del No Me Acuerdo* (Studio 58).

Despite the fact that Carmen has lived most of her life in North America, she feels uprooted.

"For the first few years that we were here, the idea was that we were not going to stay here and that we were going to go back to Chile as soon as Pinochet fell."

But, she adds, the Chilean dictator never fell.

So they stayed, not by choice, but rather, because of a lack of it.

- - -

Carmen first thought of writing a play about a Chilean girl newly arrived in Canada while she was in Studio 58, but didn't pursue the project. But last year, when she applied for a Canada Council grant with the same idea, "just to see," to her own surprise, she got it. She phoned Guillermo Verdecchia (*Fronteras Americanas*) and asked him to direct. Almost immediately, he agreed.

"Guillermo's a brilliant man," she says. "He's the only person that I can think of right now that can really understand what the play is about."

Carmen started writing *Chile Con Carne*, and the more she wrote, the funnier it got. After all, who wants to see a play about a woman who feels like a martyr and who feels sorry for herself? "I mean," she says, "I didn't want my audience to fall asleep."

Chile Con Carne tells the story of Manuelita, a seven-year-old Chilean girl whose family has just emigrated to Canada. To her, Canada is a place she sort of likes, but her parents hate. She can't speak the language, so she can't understand what the white kids say. Manuelita wants to have blond hair, and she wants to have a Barbie doll. Her parents won't let her, though; they're politically correct, and Barbies are bad. She spends a good portion of her days going to protests and hunger strikes in support of the Chilean struggle, while her well-to-do friends live in Shaughnessy.

Carmen Aguirre stars in CHILE CON CARNE.

"Manuelita deals with the aspects of these two cultures clashing with humour."

- - -

"The theatre community in Vancouver is very..." Carmen hesitates a bit. "White. Very white."

It's a fact of life that it's difficult for actors to find work; it comes with the territory. But if you happen to be a person of colour, it's even more difficult to land a part.

It's another fact of life that most of the plays being produced in Vancouver are written by white people and are about white people. Carmen finds the situation bordering on the ridiculous.

"The theatre is not real," she says. "You can do whatever you want. If you're doing a play that was written by Sam Sheppard, why not cast a Chinese person, and an East Indian person and a black Canadian — it's theatre! You can do whatever you want.

"With that kind of mentality, if you do *Romeo and Juliet*, you should only cast Italians because it takes place in Italy."

Carmen has also noticed that the Latin American community doesn't go to the theatre. She can't blame them, though. Any Latino will find it difficult to go to a play that does not speak to them because it's all about upper-class British people.

Seriously, I note, how many British comedies can we do in Vancouver? Forget that. I don't really want to know.

"I'd rather go dance salsa," says Carmen, laughing.

But *Chile Con Carne* is a bold new play (some say it's actually better than dancing salsa) that tries to bridge the gaps. As Carmen puts it: "How long are we gonna live in ghettos?"

The process has to start somewhere.

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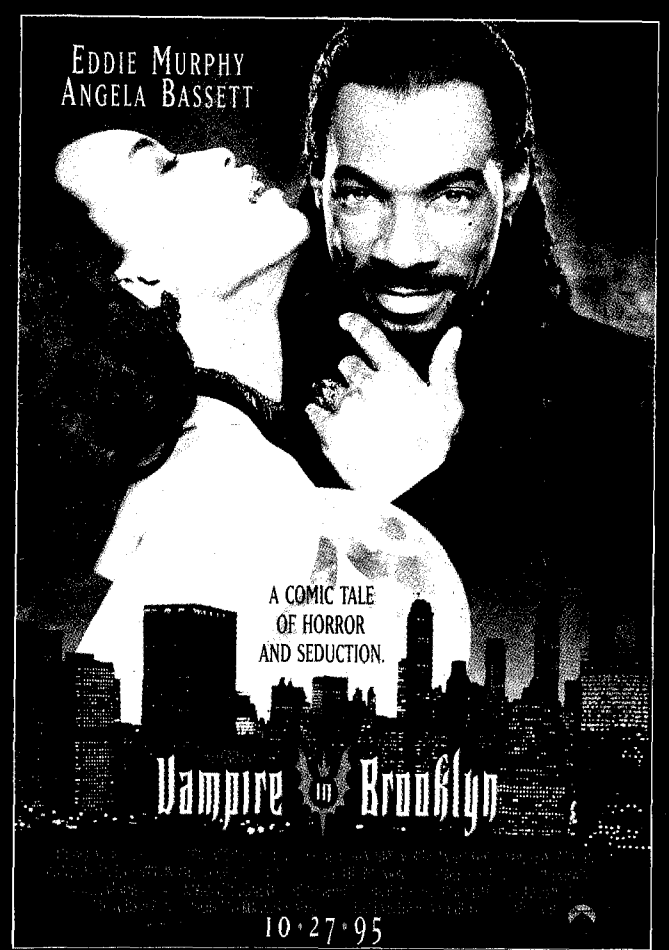

1. Wes Craven directed the first and last films in which horror series?
2. Which Star Trek movie originally had a role written for Eddie Murphy (you can guess the number, but you only get one try)?

