NICE CUPCAKES
Now hand 'em over. PAGE 13

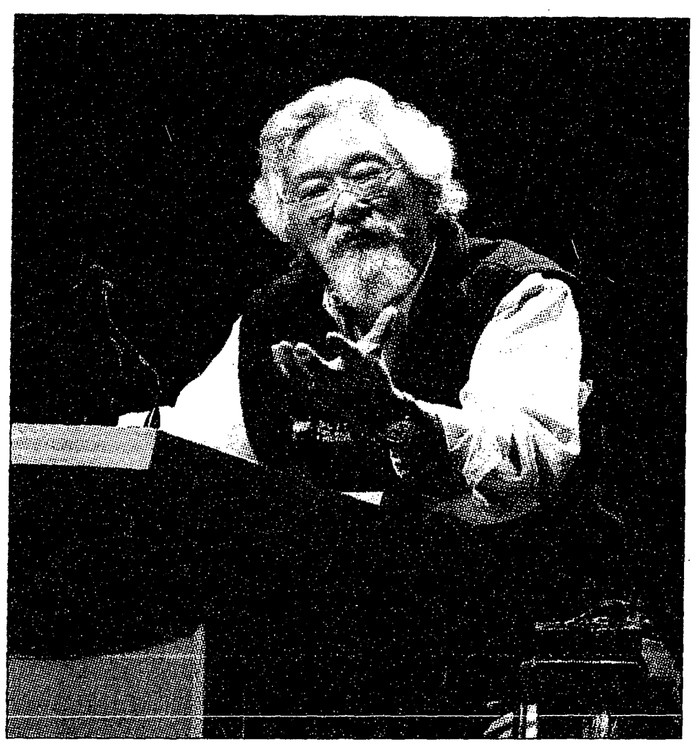
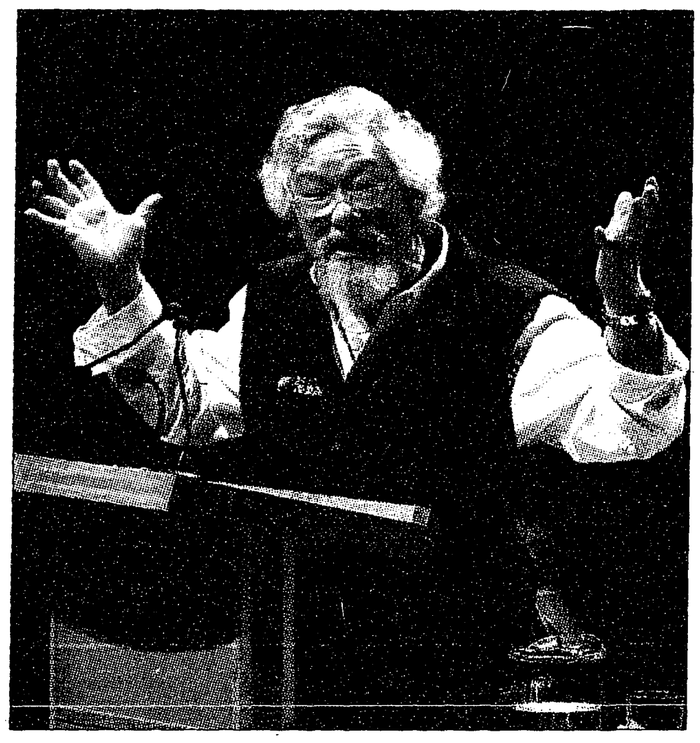
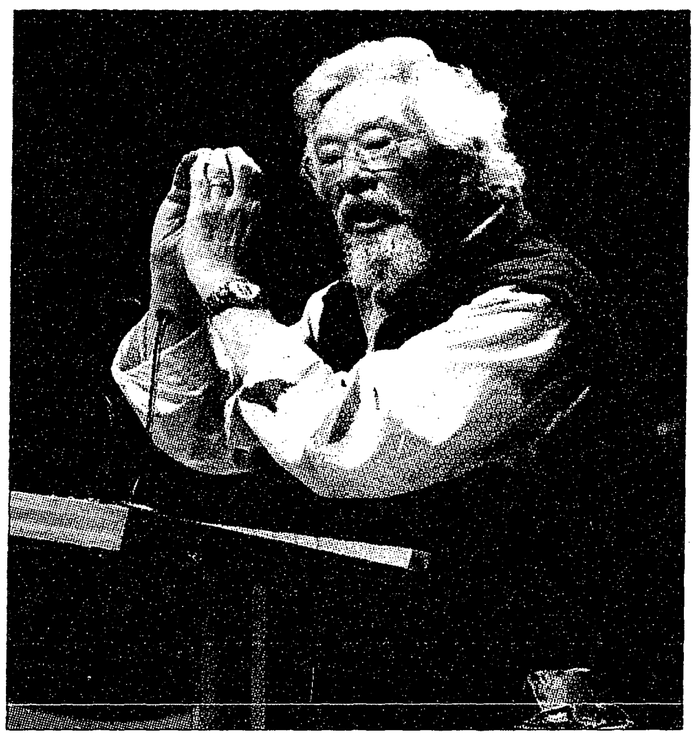
SILVER BIRDS
Women volley for greatness. PAGE 5

MELLOW MCGILL
The simmer of student activism. PAGE 8

The Ubyssey
www.ubyssey.bc.ca

VOL. LXXXVII N°42
TUESDAY, 14 MARCH, 2006

It's like a punching bag since 1918

Suzukability

Listed as Canada's fifth greatest Canadian by the CBC, David Suzuki came to UBC campus on Monday to deliver a talk at the Chan Centre on topics ranging from genetically modified foods to the Canadian governments lackluster response to environmental issues. **YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO**

Students rethink the way parking is done

UBC engineering students invent coinless parking meter technology

by Chris Adamson
NEWS WRITER

Frustrated by the inefficiencies of coin-operated parking metres, a team of UBC Electrical and Computer Engineering Students have come up with an idea to modernise parking services and make them more efficient for customers and providers.

The technology is based on wireless radio frequency identity, or RFID keytags. Each RFID tag comes charged at a unique radio frequency so that when a user waves it by a compatible metre, the metre connects to that users account and debits it instantly.

Shane Wang, a UBC engineering student and designer of the product's web interface and back-end software, said customers will fill their accounts by credit card either through the systems website, at various retail outlets such as Staples and Shoppers Drug Mart, or by calling iPark's centralised support.

The prototype metre that has been tested in the UBC's B-Lots, is wired to a sensor under each parking stall, enabling the system to detect when a car pulls into that spot. The metre starts when the car pulls in, and stops when it pulls out. This means no more guesswork over how many coins you need to park.

Down the road, the team hopes to tweak their invention to further improve customer service. By linking the iPark system with a system like OnStar Navigation, customers would be able to see which spots are open before they arrive at their destination.

Wang says iPark would also save time and money for parking administrators, as the sensor system would "make it a lot easier to identify unauthorised users, and would eliminate the need for inefficient random metre checks." The digital system would also enable administrators and planners to collect valuable data on usage in order to adjust rates accordingly.

Classmate Erik Shortinghuis explained that iPark would also be cheaper to maintain than coin based systems, since there would be no need for coin collection.

"We looked into the data on the city of Vancouver's coin collection costs, and found that the manual collection costs were staggering," said Shortinghuis.

Not everyone is on the RFID keytag bandwagon, however.

Associate Director for UBC Parking Lori Powell said that while the technology would be greatly beneficial for both administrators and

See "Parking" page 2.

Senate Committee dismisses student's BoG appeal

by Paul Evans
NEWS EDITOR

A six week-long appeal launched by UBC student Lyle McMahon was dismissed unanimously by the Senate Elections Committee last week.

McMahon had appealed a University decision to exclude him from running in the Board of Governors (BoG) race in January, delaying the results of that race until the appeal's resolution.

McMahon argued that although he was not a Canadian citizen, and therefore not permitted to sit on BoG under the University Act, he should have been allowed to run for the position regardless.

"The Committee felt it was not a reasonable interpretation of the [University] Act to separate eligibility as a candidate from eligibility to sit on the Board, and it was reasonable for the Registrar to check nominations against the Act's eligibility requirements," the decision stated.

McMahon acknowledged that his appeal had little chance of being granted, but said that it is his hope to have the law changed someday and that his appeal was part of a larger campaign to generate awareness of the issue.

"I decided to go ahead with an appeal to bring the issue to the attention of the University," he commented. "I definitely feel it's been effective because it's become an important issue."

But McMahon's decision to appeal was irrelevant and time consuming according to Omar Sirri, who found out he was elected to BoG following the release of results last week.

Although he respected McMahon's stance on the issue of international students being allowed to sit on BoG, he feels the appeal was not the right way to go about changing it.

"In the end, was it worth it? No, I think he was preaching to the converted," said Sirri. "It's not about bringing the issue to the forefront. It's already at the forefront."

"It's unfortunate it took this long for this expected outcome," he said. "Really no one benefited in the end"

Tim-Louman Gardiner, a current BoG representative who was defeated in the election, said that McMahon's appeal will require a change in the University Act—something that can only happen at the provincial level.

"You're really only going to get a change of the legislation if the University gets on side," he explained, adding that the University could ask the government to change the legislation.

"So it seems to me the best way to solve it is going to be by constructively engaging the University rather than trying to pressure the University in an adversarial way," Louman-Gardiner added. "That's an unfortu-

See "Appeal" page 2.

LYLE: Going over his case. **YINAN MAX WANG/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO**

UBC researchers develop method to prevent mental disorders

by Colin McPhee
NEWS WRITER

Researchers at the University of British Columbia along with colleagues at the universities of Calgary and Milano have taken the first step in creating new therapies that will directly address the imbalanced brain chemistry that results in different forms of mental disorders.

The disorders, which include schizophrenia, autism and mental retardation, currently affecting millions of Canadians.

While there are current therapies to cope with these mental disorders, they fail to target the root cause of the afflictions, which is essentially an imbalance in brain chemistry, said Kim Gerrow, a UBC PhD student.

See "Synapses" page 2.

"Potentially patentable" technology

"Parking" from page 1.

parkers at UBC, she doubts that iPark would be cheaper to maintain than coin-based systems.

"From a customer service perspective [iPark] would be...beneficial for a community environment because it's easy maintenance on your client base and it's easy for clients to pay for parking."

"However, the cost-savings would be quite minimal because of the monitoring we'd have to do to maintain the system and make sure that customer account integrity is not compromised."

Regardless, the designers believe that the iPark system would make monitoring usage and adjusting prices easy for providers. It would also make parking more convenient for busy customers who hate the hassle of carrying change.

"It always seems that when you're in a hurry to park, you're out of change," said team member Jasim Tariq.

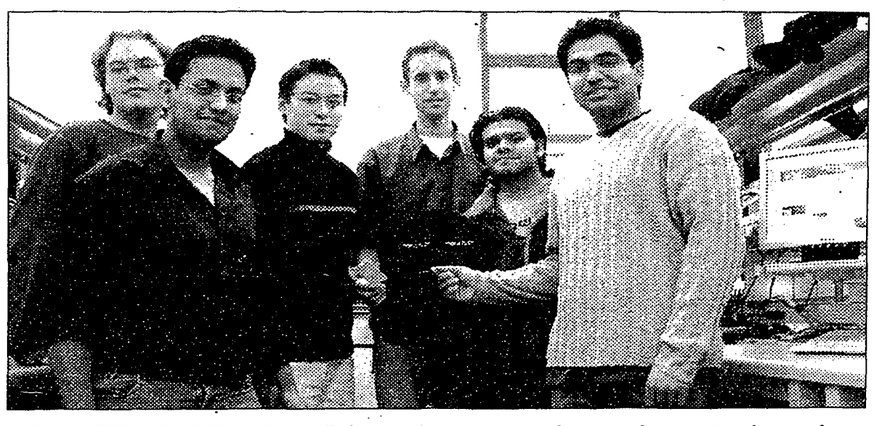
This efficiency and convenience makes iPark a marketable idea that is attracting the attention of parking and industry officials alike.

Randy Smith, technology transfer manager at the University's Industry Liaison Office (UILO), called the technology "innovative and potentially patentable."

And those who prefer to use coins to park will not be left behind by this system.

Wang and teammate Gagan Deep were quick to point out that their RFID receivers would attach on to existing coin based metres. The RFID attachment, a Darth Vader-esque mask that fits over the top of the existing machines, would allow parkers to pay with coins, or with their keytag.

"I think when the system can be implemented anywhere, that will be the ultimate gauge of success," Shortinghuis said.



COINLESS PARKING: UBC students are pioneering a techonolgy that might may parking less of a headache. CHRIS ADAMSON PHOTO

Appeal dismissed

"Appeal" from page 1.

nate element of the approach here. The University is being forced to defend the University act, rather than attack it."

Darren "Fire Hydrant" Peets, an unsuccessful candidate for BoG, commented that McMahon's appeal might have helped his cause.

"I don't think it can hurt, raising the profile of it," said Peets. "A lot more people are aware of it than were a year ago."

McMahon defended the efforts he has made thus far to affect a change on the issue.

"The benefits of taking those actions outweighed the consequences," McMahon said. "Without taking some of these steps, it *wouldn't be in people's conscience* as an issue to address."

Research may prevent development of mental disorders

"Synapses" from page 1.

Current therapies, she said, don't cure disorders, it only masks them.

Alaa El-Husseini, an associate professor of psychiatry and member of the Brain Research Centre at UBC, along with Gerrow, has been leading the investigation into the role of a particular protein group in the creation of excitatory synapses.

Using a recently developed process known as "knockdown," the research team was able to take an interference RNA and, as El-Husseini related, "design it specifically to knockdown the expression of one protein."

The protein being knocked down in this case is known as *PSD-95—a protein that plays a significant role in the development* of excitatory synapses. This allows the team to affect the balance between excitation and inhibition within the brain by forcing a neuron to stop making excitatory synapses and instead make inhibitory synapses.

Through this process of knockdown "we can actually shift this balance in excitation [or] inhibition," said El-Husseini.

She is very enthusiastic about any future therapies based on their findings, stressing that "all you need to do is find the right peptide to disrupt the binding [of neuroligin and PSD-95] and that way you fix them, and the imbalance in their synapses."

This would potentially enable one to balance the numb[illegible] excitatory and inhibitory sy[illegible]s, preventing these mental disorders.

The one limitation of this process admitted El-Husseini, is that any "therapeutic strategy would have to happen very early in development, at the time when you have active synapse formation."

This means that the therapies produced by this research will not be a cure for adults currently affected by an imbalance in brain chemistry, but may in fact be used as a method of inoculation for future generations.

Both El-Husseini and Gerrow are continuing their work with PSD-95 hope that their research here at UBC may someday help to deliver a world free from mental disorders.

'TWEENS

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This event is designed to help UBC students meet prospective employers for part-time, summer, full-time, and post grad opportunities. Bring your resume!

CAA Spring Bling RUM Garden
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March 17, 8pm-midnight
The Caribbean and African Association present this event, featuring rum, beer, and music from DJ L.O.

Alternative & Integrative Medical Society Conference
UBC Forest Science Centre, 2424 Main Mall
March 18, 9am-4pm
The conference theme is "STRESS: A Road Block on the Path to Wellness." www.aims.ubc.ca.

UBC Pre-Optometry Club Presents: Annual Wine and Cheese
Vancouver Vision Care Centre, 101-950 West Broadway
March 28, 6pm
For prospective optometry students: meet optometrists and find summer volunteering positions! It's free!

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ON THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY of the Invasion of Iraq: Global Weekend of Action Against War! March 18- War No More rally and march against the War in Iraq organized by Stopwar.ca. 11:30 at Seaforth Park! Rally 1:00 at the Vancouver Art Gallery

MARCH 19 All-day antiwar conference organized by Mobilization Against War and Occupation Against the Imperialist War Drive for the self-determination of all opressed nations. topics from Iraq, Afghanistan to Iran and more. Britannia Community Centre (Commercial Drive) 10-6pm www.mawovancouver.org 604-322-1764

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The Ubyssey

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NEWS EDITORS *Paul Evans & Eric Szeto*
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EDITORIAL OFFICE
Room 24, Student Union Building
6138 Student Union Boulevard
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
tel: 604-822-2301
fax: 604-822-9279
web: www.ubyssey.bc.ca
e-mail: feedback@ubyssey.bc.ca

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

BUSINESS MANAGER *Fernie Pereira*

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Simon Underwood decided one day that polygamous marriage was the way to go so he married Megan Smyth, Jesse Marchand, Bryan Zandberg and Yinan Max Yang all in one day. The story made The Ubyssey, and Paul Evans and Boris Korby both commented that they, Andrew MacRae, Greg Ursic, Colin McPhee and Colleen Tang could also save a lot of money if they did the same. So, they called up Michelle Mayne and had her perform the ceremony. Friends Mary Leighton, David Yuen, D. WinterWhite and Claudia Li were invited along with 600 other guests. Kellan Higgins got wind that he hadn't been invited though and teamed up with Amanda Stutt and Matthew Williams to ensure the day wouldn't go as planned. They hired Jesse Hodgins, Peter Warner and Katherine Scarrow to sabotage the event, and so the minions spiked the punch with Tabasco™ sauce. "My tongue!" Gemini Cheng cried when she tasted the broth, but Alia Dhrassi, Champagne Choquer and Will Keats-Osborne slurped away, unfazed. Mylan Savjord took pictures and Michelle read the ceremony and Chris Adamson declared it was beautiful, and Eric Szeto is coo'.

EDITORIAL GRAPHIC *Simon Underwood*

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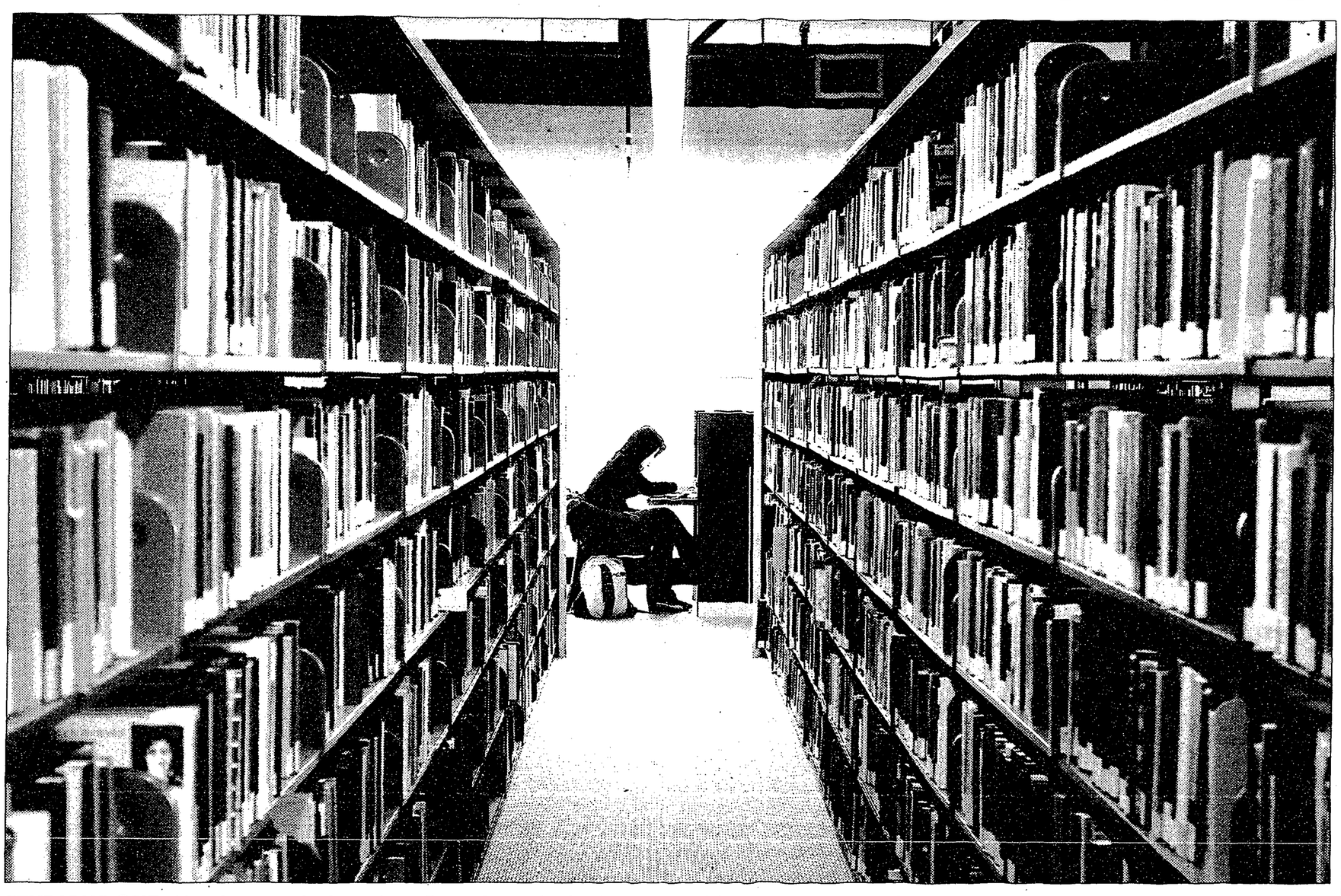

STUDIOUS ONE: Here's a word of caution. One trip to the bathroom could cost you all your belongings. YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO

UBC responds to library thefts

by Mylan Savjord
NEWS WRITER

After a large increase in thefts last semester, library officials and campus security have responded with an awareness campaign aimed at bringing attention to students about protecting personal property.