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Shakespeare gets visual!

Pericles
at Studio 58 until Oct 29

by Noelle Gallagher

What do peanuts, incense, partial nudity, bongo drums, and psychedelic costumes have in common? They're all part of Studio 58's sensual production of Shakespeare's *Pericles*. Subtitled "A Manic Misadventure by William Shakespeare," the production is a flashy, frenzied and funny romp through the life and times of Pericles, Prince of Tyre.

This brilliant, visual production plays with scale, colour and pattern to produce a bright, technicolour effect. Most vivid are the first of the play's seastorms, and the closing scene at the Temple of Diana, both of which are tightly choreographed. Studio 58 also makes extensive use of auditory cues: sound effects, eclectic music and recorded voices all add to the play's bizarre conglomerate of stimuli. The scenes where the colours, shapes, and sounds of *Pericles* all come together are truly magical.

However, those scenes rarely involve Pericles himself, due to a casting blunder that put tiny Haig Sutherland in the title role. Sutherland does not have the presence, voice or demeanor to make the role of Pericles come alive, and unless he's alone on the stage, it's difficult to stay interested in his portrayal of the character. He is easily upstaged by most of his costars, most notably Krista Mennell as Thaisa, and Jonathan Young as Simonides.

Also, some of the scenes, while beautiful, are so interpretive that they run the risk of confusing the audience. If you do plan on seeing *Pericles*, be sure you read a detailed plot synopsis before you go, or you'll be lost. The scene where Thaisa rises from her coffin, for example, is beautiful, but abstruse.

Studio 58's production makes excellent use of the humour in Shakespeare's play, and most of the jokes are innovative and well-delivered. The lighting, costumes and set design produce a cohesive vision, and enhance the play's mystical undertones. It is an enjoyable production, despite its weak protagonist. The synthesis of sights and sounds makes this production an unusual visual treat.

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Trust James Cameron to save the day? Pshaw!

Strange Days
at the Granville 7 and Oakridge

by John Bolton

It is my troubling duty as a film critic to report that *Strange Days* marks the further sinking of the modern action film into a simmering stew of shit.

It is the latest in a long, rather recent line of movies whose makers seem to think audience excitement and interest can be built up and sustained through rapid fire editing, seemingly random camera angles, and a barrage of alternative rock as invariably blaring as it is derivative. What about pacing? Plot? Humour? Hell, what about a kernel of originality or inspiration?

No one does escapism better than James Cameron. His films are technically amazing and genuinely exciting. They can deliver a rush that is truly unique. Granted, it all comes down to manipulating the audience, but only great care and attention to detail ensure success. Cameron always delivers.

Yeah, all right, he's an asshole and a chauvinist, and admittedly his work is flawed in some respects, but who can dispute the fact that, ten years later, *Aliens* remains a strong contender for the best film of its kind, with the *Terminator* films not far behind?

Why am I so mad? Well, typically after seeing a film such as *Strange Days*, I would wish James Cameron had been involved. Tragically, Cameron himself must take much of the blame, as writer and producer.

The central concept—an addictive new entertainment, the sexual and criminal misadventures of real people taken "straight from the cerebral cortex" and experienced via direct brain hook-up—is interesting. But the screenplay is bad. Bad dialogue. Bad drama. Bad ending—a groan-worthy, desperate *denouement*. And the promising, original premise is forgotten as the film becomes some sort of disturbingly simplistic statement on ethics and race relations.

Kathryn Bigelow is really not a great director, and she's the one responsible for the numbing visuals, dragging dramatics and sloppy compositions. Blame the editor, Howard Smith, for not allowing a single shot to last longer than three seconds and Graeme Revell for the steamroller soundtrack.

"There, there, Ralph, the next movie'll be better ... "

Ralph Fiennes, one of the best actors working today, is sadly miscast as lowlife peddler Lenny Nero. Angela Bassett is given nothing to do as Mace, Lenny's limo driving ally. Juliette Lewis is predictably bad (she even sings — oh, help), and the absolutely awful Michael Wincott, the bad guy in *The Crow*, rounds out the cast.

Strange Days has a few sparks of invention, but the film is generally oppressive, ugly and boring. With a few exceptions, it is the last major action film to be released this year, and it represents a dangerous downward trend in the quality and craftsmanship of a serious and significant art form.

When James Cameron can't surrender the goods, the future of escapism looks pretty grim.

Fringe hit comes to UBC

Sonofabitch Stew
at the Dorothy Somerset until Oct 20 at 12:00 noon

by Andy Barham

Sonofabitch Stew took the Fringe Festival by storm last September, selling out *every* performance well in advance. It's an intense one act play about Janet Pain, a heroine-worshipping women's studies prof who is obsessed with Calamity Jane.