According to Steve Peets, head library monitor at Koerner library, "there was a fairly large increase [in thefts] last semester...especially around exam time."

He added, "there is obviously a person spending eight hours a day, just waiting for someone to get up to go to the bathroom."

The thefts were primarily of textbooks, bags, computers, and general student property.

UBC security said that it would confront this problem on two fronts: increasing awareness from students and also having an undercover presence.

"We have increased signage to increase awareness," said Paul Wong, community relations manager for Campus Security. "We also have periodic undercover presence."

In addition, Campus Security is also planning on rolling out a new program called "Textbook Watch" that would combat textbook theft by using UV technology to mark textbooks. The textbook marked with the ID would serve as a tracking device so that if someone tried to sell a stolen book back to the bookstore it would send up red flags.

UBC has not set a timetable for getting that equipment yet.

Students are still questioning UBC's efforts in countering thefts, however.

"I don't understand why there is no obvious security, like video cameras or something," said Graham Stuart, a fifth-year political science student.

Director of Human Resources for UBC libraries, Debra Austin, explained that video monitoring isn't an option yet.

"We haven't discussed the next question of video surveillance or putting dollars aside to increase the security."

Increased vigilance, Austin suggested, would curb thefts significantly.

Echoing Wongs remarks she explained that "through a poster campaign and a sticker campaign we are trying to raise awareness."

Six year legal battle over failing grade rages on

Supreme Court of Canada application among four appeals that have been dismissed so far

by Will Keats-Osborn
NEWS WRITER

A former UBC student has been in court with UBC for the past six years over a failing grade that he received in 1998.

As a show of dogged determination, Michael Mohl has represented himself in a series of court appearances appealing and re-appealing his case.

Mohl would have received his Bachelor of Education degree in May 1998, but his practicum was terminated before it was completed on the recommendation of his supervisor, due to unsatisfactory performance.

"Apparently he wasn't gelling with the students," said Rodney Sieg, who has been representing UBC in the most recent hearings.

Exercising his right to appeal, Mohl went first to the Faculty of Education, and then the Senate Committee on Appeals on Academic Standing, who both dismissed his case.

Although the Senate Committee recommended that the Faculty allow him to repeat the course without reapplying, Mohl chose to forego that opportunity and instead petitioned the Supreme Court of BC for a judicial review of the Senate's decision, claiming apprehension of bias and procedural irregularities in the Senate Committee's hearing.

His case was dismissed by the Supreme Court of BC. Justice M.D. Macaulay, who presided over the hearing and dismissed the case largely on the grounds that he felt the Faculty of Education had the greatest expertise to decide academic matters.

Unhappy with that decision, Mohl then appealed to the BC Court of Appeal, where his case was again dismissed, and then onto the Supreme Court of Canada, where his application to appeal was denied.

In March 2003, Mohl began legal action against UBC for punitive and compensatory damages, claiming negligence, breach of contract, and breach of fiduciary duty on the part of UBC.

Justice Ronald Holmes struck the statement of claim as an abuse of process, declaring that the action was simply an attempt to re-litigate issues that had already been decided against Mohl during the judicial review. Allowing the action to proceed, he said, "would violate the principle of judicial economy, consistency, finality and integrity of the administration of justice."

> JUSTICE RONALD HOLMES STRUCK [MOHL'S] STATEMENT OF CLAIM AS AN ABUSE OF PROCESS, DECLARING THAT THE ACTION WAS SIMPLY AN ATTEMPT TO RE-LITIGATE ISSUES THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN DECIDED AGAINST MOHL DURING THE JUDICIAL REVIEW.

Refusing to give up, Mohl then appealed Justice Holmes's decision to the BC Court of Appeal this February, where Justice Kenneth Smith ruled that Justice Holmes had erred in striking the entirety of Mohl's claim, as some of the issues raised in the summons were not dealt with during the judicial review.

A date for the next hearing has not been set.

According to Sieg, this type of case is very rare. The courts will generally cite the same deference of authority exercised by Justice Macaulay in not allowing the case to continue, and very few students pursue their case any further. "Most of these cases are struck early on," he said. "Mr Mohl is very persistent."

Mohl, who was reluctant to comment on the details of the case, has no intention of giving up. "This is not going to end just like that," he said. "It will go on and on."

Epoch Times fears terrorist attacks from communists

by Tony Ferguson
THE CORD WEEKLY
(WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY)

WATERLOO, O.N. (CUP)—*The Epoch Times*, a global independent newspaper and a leading critic of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), has accused the CCP of using terrorist attacks to censor its content.

Cindy Gu, publisher of the Canadian version of the newspaper, believes the CCP is using terrorist attacks to silence the independent paper. In an intelligence report that was intercepted in Australia, *The Epoch Times* was identified as a key target of the CCP.

"Now they are using terror to scare staff and writers like us, who have been outspoken," Gu told *The Cord*. "But we will not back down...we will continue to champion free press."

Since publishing its award-winning editorial series on human rights violations of the CCP in December 2004, *Epoch Times* staff around the world have been targets of beatings and muggings.

In early February, a gang of Asian men aged 20 to 30 broke into the Atlanta home of *Epoch Times* chief technical officer Yuan Li. Li was left severely beaten, requiring 15 stitches on his face. The gang also stole two of his computers containing files from work.

Around the same time, the home of the Paris manager of *The Epoch Times* was ransacked. The ticket receipts for a Chinese New Year Gala, which he had been supporting, were stolen but nothing else was taken.

The Epoch Times has been instrumental in promoting breakthrough technologies to get into Internet search engines like Google and Yahoo, search engines currently blocked by the CCP. They post information on their website to help people in China get access to uncensored, independent media free of charge.

Gu worries that the Canadian office is next in line for attack. She has urged the Canadian government to publicly condemn the acts of the CCP and provide protection for her and her staff.

Political unrest in China has been symbolised by an exponential increase of mass riots in Mainland China, rising from 8,400 in 1993 to 74,000 in 2004.

Recent demonstrations have protested the CCP putting over 100,000 Chinese people in concentration camps for being associated with Falun Gong, a type of meditation that promotes peace and character building.

Gu believes the CCP thinks "the Falun Gong movement was too big," so they developed a propaganda campaign to persuade followers to renounce it.

For Gu, this is a turning point in Chinese history. After the publication of the commentaries over a year ago, 8.5 million Chinese people, mostly from Mainland China, have renounced any ties to the CCP. Gu said the future of the CCP is bleak.

"I expect the regime could fall within a few years," she predicted.

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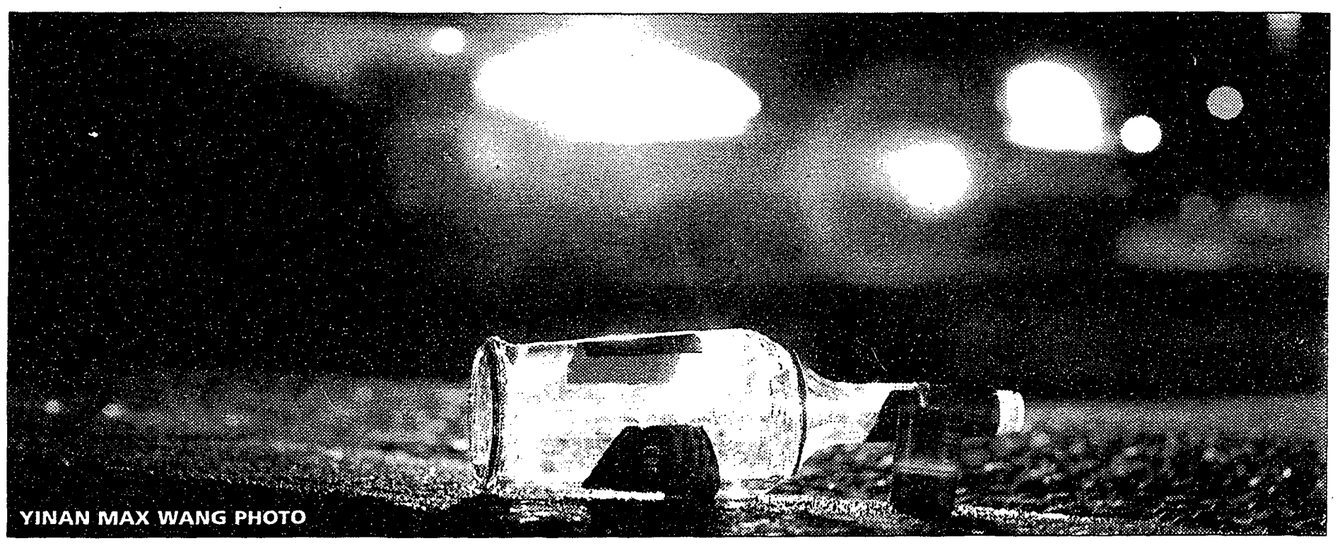
YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO

Campbell too lax with drunk drivers: MADD

by Paul Hiebert
THE CAPILANO COURIER /CAPILANO COLLEGE

VANCOUVER BC (CUP)—The issue of drunk driving has once again come to the forefront in BC, with the recent appeal by BC Attorney General Wally Oppal of the two-year sentence handed to Jenny Woloshyn in a drunk driving case that cost a young man his life last year.

In January 2003, Premier Gordon Campbell's political future was uncertain after he was arrested and charged for drunk driving in Hawaii while on vacation. However, after a public apology for his actions and a promise to get tougher on drunk drivers, voters apparently forgave Campbell as he was re-elected in 2005.

In light of the recent Woloshyn case, many people, including Mothers Against Drunk Driving Canada (MADD), question whether Campbell has actually fulfilled his promise to combat drunk driving, a problem that currently contributes to one out of every four fatal car crashes in BC. Woloshyn was originally charged with criminal negligence for causing the death of David Firenze, 23, while driving intoxicated.

This is Woloshyn's third drinking and driving offence. Oppal believes that her two-year sentence is not long enough. The decision by Oppal to appeal the case and push for a harsher sentence has been applauded by MADD Canada.

Bob Rorison, president of the Greater Vancouver chapter of MADD Canada, believes that Campbell has fallen short of his vow to get tougher on drunk drivers.

"The BC government simply doesn't have the same view as MADD when it comes to drunk driving," said Rorison over the phone during an interview with the *Capilano Courier*. "The best way to stop drunk drivers is to charge them at roadside and give them stiffer sentences, and we simply aren't getting that."

The *Capilano Courier* contacted Gordon Campbell's office, but did not receive a response.

Rorison is encouraged, however, by tougher vehicle impoundment penalties; vehicles are now impounded for 60 days (previously 30 days) for driving while prohibited on the first offence, and 90 days for the second. Also, drivers with three or more alcohol-related offences may be forced to use an ignition interlock system, which requires the driver to pass a self-administered breathalyser test before the car's engine will start.

About 230 drivers are expected to use the device per year. Finally, chronic offenders with serious drinking problems may be forced to enter a mandatory rehabilitation program where successful completion of the rehab will be a required condition for getting back on the road.

It is expected that 7,900 drivers will complete the program each year. Other laws that have been implemented by the Campbell government are the increase in fines from $300 to $500 for driving while prohibited and the right for ICBC to refuse to reissue a drivers' license if there are any outstanding fines for drinking and driving.

The BC government claims that there is currently a total of $4.7 million in uncollected fines. In addition, drivers who receive 24-hour roadside suspensions also have their vehicles impounded for 24 hours. In an email to the *Cap Courier*, John Les, BC minister of public safety and solicitor general, argues that BC has some of the strictest laws in the country when it comes to drunk driving.

"BC already has tough sanctions for impaired drivers, and the consequences for drivers who receive 24-hour prohibitions [as well as] BC's vehicle impoundment program for prohibited or suspended drivers is now among the most severe in the country."

"In addition," Les continued, "BC's rehabilitation and interlock legislation is among the strictest in the country. This legislation is a big step forward in making British Columbians safer."

However, despite all of these new laws introduced by the BC government, Rorison maintains Campbell has not fulfilled his promise.

"Campbell said that he would bring in tough new innovative drunk driving laws, and all he has done is bring us up-to-date with what the other provinces have already been doing," says Rorison.

"The problem is that the laws are way too soft on first-time offenders."

This is exactly the point that many people are so angry about regarding the Woloshyn case. Woloshyn is not a first-time offender and has admitted to a history of drug and alcohol abuse. If the province had stiffer penalties on first-time offenders and introduced mandatory rehabilitation programs for every convicted driver with a substance abuse problem, the death of David Firenze—and numerable other tragedies like his—could have been avoided, argues MADD. MADD has recommended a seven to 14-day suspension for first time offenders as opposed to the 24-hour suspension that is currently in place. Rorison feels that this would be a strong deterrent for potential drunk drivers and would keep them off the road. So far, their suggestions have not been implemented by the province.

"We simply want to reduce the number of deaths and injuries caused by impaired drivers by keeping them off the road—we don't care if they go to jail or not," says Rorison.

One inventive step that the BC government has taken to reduce drunk driving is the creation of integrated road safety units. In partnership with the RCMP, up to 100 new police officers will be hired across the province in order to help enhance road safety.

"The units are made up of full-time, dedicated traffic safety officers," writes Les. "With the integrated units the police will have enhanced traffic enforcement capabilities, including impaired driving enforcement, to achieve the goal of increased road safety as well as reducing impaired driving."

BC is the only province in Canada to implement this system.

In fact, the Vancouver annual police report showed a 564 per cent increase in offenses related to the impaired operation of a motor vehicle in 2004 from 2003. Many credit the increase in enforcement to the work of the new task forces.

In an email to the *Cap Courier*, Constable John MacAdam of the North Vancouver RCMP writes, "The enforcement, and the road check programs have been stepped up to help provide the level of enforcement and safety that the public demands and expects of its police force. [...] The main approach to reduce drinking and driving from a police perspective, is the enforcement side of the equation."

"The more visible we as police are in having road sobriety checkpoints, the more the deterrent for people who are out and may be considering drinking while driving," he wrote.

Another different approach to combating drunk driving is through education, argues Yvonne McColl, who works in Capilano College's counselling department.

McColl largely credits the ICBC ad campaigns, parents and speakers who give talks at schools for the reduction of drunk driving she has seen among young people.

"I have talked to a lot of students and they are all much more aware of the consequences of drunk driving than they were about 20 years ago," she says. "Talking about drunk driving is not the same as condoning it."

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Thunderbirds 2nd at CIS Nationals

by Megan Smyth
SPORTS EDITOR

After an incredible 19-1 record during the regular season, the UBC women's volleyball team went on to win the Canada West Championships and the silver medal in the CIS National Championships held in Calgary over the first weekend in March.

The women won the first Canada West volleyball banner for the Thunderbirds since 1999. As UBC went into the national finals with a 24 -game winning streak, the silver medal was a disappointment. Nevertheless, their accomplishments added a fourth silver medal for the women's volleyball program during its 12th straight trip to the CIS National tournament.

After winning against Calgary in the Dino's home gym UBC went on to lose the following day to Laval in the final game of the national tournament.

"The game itself against Calgary was exciting. It took a lot of emotional and physical energy," said left side Emily Cordonier. Playing the 8pm game against Calgary meant the team did not get back to the hotel until 11pm which made the 2pm game against Laval the next day all the more taxing. "I think it would have been nice to have a little bit more time to recover. Laval had a slightly easier road in terms of how much recovery time that they got and I think we fought really hard regardless," stated Cordonier. "Our route to the final was by no means easy," added teammate Shelley Chalmers.

Coach Doug Reimer echoed the comments of his players, "We got bumped up to the first seed and I would have been happier with seed number two for a variety of reasons, especially the preparation time." But the team has to play the schedule they are dealt and even with a quick turn around between game times UBC put up a fight, leading early in the match. Laval came back with fierce momentum and was able to pull off a 3-1 victory over the T-Birds.

Coming home with a silver medal from nationals—after going in ranked as the top team— cannot cast a shadow on the success UBC has had throughout the entirety of the season.

Reimer credits an experienced team and a strong team identity as the main factors leading to the success this season.

"Unfortunately we lost the final match of the year—so you never feel good when you lose your last match of the year—but if I reflect on more of the season as a whole from November to the 20 odd straight matches, winning against some pretty good competition and a lot of that time not everyone was in the line-up. So people really had to step up," said Reimer.

Cordonier, matched Reimer's sentiments stating that, "This year we just felt really confident, and we showed that. It was definitely our most consistent season." Adding that at time she "still in a way felt like a rookie," Cordonier realised that this year's team was a much different team than it would have been a couple years ago.

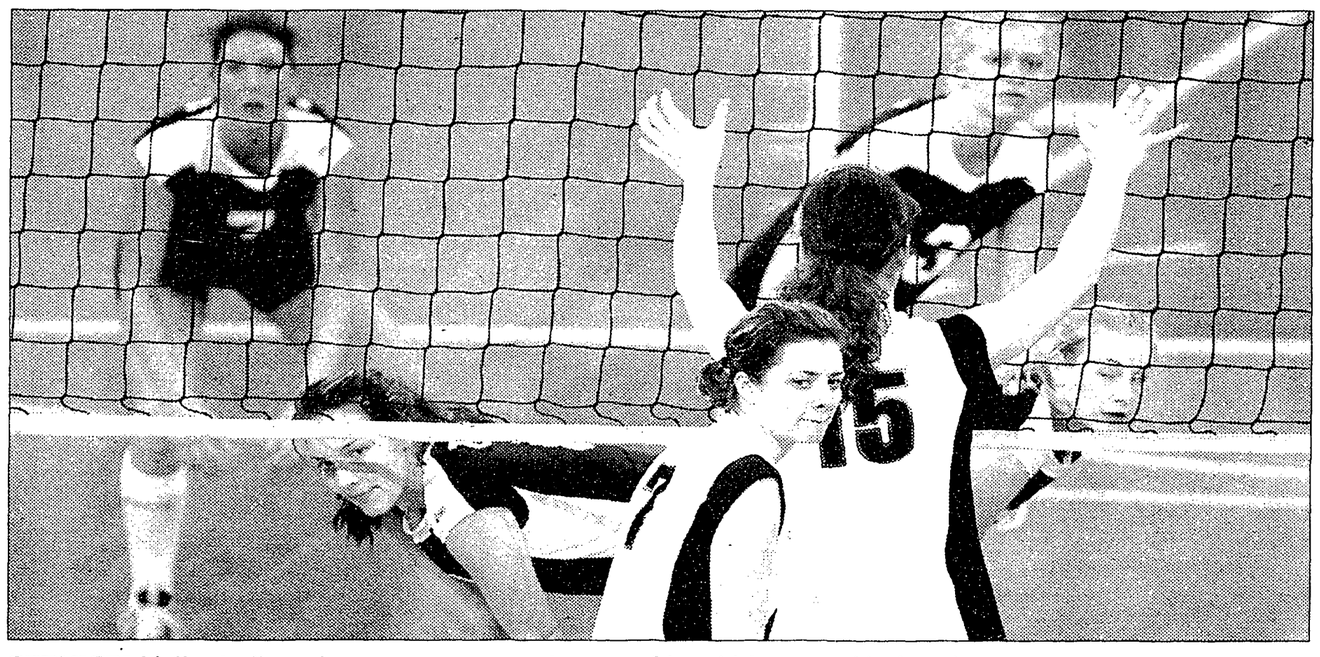
With five starters in their fifth year of CIS eligibility, the UBC team was a powerhouse of senior players. Unfortunately, that means that along with Cordonier, teammates Danielle Van Huizen, Chalmers, Maya Miguel and Kirby Dow will all be absent from the roster next year.

Reimer acknowledges that next season will see a loss of experience on the court, but he added "I'm really happy with the people we have and that we've got coming in. The group next year is going to have to work very hard and be very resilient in terms of setting some longer term objectives within the season."