The set is stripped down to its bare essentials, since this is a one-person play in which Deb Pickman switches rapidly from Janet to Jane and back again with the subtlety of a gatling gun mowing down a group of renegades. In the process of watching Janet lose her sense of self, as well as her job, we gain some insight into the real Calamity Jane: a loud, coarse, brawling drunkard of a woman, who was also courageous, generous and even kind. For example, she was willing to risk her own life nursing miners stricken with smallpox, at a time when smallpox was a dreaded and little understood scourge.

Deb Pickman's acting is first rate. When she assumes the persona of Calamity Jane, it's as though the real Calamity Jane is there in the theatre with us. She spits, swears and swills her way through the performance in a manner befitting her real-life heroine.

My only quibble is with the main premise: namely, that the real character is Janet Pain, a beleaguered university prof who's about to lose her tenure. This distracted from what I thought should have been the real story — the life and times of Calamity Jane — and added an unnecessary complication to the plot. It ultimately served to diminish the play's message by clubbing us over the head with it.

The Asylum Rageth

Soul Asylum
Oct 7 at the Rage

by Bryce Edwards

Soul Asylum rocks.

Anyone who doesn't think so wasn't at the Rage two Saturday nights ago. It seemed cursed from the start: the venue change left hundreds of minors sadly lining up for refunds instead of friskings, Radiohead decided against *a cappella* and backed out after their equipment was stolen, and everyone was moody and pissed off ... but then Dave Pirner and the boys straddled the stage and blew the crowd away with a shotgun blast of musical power.

Rymes with Orange opened to sarcastic cries of "Play 'Creep'!", but persevered with a tight, energetic set. The overall sentiment wasn't anti-Orange, it's just that they play Vancouver twice a week and spend the rest of their time touring BC. How often does Radiohead come around?

Soul Asylum has spent nine years touring, releasing albums and building a loyal following. When *Grave Dancers Union* hit, they suddenly became the 'next big thing', complete with socially relevant videos, Billboard rankings and White House appearances. The thing is, they are still just doing what they do: mental live shows with well-written, insightful material delivered at deafening volumes. What more could you ask for from a rock band?

Pirner displayed all the qualities of a good front man, his tangled hair obscuring his face as he mumbled into the mike. He didn't waste time trying to rile everyone up, he just went crazy, and everyone followed. The sound was muffled and the Rage remains a *poseur* club far too big for its britches, but in a city that houses the Commodore it's hard for any venue to look good in comparison.

The crowd was chaotic and crowd surfers flew around with regularity, leaving Doc imprints on foreheads in their wake. Soul Asylum rocked, and a good time was had by all.

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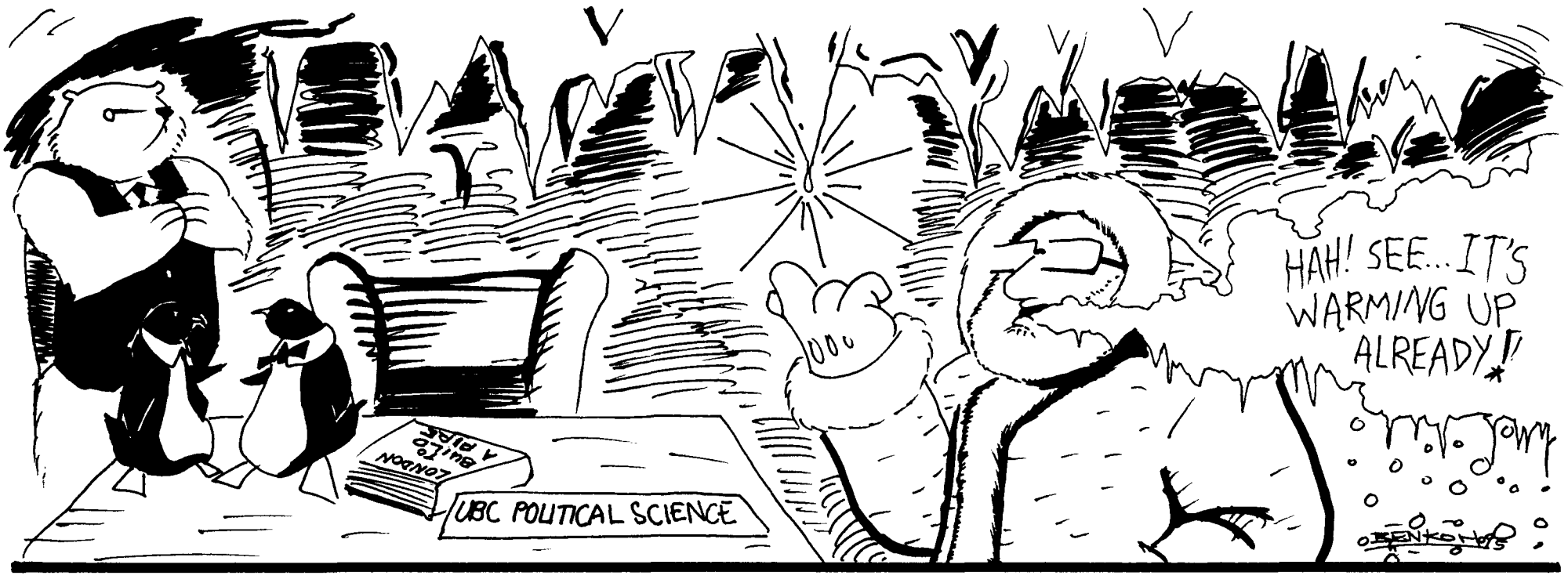

Students, Grace finally get well-deserved support

When the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FoGS) council voted against the motion to reopen graduate admissions to the political science department, they did UBC students a favour.