Although it will be different next year, Van Huizen thinks that next year's women's team will surprise themselves and their fans throughout the season. "There is so much talent in these girls and there is so much drive in them that I really hope that they do well, and I know they will," she said.

After a week-long rest following the team's return from nationals, everyone has had time to reflect on the season and plan for the upcoming season.

Overcoming injuries in the early part of the season posed a challenge for the UBC team. "One of the things the team did really well was hang together because it was into January before we even had our starting line-up together," commented Reimer. "A lot of teams wouldn't have been able to do that and then keep building."



SERVICE! Volleyball seniors were a powerhouse of hard hitters at Nationals. **YINAN MAX WANG PHOTO**

"We had a great season, we played like we wanted to, we won league, we won Canada West, we checked off goals all the way along," reflected Cordonier. "Unfortunately we came in second [at nationals]. But it was definitely the top two teams in the finals; it was the way it should have been in terms of who made it to the end. We played to our level of excellence."

For Van Huizen the highlight of the season "was coming back in January after playing not very competitive teams, then playing Calgary and Trinity and teams like that and being ready and prepared to play those teams."

"The whole season is kind of a highlight," said Chalmers. But she adds that winning Canada West made for particularly great memory. "To win a gold medal in your own gym is awesome, and you really can't take that away despite not winning nationals."

All of the team is especially appreciative of Reimer's skills and his high quality coaching. He performed the duties of coach to such a high standard this year that he was granted the CIS coach of the year award.

"We have tremendous respect and love for our coach Doug Reimer," said Cordonier. Reimer has developed a great rapport with his team and has become a dynamic coach as well as a friend to the players. "He's bringing so much energy into practice and I honestly think that is why we are such an amazing team," said Van Huizen. Chalmers noted that Reimer is a unique coach because "he takes time to care about what you're doing outside of volleyball." She believes that he was incredibly "deserving of winning that award this year."

As Cordonier heads off to play for the national team, Van Huizen takes a year off to go abroad and Chalmers considers her future plans, the T-Birds say goodbye to a fantastic season and embark onto the next season.

"The five seniors got a lot of attention, and well deserved. But I think also there were two others that played a large role" in this season's success said Reimer. Carla Bradstock and Stephanie Kurz are just two of these players, who hope to continue to show and improve their skills on the court next year.

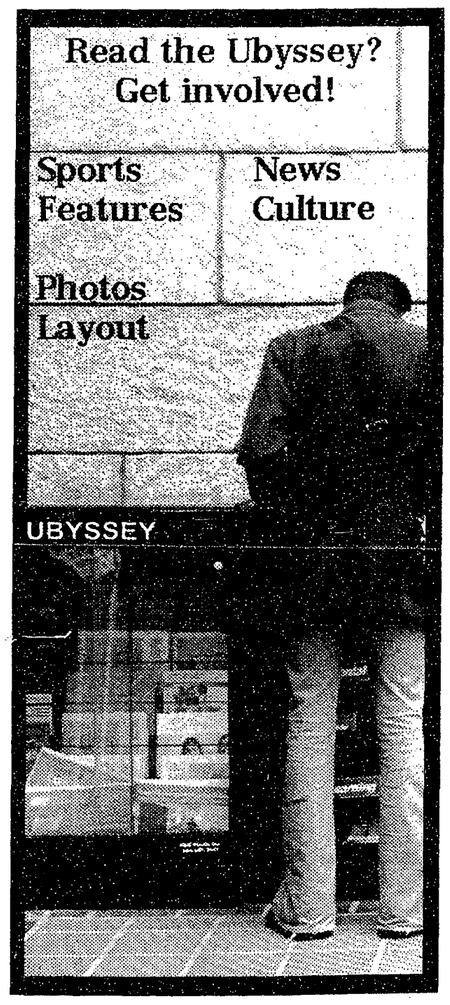
BIRD DROPPINGS

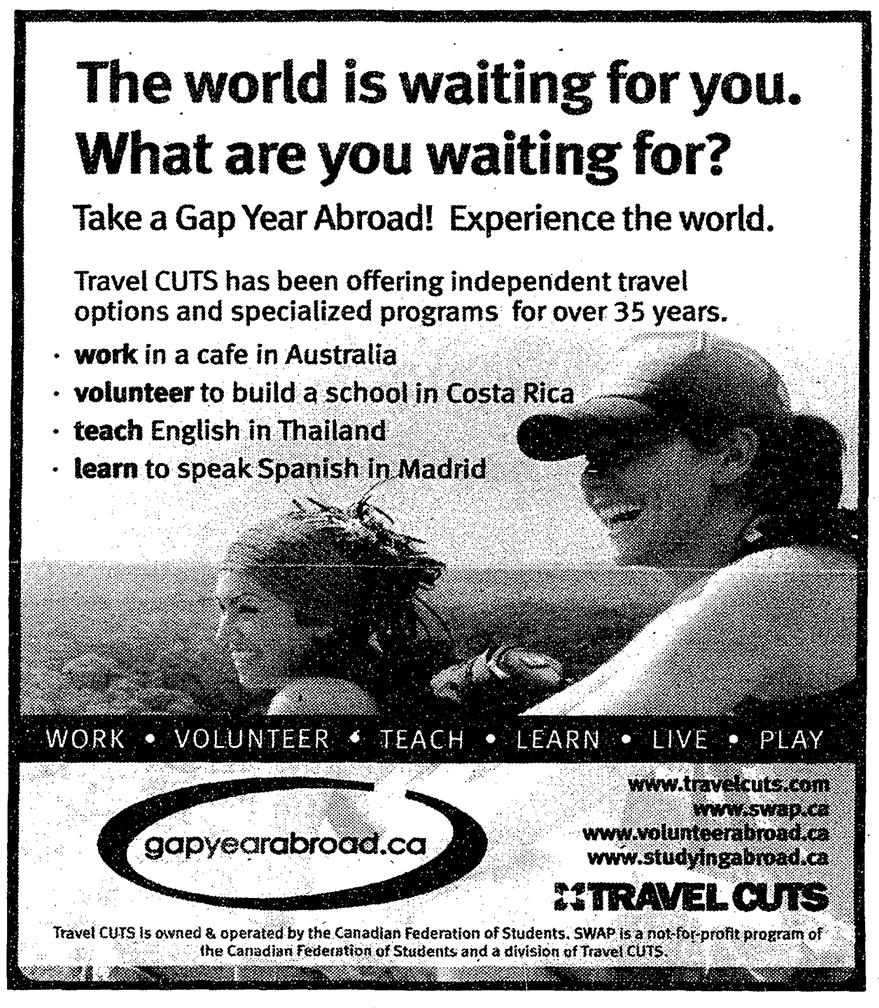
The UBC women's basketball team just returned home from the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton after winning their second CIS national championship in three seasons.

In the opening game of the national championships the UBC Thunderbirds won against the York Lions, with a final score of 51-42.

The next game placed UBC against local rivals SFU. The T-Birds picked up the pace from their first tournament game and were able to win 53-45 over the defending Clan champions.

UBC's final match was a tough game against Cape Breton. UBC was behind by just one point with only a minute and a half remaining in the game. Julie Little grabbed the rebound off Erica McGuiness and pulled in the two points the T-Birds desperately wanted. Cape Breton tied it up again, but fowled UBC guard Kelsey Blair in the process. Blair made both her free throws again giving UBC the lead. But it wasn't going to be easy as Cape Breton pulled ahead 54-53 with nine seconds left in play. In the end T-Bird Cait Haggarty pulled in UBC's final points ending in a 56-53 win for the Thunderbirds.





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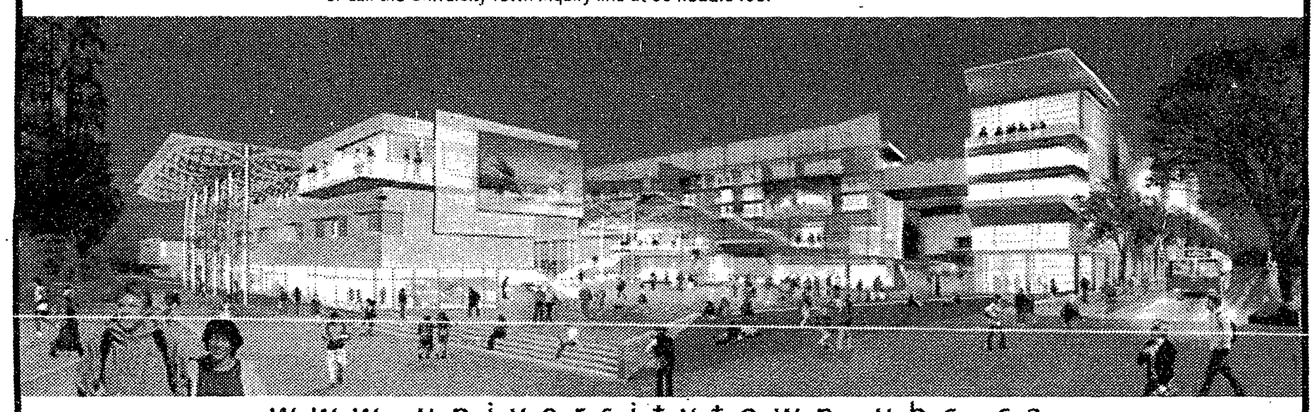
UNIVERSITY TOWN HALL MEETING

Documentary Film: "Building the Boulevard"
Creating a New Social Heart for UBC's Point Grey Campus

Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2006
Time: 6:30 - 7:00 pm Reception (Pizza & refreshments to be served)
7:00 pm - 9:30 pm Project Update & Documentary Film Premiere (see below)
Venue: Room 104 - Frederic Lasserre Building, UBC
6333 Memorial Road, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2
For directions to the above venue, please visit www.maps.ubc.ca.
Parking available at the Rose Garden Parkade
Agenda: Dennis Pavlich (VP External Affairs): Update on University Boulevard Project.
Premiere showing of "Building the Boulevard," a documentary film by a UBC film student who followed the University Boulevard Architectural Competition from its launch in October 2004 to the announcement of the winning team in April 2005. The documentary tracks the complete competition process and the many visions, voices and opinions of the campus community.

For more information, please visit the University Town website at www.universitytown.ubc.ca or call the University Town inquiry line at 604.822.6400.



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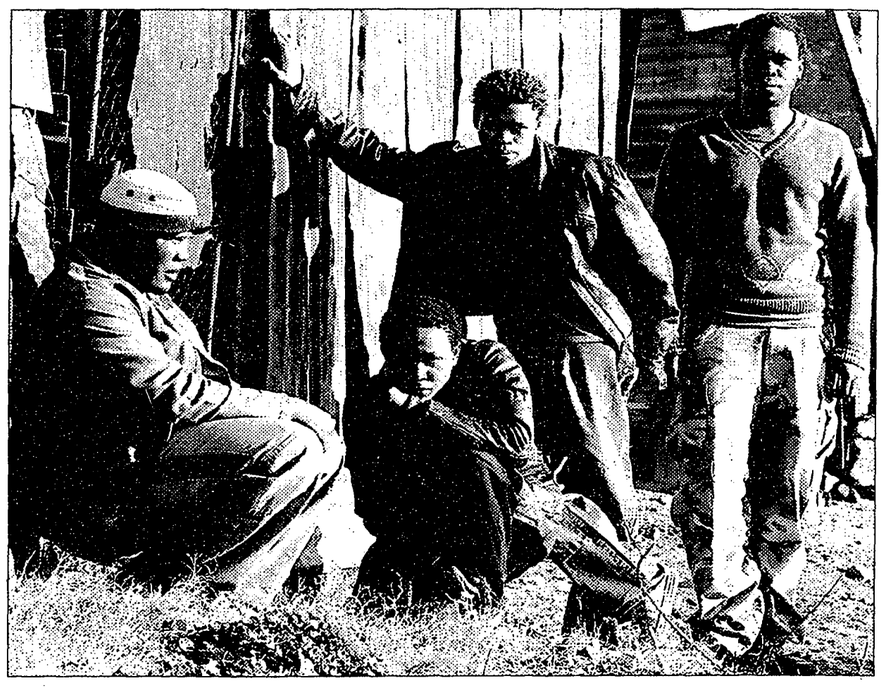

Oscar winner chronicles a day in the life of *Tsotsi*

TSOTSI
Fifth Avenue

by Katherine Scarrow
CULTURE WRITER

"Shake ya dice," declares one character in the opening scene of *Tsotsi*. It doesn't take long to realize that in the game of life, the film's title character has been dealt a crummy hand of cards. But as the film demonstates, it's what you do with your cards that matters most.

This year's Oscar winner for Best Foreign Film, *Tsotsi* chronicles a penniless—and seemingly heartless—South African thug (Tsotsi means 'gangster' in local vernacular) who desperately resorts to violence in order to survive.

Based on the novel by Athol Fugard and directed by Gavin Hood, the film is fueled by a score of pulse-pounding, hip-hop-inspired Kwaito music. *Tsotsi* transports the audience to Johannesburg's Soweto township, a destination where many comfortable UBC kids couldn't fathom living; where members of the impoverished tin roof shantytown line up simply for clean water and ragged street urchins occupy decrepit cement cylinders bordering the city.

A day in the life of Tsotsi and his posse of roving bandits involves staking out unsuspecting, cash-carrying subway passengers and robbing them blind. In one horrific scene, the gang circles and stabs a man, leaving him for dead on the train floor.

It is following this brutal event that one of the more enlightened hooligans (aptly named Teacher) admits that maybe—just maybe—the gang has gone too far. Looking intensely into his friend's eyes, as if to detect even a flicker of remorse, Teacher accuses Tsotsi of being a man lacking any a shred of human "decency." Tsotsi responds by beating Teacher to a bloody pulp.

Soon after, the protagonist dissociates from the gang, believing that he can make it on his own. And so Tsotsi drifts and descends, deeper and deeper; a man seemingly drained of compassion and far from any possibility of salvation.

But when Tsotsi finds a baby in the backseat of a car he hijacks, something changes for him. He cares for the child, and this forces him to confront his own tortured childhood. Human decency, buried for so long, resurfaces in the protagonist as he learns how to love and how to trust. Looks like Teacher may have been wrong about his friend after all.

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"Fornication in the streets with complete strangers is compulsory"

THE LIBERTINE
now playing

by Mary Leighton
CULTURE STAFF

The Libertine, based on a play by Stephen Jeffrys, takes place in London circa 1675—which is to say Restoration London, which is to say that the bulk of the characters spend their time intoxicated, chasing women and enjoying plays in the recently re-opened theatres.

Johnny Depp plays John Wilmot, the second Earl of Rochester, and as the titular "libertine," Wilmot embodies the hedonistic lifestyle pursued by the wealthy of the era. (He asks, ironically, how he cannot be considered "good" when he excels at the three chief pursuits of the age—scribbling plays, drinking, and "fucking"—often all at once.)

Nevertheless, we quickly gather that Wilmot is deeply disappointed with his shallow life, in search of a true passion worthy of his time. He finds it in the fiercely independent aspiring actress Lizzie Barry (Samantha Morton), and with a few overly dramatic training sessions, Wilmot fans her spark of talent into a shining light that carries her to the top of the theatre hierarchy.

In between bawdy jokes, shots of muddy London streets, and orgies in St. James Park, the political plot emerges: King Charles (Malkovich) is in dire financial straits, and his continuing control relies on presenting an appearance of absolute success to Parliament the wealthy public, and neighbour France. Desperate to impress the visiting Ambassador, the King demands that Wilmot, who owes him from a previous debt, write a play commemorating his virtues and accomplishments.

In response, Wilmot writes and directs a pornographic depiction of the lecherous English court, persuading the cast to participate by nefarious means, purporting to the company that "in Paris, fornication in the street with complete strangers is compulsory."

The play is staged, and after a dozen women finish a scene by rendering themselves unconscious with wooden phalluses, Wilmot walks on stage himself—dressed as the king—and settles into a chair with a well-known prostitute poised to undo his fly.

Meanwhile, the King and French ambassador look down from the balcony with a combination of shock and dismay. "This is very interesting," remarks the ambassador, "because in France, for this, you would be executed." The play, meant to elevate the image of the court, instead pulls back the curtain, exposing the filth that apparently exists across the London social strata.

The director treats the gritty subject matter with an equally gritty finish. The appearance is the polar opposite to that portrayed by films like *Shakespeare in Love*—in place of bright dresses and elegant elocution, *The Libertine* offers an overwhelming amount of mud and characters who can barely relate to each other without a drink in hand. The aesthetic is so deliberately peculiar that I could provide you with the entire plot—even the script—and still avoid entirely the experience of watching the film.

If there is a moral to be had, I must have missed it. But *The Libertine* is a strangely enjoyable movie, and a wonderful example of the powerful chemistry that can be achieved when real actors—in this case Depp and Malkvovich—are released from the clutches of the clichéd roles that often abound in glossy period pieces. ■

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Of occupations and apathy

The ongoing history of McGill student action

by Jeremy Delman
THE MCGILL DAILY (MCGILL UNIVERSITY)

In 1967, *Maclean's* magazine labeled McGill students "the most committed and involved in Canada." In that year, students occupied the principal's office to protest the disciplinary action the administration had taken against *The Daily* for a controversial column the newspaper had run.

In the following year, students ensured the openness of University Senate meetings by demanding the installation of closed-circuit television for those unable to attend the brimming sessions.

In March 1969, riot police formed a ring around lower campus to protect the University from a group of 10,000 demonstrators, led by a young McGill professor, that was calling for McGill to become francophone and pro-worker.

These events, though certainly symptomatic of the greater global unrest of the late sixties, highlight the serious student activism that existed at McGill—so serious that many observers believed the University's demise was a real possibility.

"I DON'T THINK STUDENTS TODAY REALISE HOW RADICAL STUDENTS WERE BACK THEN, AND HOW MUCH INFLUENCE THEY HAD OVER THE UNIVERSITY."

–John Hellman
McGill History Professor

"Gentlemen, you, the public, had better do a thoughtful assessment of McGill right now because its very existence is threatened," said Vice-Principal (Administration) Robert Shaw before the Montreal Bar Association on March 24, 1969. Shaw was brought in by the principal specifically to quell the student revolt. Indeed, History Professor John Hellman testifies that contingency plans were actually in place to move the institution from Montreal to the much quieter Cornwall, Ontario.

Today, one would be hard-pressed to find a McGill student who knows what the University Senate does, let alone demand to watch a session. Though many of us find fault with the education we receive, we rarely make demands of our University.

While the rest of the province's post-secondary students protested last year against the Charest government's cuts to loans, and eventually went on strike, McGill students were largely absent from the movement.

Most McGill students see their years in university as a ticket to a higher salary, not as an opportunity to question the society they are about to enter, or their university's place in that society. Have we forgotten that we have a say in our education and how our University is run?

The making of a movement

The student revolt that took place at McGill in the late sixties mirrored the rise of the North American New Left. The radical political movement, made up largely of university students, attacked the faults of affluent Western society—from the oppression of minorities and women to the environmental destruction caused by a booming economy. The civil rights movement in the US, the war in Vietnam, and the nuclear arms race added fuel to the fiery political debate.

The average age was much lower in the late sixties than it is today—due to the post-World War II baby boom, young people were the sixties' largest demographic. Youth were raised with greater freedom than their parents, and this permissive background, coupled with their staggering numbers, made them less tolerant of the conventional rules of society.

Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), a radical American student group, first captured the new generation's political sentiment in their Port Huron Statement of 1962.

"We are people of this generation, bred in at least modest comfort, housed now in universities, looking uncomfortably to the world we inherit," the document begins.

"As a social system we seek the establishment of a democracy of individual participation, governed by two central aims: that the individual share in those social decisions determining the quality and direction of his life; that society be organised to encourage independence in men and provide the media for their common participation."

Student revolt

Students soon began to see their universities as cooperative partners in the unjust society they were attacking.

At McGill, campus issues became the primary focus of the activist community. They argued for a "critical university" that would help build a better society. The demand for participatory democracy in society was adapted to university concerns: students wanted a say in their education.

Inspired by Quebec's mounting Quiet Revolution and disheartened by the diminishing quality of education at their financially strapped university, McGill students started to make demands.

They demanded fewer required courses in classical studies and more that dealt with Marxism and French Canadian culture. They demanded seats and votes on the Senate and its committees, on the Board of Governors, and on the hiring committees that elected new professors and deans.

Under Principal H. Rocke Robertson from 1962 to 1970, the University, wary of revolt, gave in to students' demands.

"Before Robertson, the running of McGill was extremely conservative; the authority of the principal was absolute," says Professor Peter McNally, director of the History of McGill Project.