By backing the only individual with political clout who has consistently put the interests of students ahead of grandstanding professors, FoGS is finally giving Dean John Grace the support he deserves. The university senate should pay close attention.

As divisive and controversial as the last few months have been, UBC should not "just put this whole McEwen thing behind it," as some have suggested. The McEwen report raises real questions that will inevitably have to be answered. University officials should use this opportunity to revitalize the department and demonstrate its commitment to the people it is supposed to serve–students.

Critics of Grace and McEwen have argued they failed to follow due process. Where was due process 1210 days ago when the first student brought complaints forward?

It is of the utmost irony that Dean of Arts Pat Marchak has criticized the report for its methodological flaws when an overwhelming majority of these alleged flaws are a direct result of the terms of reference she helped create.

The terms of reference were written by a faculty that intended to use the report to exonerate one of its prize departments. When it got more than it bargained for, it cried foul. Their rhetoric is wearing thin and the hypocrisy is showing through.

Until FoGS'recent decision, attention has focused on the perceived shortcomings of the messenger at the expense of the message–a basis for allegations of systemic racism and sexism within the department does exist.

Philosophy professor Steven Savitt was right to point out a basis for allegations does not necessarily mean they are true, but these were the terms of reference Ms. McEwen was given.

If the political science department's problems are not systemic, as acting Department Head David Elkins and others have suggested, the few bad apples should have been asked to resign long ago.

It is about time professors stopped shielding their own and realized that students with different points of view are not just a nuisance. Departments should welcome a diverse range of views and a cutting edge curriculum.

The mainstream press has managed to get people all hyped up by bashing "political correctness" and "hysterical feminists." It may make for colourful editorials, but it does a grave disservice to the issues at hand.

Hopefully FoGS' decision is a sign the tide is slowly turning and cooler heads such as Grace will eventually prevail.

It is easy for professors to cast themselves as the latest casualties of the "moral violence" perpetrated by feminists and minorities. It is more difficult to actively listen to students' concerns, wrestle with complex issues of the changing face of university campuses and to try to reach a common ground.

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"How 'bout a Western theme?" asked Sarah O'Donnel, carefully scraping the cowshit of her shiny cowgirl boots. The mildly inbred Peter Chattaway broke a banjo string while Jenn Kuo took another swig of photo developer and Joe Clark danced a happy red-neck jig. Johnathan Gould and Michelle Zeleschuk kicked up their heels and did the Stanley Tromp. "Drink up, Longhairs!" cackled a whiskey-addled Scott Hayward, pistol-whipping the possum-tailed Wah-Kee Ting (spelling?). Over at the saloon, Chris Nuttall-Smith drew a sixth ace from his shirtsleeve to rake in the last of Doug Quann's poker chips. Janet Winters made sideways glances at piano-player John Bolton while Allison Luddit and Joe Soroka sang to their darling Andy Barham Clementine. Meanwhile, hired gun and black-clad badass Wolf Depner strode into town with an obviously itchy Nicolle Trigg-er finger. Simon Rogers ran to fetch the sherriff while Federico Barahona and Bill Currie cowered under their sombrero's. Bryce Edwards escorted wife/cousin Alison Cole to the safety of Hugh Gerring's general store. Noelle Gallagher siddled under a water-trough and Hugh Gerring dove behind the scant lower-case cover of brett grubisic. It took Kim Wyatt Earp to fill the upstart gunslinger full of lead. Jordan Robinson supplied the pine box.

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letters

Min. wage economics

I am writing in response to the editorial *minimum* wage is still minimal. I was shocked at the profound level of ignorance displayed by the writer of that article. Being both a student and an employer I have a unique perspective of the job market. The writer of this article makes bold statements such as "It is a myth minimum wage increases result in job loss." The writer obviously has never taken a course in economics and yet by writing this article professes to be an expert. The simple laws of supply and demand dictate that an increase in the cost of the supply of labour, will result in a decrease in demand. This is not an opinion, this is a fact. Economics is a science and no one without some expertise in this field should be giving advice on the subject. Will this author next be giving advice on how to perform heart bypass surgery or how to construct a bridge? Why is it that so many socialists profess to be experts on the subject of economics when in fact they are incompetents? I feel just in calling this writer ignorant and incompetent based on what they wrote. For example, they wrote that some companies "exist solely to exploit our workers." No company on the entire planet exists solely to exploit workers, they exist to make money. The minimum wage is an artificial floor that only causes unemployment and inflation. Only those people with little or no skills earn minimum wage. I pay higher than minimum wage simply because I only want people who are competent. Most of society earns wages above minimum wage. Restaurant workers earn most of their income from tips. By increasing their wages, the cost of menu items will increase and fewer customers will frequent restaurants and jobs will be lost. Minimum wage is an archaic concept that has proven to cost jobs and should be abandoned. Minimum wage or not, one axiom will always survive, if you pay peanuts, you will get monkeys. The market could and will determine what a person is worth, the government should not.

Michael McKee
Student Entrepreneur

AMS-Coke response

In the October 6th issue of *The Ubyssey* several articles were written about the Cold Beverage Deal. I appreciated Matt Thompson's coverage of the "Coke" issue as well as his coverage of the last council meeting; however, headlines such as "AMS squashes Coke Deal Protest" and comments such as "...should reaffirm student's belief that their student union is dominated by clueless resume stuffers" only work to further alienate the student body from their student government. I would be the first to admit that the council meeting was an embarrassment, I know I was embarrassed. But I take heart in the fact that many councillors–including the majority of the AMS executives, supported the protestors through their vote. In fact, the protest occurred at the invitation of an AMS executive; otherwise people like Jaggi Singh would not have known that the issue was on the council agenda at all.

Now is the time to encourage responsible, concerned students to get involved in student government so change can occur. Focusing on the poor behaviour of some council members discourages students from running in elections, voting, and just generally caring. If students' cynicism prevents them from participating, no new ideas will be generated, and old " regimes" will never be challenged.

Many councillors were working hard before, during, and after the meeting to ensure student's voices were being heard–and ensuring those voices were being treated with respect. Further to that goal, a motion to be addressed at the next council meeting reads: *"Whereas there is a significant loss of consumer choice through an exclusivity arrangement; and whereas student opinion is essential in this matter, be it resolved that the final ratification of the Cold Beverage Agreement be decided through a simple majority plebiscite which shall be binding on council."*

We (some of us in student government) would like to fight for continued cooperation and communication with the student body. We would like to ask the student body for their opinions on the Coke Deal: vote in the plebiscite, talk to council, or call the AMS Vice-president at 822-3092. Thank you, Matt, for your sound advice to council and your thorough coverage of this issue.

Namiko Kunimoto
AMS Vice President

LETTERS POLICY: Letters to the editor must be under 300 words. "Perspectives" are opinion pieces over 300 words but under 750 words and are run according to space. "Freestyles" are opinion pieces written by Ubyssey staff members. Priority will be given to letters and perspectives over freestyles unless the latter is time sensitive. Priority on all opinions shall be given to those individuals or groups who have not submitted a letter or Perspective recently. Opinion pieces will not be run unless the identity of the writer has been verified. Please include your phone number, student number and signature (not for publication) as well as your year and faculty with all submissions. ID will be checked when submissions are dropped off at the office of The Ubyssey, otherwise verification will be done by phone.

UBC hosts underwater hockey tournament

by Scott Hayward

Teams from all over North America and the Philippines fought it out on the floor of the Aquatic Centre in the 1995 Pacific Coast Championship of underwater hockey this weekend.

Competition was varied, and each of the three divisions was won by a team from a different region.

This competition helps teams determine which players will go the World Championships, which are held every two years and will take place in South Africa at the end of April, according to tournament organizer Melanie Johnson.

Conditioning was an important factor in the tournament, as most teams played eight games over two days. "You're allowed to have twelve people on the roster and ten suit up for any one game," said Cape Cod men's team captain Kendall Banks. Most players from his team played six or seven games.

The men's division was won by a team from Cape Cod, although competition was very tight. "The last game of the round robin determined all four of the top seeds for the playoffs," said Banks. "Any one of those four teams could have won it."

Banks said about one half of his team was from Cape Cod, while the rest came from up and down the east coast of the US. His team beat Club Puck, from the San Francisco Bay area, by a score of 4-0 in the final. "It was very close the first half, they were pressing us as much as we were. We were able to get a couple in and that helped." Cape Cod dominated the second half of the game and coasted to victory.

Third place in the competition went to the Seattle Sea Hammers, who beat the Vancouver men's team in the consolation finals.