"But that all changed."

Prior to Robertson's term, the McGill principal single-handedly picked deans—often his close friends—who remained in administrative power for an indefinite period of time. There was absolutely no student representation at any level of University administration.

Students realised that the only way they could gain a say in the running of McGill was to win a voice in its administrative bodies. Before 1967, there were student representatives on committees that dealt with libraries, athletics, and the bookstore—but this did not give them any power over what went on in classrooms.

The Students' Society was soon taken over by vocal students who were less interested in putting out yearbooks and organising dances, and more concerned about instigating the democratisation of McGill. The tactical experience students had gained through their involvement in external political activities was now applied to the University itself.

"There was this belief then that society and the University could and had to be changed, and students could do it," says McNally, a McGill student at the time, "and they had demography on their side."

Under the pressure of students and their legitimate concerns, McGill opened Senate and Board of Governors meetings to students. Overcoming opposition from the administration, students were then granted the ability to elect seven members to the Senate. The administration wanted a voice in the selection of these representatives, but students, who now regularly packed the Senate room, shot that proposal down.

"I don't think students today realise how radical students were back then, and how much influence they had over the University," says Hellman.

Students recognised their power: they asked for more faculty advising, updated libraries, a real course calendar, and the ability to evaluate their professors—all demands which were ultimately fulfilled. Professors who did not initially comply were pressured into acquiescence by the campus press and its readers.

"*The Daily* would play a crucial role in all of this," Hellman recalls.

"A little article would denounce a professor, and the next day bandits with mock machine guns threatened them in the classroom."

McGill students were instrumental in deciding who would teach them. Students went on strike in order to pressure the Department of Political Science and Economics into creating a joint student-staff committee responsible for hiring new professors. Sociology, fearful of similar action, acquiesced to students' requests and hired Marlene Dixon, a radical intellectual who had just been dismissed by the University of Chicago.

By getting themselves onto the decision-making bodies of the University and then asking for reasonable change, students transformed their education.

Retreat

Inevitably, the sixties ended—and along with it, the McGill student movement.

The October Crisis of 1970, when the kidnapping of two Montreal politicians by Quebec nationalists led to the temporary suspension of civil liberties, occurred with almost no discussion or response from the McGill student community.

New student leaders did not try to gain more leverage within the University. Instead, they focused their efforts on preparing McGill's 1971 sesquicentennial celebration.

"THE VIEW HELD BY THE MAJORITY OF STUDENTS TODAY IS THAT THE FUTURE WILL MUDDLE ALONG WHETHER WE PARTICIPATE OR NOT. YES, THE WORLD MAY BE UNFAIR, THE WAR IN IRAQ UNJUST, AND CAPITALISM UNABLE TO REGULATE ITSELF. BUT I HAVE MY GRADES TO WORRY ABOUT."

–Jeremy Delman
The McGill Daily

This calm heralded in a decade now known for its opposition to New Left ideals. In the seventies, personal well-being was deemed more important than the common social good, and students were increasingly suspicious of those who took controversial stands.

For some reason, students stopped believing that they could effect change at McGill—even though they had just proven their ability to achieve radical demands.

Activism at what was once Canada's most politicised university was dead.

Consumers of education

When asked what he thinks of his students today, Professor Hellman put it bluntly.

"They're nowhere near as political as they once were."

Danielle Holyk, who has been involved with McGill's Grassrooots Association for Student Power (GRASPé) since she arrived in Montreal four years ago, says that simply getting McGill students to participate is a constant struggle.

"THE AVERAGE MCGILL STUDENT IS SCARED OFF BY A PROTEST—THEY DON'T THINK IT'S SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE."

–Danielle Holyk
Grassroots Association for Student Power, McGill

"The average McGill student is scared off by a protest—they don't think it's socially acceptable," she says.

Holyk adds that student politicians today, who seem more intent on getting recommendation letters from administrators than effecting change, are partly to blame.

"I don't feel that our representation right now does anything," she says.

And although most students she speaks to care about instituting ethical purchasing policies and having a voice in University administration, they are unlikely to translate their interest into action.

"The problem is that they're too career-oriented, so they'll go for the SSMU [Students' Society at McGill University] thing because that looks good on a resume, and an occupation doesn't."

The view held by the majority of students today is that the future will muddle along whether we participate or not. Yes, the world may be unfair, the war in Iraq unjust, and capitalism unable to regulate itself. But I have my grades to worry about.

Political apathy on campus does not imply that students are lazy. Far from it. We work harder than we ever have before. Admissions standards for McGill keep rising and a higher proportion of students will attend graduate school. We balance part-time jobs and extra-curricular activities during the school year. We attend prestigious internship programs and go to Africa over the summer.

But we're not willing to educate ourselves about the University's operations or contemporary social justice issues, unless, of course, these efforts can find their way onto a CV.

"Students are much more professionally motivated today," McNally notes. "There's a certain cynicism—they see themselves as consumers of education."

As consumers of education, we're not going to go on strike to protest a cut to the grants the poorest students receive, and we're not going to spend our time reforming our education when we can work the malfunctioning system to our advantage.

Rachel Marcuse sits on the Daily Publication Society's Board of Directors and is a long-time member of GRASPé. Among many other initiatives, Marcuse has fought to prevent McGill from investing in or buying from companies that use sweatshops. She echoed Holyk's desperation.

"With young people in general, there is a sense of apathy, not because they don't care but because they don't think they can change anything—they don't think it's worth their time to get involved.

"I guess most students see themselves as minor players in an overwhelming world, but for me, to feel more in control of the situation it helps if you're being active."

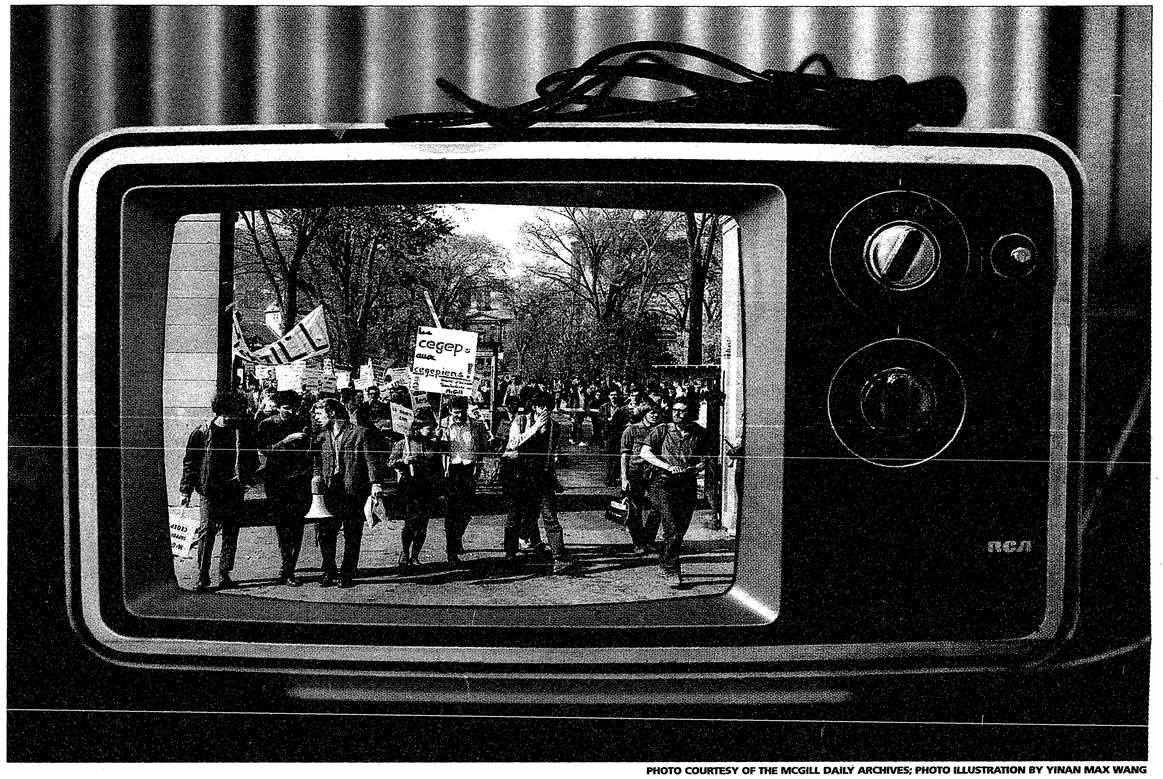

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MCGILL DAILY ARCHIVES; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY YINAN MAX WANG

The not-so-radical sixties?

But behind these images of radical McGill students in the sixties and the more familiar stereotypes of long-haired hippies waving peace signs lies the best kept secret of the decade: most people weren't involved.

All studies done during the era of student unrest have indicated that only a minority of students was protesting. Polls consistently show that only about 20 per cent of the student population had been involved in any political activity whatsoever, and a much lower percentage considered themselves "radical."

Though sixties' students appropriated Lower Campus during the summer to turn it into a commune of tents and regularly interrupted administrative meetings, many students—McNally included—were able to graduate from McGill having never attended a political demonstration.

"At one level the student movement was there, but you could also come here and have no part in it," he avows.

"It had no impact on my life whatsoever."

Long-time McGill Political Science professor Sam Noumoff was heavily involved in the United Nations student movement to end colonisation in Africa in his student days. He says that it has always been the responsibility of "those who have the good fortune to see an issue and take the initiative" to engage the complacent mass.

"If, however, they do not expand their ranks through hard work," he warns, "nothing will change."

Regaining the momentum

The successful province-wide student strike last year was the biggest in terms of numbers and length since the sixties.

"Students are stronger now than I've ever seen them," says Benoit Renaud, a former long-time student leader at l'Université de Montréal and researcher for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

"They're starting to reclaim the confidence they lost in the early seventies."

"STUDENTS ARE MUCH MORE PROFESSIONALLY MOTIVATED TODAY. THERE'S A CERTAIN CYNICISM—THEY SEE THEMSELVES AS CONSUMERS OF EDUCATION."

–Peter McNally
Professor and Director, History of McGill Project

Tim McSorley, who currently works for CFS, believes that last year's strike created just the right momentum to get different political groups talking.

"The student movement right now is re-organising, we're re-examining affiliations, and finding out what the priorities are for students," McSorley says. "Compared with three years ago there's a lot more activity."