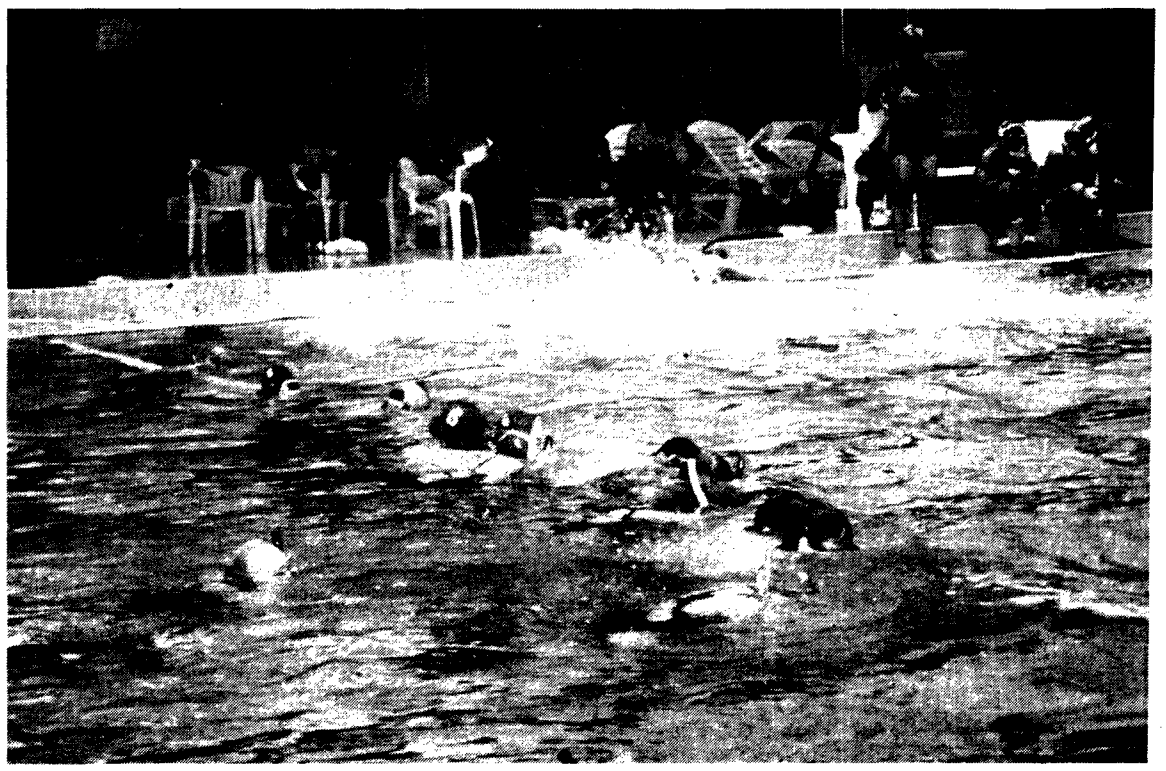
Andrea Arenovski who played for the Cape Cod women's team, also played for the San Diego mixed team which was short of women. In mixed competition, at least three of six swimmers in the water must be women.

"In the mixed division, all the teams were really closely matched," said Arenovski. San Diego, which picked up players from other teams struggled early. "It was tough to get the teamwork going," she said.

The entry from Simon Fraser University won the mixed competition, followed by Chicago and San Diego.

The women's division was won by Chicago, with Club Pucker up from San Francisco coming second, Vancouver's team came third and Seattle came fourth.

Some competitors watched the action either from a television on the pools deck which had a feed from an underwater camera. Others preferred to float in the water with masks and snorkels just outside the playing court.



SCOTT HAYWARD PHOTO

SPECTATORS enjoy a front row view of the action at this weekend's underwater hockey tournament. A live feed from an underwater camera was provided on the Aquatic Centre deck for those who chose to watch from dry land.

UBC plays in ultimate tournament

by Wolf Depner

It was an historic weekend for UBC's Ultimate Frisbee Team and for Ultimate in general.

A fourteen man squad from UBC took part in the first ever Canadian University Ultimate Championship held in Ottawa. UBC tied for third with McGill University's "A" team in the twelve team "Open" competition. Tournament host Carleton beat UVic by a score of 14-12 in the final Sunday afternoon. The University of Ottawa beat McGill "A" by a score of 13-10 to take the final in the five team women's division.

Overall, UBC's trip was an enjoyable experience despite the travel involved and an embarrassing 4-15 loss at the hands of UVic in the semi-final.

Following a six-hour overnight trip with little or no sleep, the T-Birds strolled off the plane and onto the field to demolish the University of Guelph 15-4 in their opening game Friday morning. Jet-lag and the lack of sleep, however, caught up with the T-Birds in their second game.

The T-Birds battled hard against the eventual tournament winners Carleton University "Freakshows," but in the end were flying on less than fumes and lost the intense contest 9-15.

The Birds went on to soundly defeat the University of Waterloo 15-4 and finish the day with a 2-1 record.

UBC faced Ottawa Saturday morning and despite a solid night's rest, they received an unruly wake-up call. The Birds struggled, but hung on for a 15-12 victory over the GeeGees. They responded to the early morning scare by thrashing McGill 'B' 15-2 in the following game.

The 'Birds went on to play their best Ultimate in a 15-11 quarter-final match victory over Queen's University. In less than perfect playing conditions, the team found itself behind 1-6 early in the game and were still trailing 5-8 at half-time. It took an inspired second half to steal the match.

"The team showed a lot of character after being down at the half. All players on the team rose to the occasion to make contributions on and off the field," said team captain Alex Rosenczweig.

The hard fought victory over Queens meant UBC faced Georgia Strait rival UVic in a semi-final match Sunday morning. The other semi featured Carleton versus U of McGill "A".

The Birds clipped their own wings in the 4-15 loss, committing several crucial turn-overs near UVic's end-zone.

UBC was outmatched by Victoria's zone defence and superior disk handling skills in the cold and windy Ottawa weather. "We just couldn't capitalize on our opportunities," said Rosenczweig.

SCOTT HAYWARD PHOTO

CHILDREN appear unconcerned by the presence of a large grizzly outside War Memorial Gym during Open House weekend.

T-BIRD Droppings

SPORTS SHORTS

Basketball

The T-Bird men's team opened its exhibition season with a 115-59 drubbing of Trinity Western University Friday afternoon. The Birds will be in action again Tuesday night at 8 pm against the Seattle Christian Athletes, who are expected to provide UBC with more robust competition.

Hockey

The UBC T-Birds lost their season home opener 6-1 against the Regina Cougars on Friday night on a lone goal by Doug Ast.

Saturday they came back with stong goaltending by Matt Wealick who played his first game for the Birds. They settled for a 2-2 overtime tie, on goals by Cory Stock and Shea Esselmont.

Football

TheT-Birds fell to California State–Chico by a score of 38-22 in exhibition play on Saturday.

The NCAA Division II Wildcats led 20-7 at half-time, and scored eighteen unanswered points in the third quarter. Quarterback Steve Lopez threw for 354 yards against the Birds before being pulled late in the third quarter.

UBC's number two quarterback Jason Day passed for 294 yards, threw two interceptions and was sacked five times.

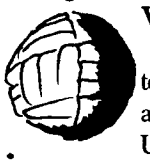
He connected with Grayson Shillingford for two TDs and Simon Beckow for a third. Beckow was the Birds' leading receiver, racking up 114 yards on 11 completions.

Soccer

The undefeated T-Bird women's team lost a pair of close games on the road this weekend.

Alberta beat UBC 2-1 in Saturday's game, with Tammy Crawford getting the Bird's lone marker, and they dropped a 1-0 game to Saskatchewan on Sunday.

Their male counterparts split their weekend series. After losing 2-1 to Alberta on Saturday, the Birdmen bounced back to beat the Saskatchewan Huskies by a score of 3-0. Ken Strain scored UBC's lone goal against Alberta and came up strong again Sunday with a hat trick against the Huskies.



Volleyball

The UBC men's team went to the final and lost at the Brock University Tournament in St. Catherine's, Ontario this weekend. They swept the University of Guelph and Wilfrid Laurier University both by scores of 2-0.

They took Ryerson 3-1 in the semi-finals, but lost 3-1 to the University of Windsor in the final.

feature

Mismanagement threatens world-class research centre

Dan Tencer chronicles a tangled web of administrative misdealings and corporate give-aways that have nearly destroyed UBC's Biomedical Research Centre.

STAFF and graduate students outside the Biomedical Research Centre. ANDY BONFIELD PHOTO

In its nine year history UBC's Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) has developed an international reputation as a leader in many fields, including genetics and immunology. It is a cross-disciplinary institution where specialists from various fields cooperate in breakthrough biological research and pass their experience to graduate students.

The BRC's success can even be measured in dollars–it has the highest per capita funding of any institute on campus, and generates ten percent of the medicine faculty's revenue.

But the BRC has been plagued by a recent series of resignations from top researchers. The major reasons: the unexplained firing of John Schrader, the institute's director until 1991, the lack of a permanent replacement for Schrader and an agreement with a pharmaceutical company that staff say signs away the intellectual property rights of professors and graduate students to a private company.

The problem's origins can be traced back many years. The BRC was originally a subsidiary of the Terry Fox Medical Research Foundation. Interest in the institute was divided 50-50 between the Fox Foundation and Burroughs-Wellcome, a British pharmaceutical company that has never invested any significant amount of money in the institute.

In 1989, Burroughs-Wellcome was privatized, the company opted out of the BRC and the Fox Foundation lost its partner. Since the privatization, the BRC has had nothing but bad news.

In January 1991, BRC's board of trustees voted not to continue the contract of John Schrader, the institute's director who had been specifically chosen for the job five years earlier. No reason was ever given for the firing.

One of the trustee board's members was Robert C. Miller, vice-president of research at UBC. A week after announcing Schrader's removal, Miller told a group of BRC faculty members he wanted UBC to get "control of the [BRC] building and the people in it."

Soon afterwards, the financially-troubled Fox Foundation opted out of the BRC. By March 1992, Vice President Academic and Provost Dan Birch announced UBC was taking control of the institute. One month later, the university senate tried to change the name of the BRC to the Biomedical Research Laboratories.

"It was an attempt to obliterate the name [the BRC] had built around the world," said Schrader, who still works as a researcher at the institute. "The university was after the building itself. There was not any serious consideration for the institute itself."

Meanwhile, the BRC began its search for a new director. Before giving up control of the BRC, the Fox Foundation had named Nobel prize winning chemist Michael Smith as interim director of the institute. When UBC took control, Birch said Schrader would not be reappointed, but could reapply for his old position, and would be notified of the administration's decision within a year. The committee did not actually meet for eleven months.

Although the university told the BRC it would have a say in the hiring of a new director, they were never consulted. Schrader was one of four possible candidates, but after a period of deliberation Dean of Science Barry McBride said Schrader was out of the running. It was "time for a change."

The BRC complained to the provincial ombudsperson about the hiring process. After investigating, the ombudsperson concluded the selection process was unfair to all of the candidates, including Schrader. Nevertheless, the selection process went on unabated.

The fact that the BRC lacks a permanent director is not the only problem raising eyebrows within the institute. When UBC took control of the BRC, it also took control of the shares belonging to Burroughs-Wellcome (BW).

In exchange for BW's shares, Michael Smith and Robert Miller signed a contract in September 1991 giving BW a percentage of the profits on Interferon, a drug used in the treatment of sickle-cell leukemia. The profits are roughly $10,000 a year.

In 1989, the accounting firm Price-Westinghouse reported that the prospects for Interferon are "very limited," meaning the BRC could soon receive virtually nothing from BW.

To complicate matters further, Burroughs-Wellcome received "first rights of refusal" for all research done by the BRC. In other words, BW now has the right to look at any discoveries made by the BRC before anyone else and decide whether or not they want the rights to the research.

According to Schrader, this means UBC has "signed researchers' and students' intellectual property away." By signing away grad students' research to a private company, UBC set a precedent in Canada.

Once BW acquires an intellectual property from the BRC, they have no obligation to continue the research in Canada. Since the BRC is receiving $75 million in public funding over fifteen years beginning in 1991, Canadian taxpayers may be paying millions of dollars for research that never benefits Canadians. And because of its contract with Burroughs-Wellcome the BRC is ineligible for private funding.

BRC staff argue the ethics of the deal with BW is similar to a recent case is the U.S. When Sandoz pharmaceuticals of Switzerland signed a $150 million dollar contract with Scripps Research Institute in California for first rights to their research, the U.S. Congress struck it down for ethical and legal reasons.

"UBC is by far the worst-run university I have ever been associated with."

Former BRC scientist Ian Clark-Lewis

But in Canada, no actions have been taken to investigate the agreement between the BRC and Burroughs-Wellcome.

Most of the university administration's deals have caused problems for researchers at the BRC, say the staff. Three of the institute's top scientists recently left to work abroad. Geneticist James Marth left for the University of California in San Diego, Ruedi Aebersold went to the University of Washington and Ian Clark-Lewis, who was quoted in the *Vancouver Sun* as saying that UBC is "by far the worst-run university I have ever been associated with," left for Australia.

No counter-offers were ever made to stop these scientists from leaving the country. Research Technician John Babcock said "[These researchers] could have been supported here, with the university's help."

This scientific exdous has left many grad students in a difficult position. Scott Pownall, a PhD student working at the BRC, depends on the instruction of James Marth, who recently departed. The departures have hindered the progress of many other graduate students as well. According to Schrader, the damage to the institution is "almost irreversible."

First-class scientists won't come to the BRC, says Schrader, because of its instability. "The university has failed to understand this."

Meanwhile, BRC staff and other medical researchers have been petitioning for answers as to why no one has been named director, and what the university intends for the future of the BRC. In a letter dated Mar. 7, 1995, Vice President Academic and Provost Daniel Birch responded by saying "neither President Strangway nor I see any purpose by extending the correspondence."

Despite an uncertain future, the BRC continues to function. Earlier this year 36 BRC staffers signed a petition requesting Schrader's reinstatement as director.

Xeroxes are posted throughout the BRC labs as their battle with UBC's administration continues. The poster quotes Daniel Birch in a letter to the Globe and Mail:

"UBC will not permit its mission of excellence to be poisoned either by intolerance or by a reckless disregard for fair play. We will act on these principles and we will be accountable for our actions."

Oh, the irony.

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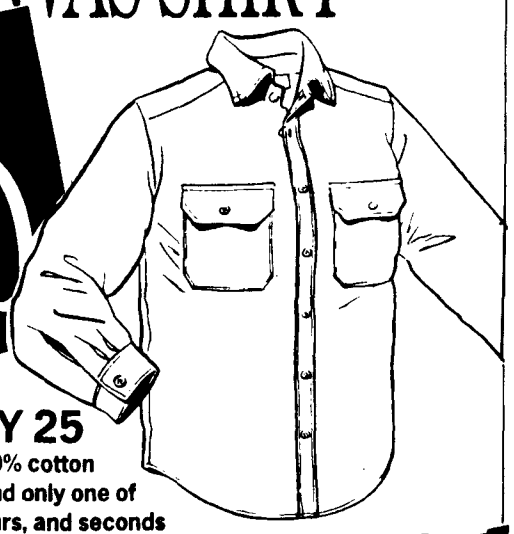
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