Last year students delivered a concise, coherent message to the government: re-invest the $103-million cut from bursaries and loans. And this year they've kept on message, with their demand for a $4.9-billion dedicated transfer from the federal government for postsecondary education.

In its five years, McGill's GRASPé, which was initially founded with an aim to push the democratisation of the University, has reopened the debate on student power at McGill.

When student leaders were ineffective, GRASPé fought against Chartwell's takeover of campus food providers and Turnitin.com's violation of intellectual property rights. At this moment they're pushing for a campus-wide General Assembly to be held each semester in order to make campus politics more accessible and student leaders more accountable.

Moreover, McGill's branch of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) has reclaimed its traditional position as the nexus of progressive groups on campus. Under external coordinator Indu Vashist, QPIRG spearheaded a discussion that led to the establishment of the Campus Coalition of Progressive McGill Students (CCPMS).

This coalition of autonomous groups brings together students working toward the various goals of today's student left: from anti-war campaigns to ecological sustainability.

"There wasn't a unified voice on campus for progressives and I was alarmed at how little people were talking to each other," Vashist says.

"But now we're in a better position to fulfill our mandate of popular education, to show the other side."

Recently, the new McGill Coalition joined with SSMU to put together the first-ever Social Justice Days, two weeks of events to foster an alternative political culture at McGill.

"There weren't a lot of the same people at the events—that's refreshing," Vashist remarks, noting that the same committed group of people is generally at almost every political event on campus.

One of the most extraordinary aspects of the sixties' student movement was its ability to come to agreement. Virtually everywhere in the Western world, the issues students fought for and the tactics they used were more similar than different.

Although active students today have more causes to juggle, they've recognised that they're more effective when they're in harmony.

The CCPMS is just one example of this new convergence of the left—on and off campus.

"The left has had a habit of in-fighting in the past, but now it has a tendency to converge, and that's promising," says Renaud, pointing to the new provincial progressive party, Québec solidaire, which was formed last month by uniting two left-wing organisations.

And after a 35-year hiatus, SDS was revived last year by American students, and now counts chapters all over the continent.

Though the power active students hold to mobilise their peers is not nearly what is was during the most dramatic moments of the sixties, and though they have fewer hopes that change will come easily, they've gradually built a broader base of support. They're well-organised and better prepared to transfer information and tactical skills when they graduate.

In the end of her interview, GRASPé's Holyk conceded that she wasn't as pessimistic about the future of activism at McGill.

"I came to a relatively conservative university from Calgary, from an upper middle class white family that had no tradition of activism, and yet in my first semester here I found GRASPé. And that's got to mean something."

"I got a thirty-four inseam," she said.
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The relativity blues

Picasso at the Lapin Agile a delightful and light-hearted UBC Theatre production

PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE
Frederic Wood Theatre
March 8-18

by Jesse Ferreras
CULTURE STAFF

Have you ever wondered what would happen if you put Pablo Picasso and Albert Einstein together in the same room? In his 1993 play *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, now on stage at the Frederic Wood Theatre, actor/playwright Steve Martin (star of *Father of the Bride*, *L.A. Story*, and to a lesser degree, *The Pink Panther*) supposes that their arguments would become so intense that they would rupture the space/time continuum entirely.

Directed by MFA candidate Kelly Straughan, UBC Theatre's production of *Picasso* is a delightful and light-hearted production that elicits as many laughs as it does questions about the dialectical relationship of physics and art.

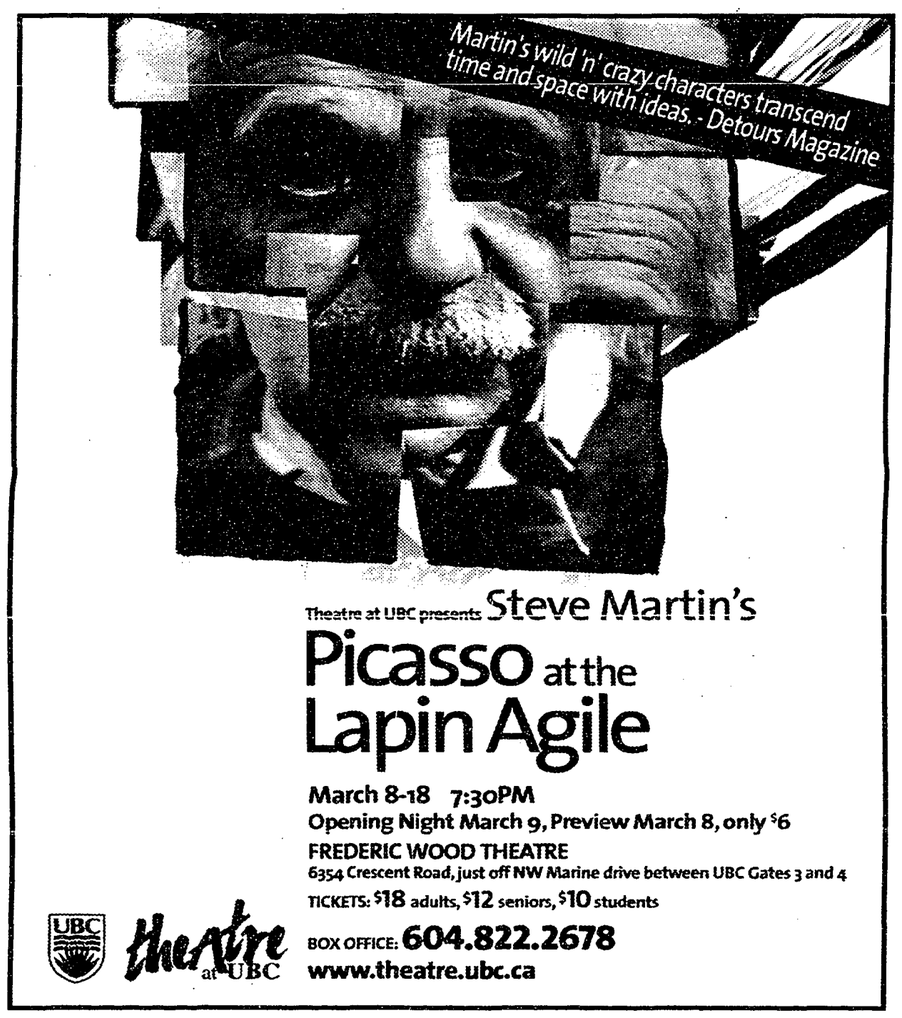
The curtain rises to reveal Paris, 1904. Optimism abounds at the start of the 20th century. The Lapin Agile tavern is run by Freddy (Evan Lendrum) and his wife Germaine (Andrea Blakey), and is frequented by the sex-starved Gaston (Ashley O'Connell). They are alive at a time in which everyone around them seems to be attempting to inscribe their names in the history books. And Albert Einstein (Matthew Kowalchuk), is no exception, a scientist contemplating his theory of relativity who has mistakenly arrived at a bar where artists are exchanging manifestos.

Enter Pablo Picasso (Tim Cadeny), stuck in the midst of his "Blue" period and struggling with the emergence of revolutionary artistic forms. He immediately comes into conflict with Einstein over their conceptions of beauty; one conceived through the manipulation of lines and shapes in a revolutionary manner, the other though a theory that will rock the foundations of science for decades.

Their meeting is a conflict both of beauty and modernism, and a debate about which of their conceptions will be written in the annals of the 20th century. It is interesting to note that such a production would be staged in the early years of the 21st century and realise that the optimism of the 1900s does not prosper today as it did at the Lapin Agile. This is but one notable aspect of a delightful production that sets the bar high for itself with some terrific laughs at the outset of the play and barely loses steam over its 80-minute run.

Matthew Kowalchuk is without doubt the star of the show, making his presence known early with an ill-timed entrance and thereafter with an expressive performance that rarely allows one to divert one's attention. His presence is challenged by the flamboyant performance of Keegan McIntosh as the Matisse-obsessed art dealer Sagot, who claims that Jesus and sheep will never make money in art.

The production lags at some points, the staging can be somewhat static and some important performances are forced to stand secondary to those more overstated, but the show is an all-out delight, eliciting some hilarious comic moments of self-reflexivity and excellent chemistry between Einstein and Picasso. Aside from its entertainment value, this production is refreshing in its ability to show optimism rather than fear thriving at the outset of a century. ■



Theatre at UBC presents Steve Martin's
Picasso at the Lapin Agile
March 8-18 7:30PM
Opening Night March 9, Preview March 8, only $6
FREDERIC WOOD THEATRE
6354 Crescent Road, just off NW Marine drive between UBC Gates 3 and 4
TICKETS: $18 adults, $12 seniors, $10 students
BOX OFFICE: 604.822.2678
www.theatre.ubc.ca
theatre at UBC

From Russia with blood and vampires

NIGHT WATCH
Now playing

by Gemini Cheng
CULTURE WRITER

Night Watch is advertised as a horror movie, but this Russian film probably won't keep you up at night. With vampires, light and dark forces and shapeshifters, the 2004 film, recently released in North America, is really a fantasy-action-thriller set in modern Moscow. Sound clichéd? Well, it kind of is. Luckily, there is more to *Night Watch* than just another attempt to elicit fear from the average filmgoer.

Without giving too much away, the premise of the film involves a group of Others who live among normal human beings. As a result of a medieval truce, they have been divided into light and dark forces. The light forces, known as the Night Watch, keep the dark forces at bay when the sun sets. Likewise, the dark forces, the Day Watch, do the same for the light. As one character points out, the balance is a bit uneven, and a new powerful Other appears who threatens to tilt the balance even further once he becomes tempted by one of the factions.

The film's protagonist, Anton Gorodetsky, one of the Night Watch, must ensure that this new Other does not turn to the dark side, so to speak.

Hailed as one of Russia's greater films, *Night Watch* has a wide range of artistic attributes. The cinematography is especially notable, as are the imaginative images evoked by director Timur Bekmambetov. Most of the money shots have been nabbed for the trailer, so don't expect the whole film to be eye candy, but there are a couple of scenes that make you sit up and take notice of the composition and the palettes on screen.

The acting is adequate, if nothing special. Konstantin Khabensky gives Anton the feeling of a pained hero with a secret from his past, which is exactly what he is. The supporting cast does well too, and Dmitry Martynov as the boy Yegor manages to pull off the role without coming across as a new child actor.

Despite the rather predictable plot, *Night Watch* is still worth seeing. Filmmakers should take note of the film's unconventional subtitles for the next time they want to make a foreign film stand out. Instead of flashing simple translations on and off the subtitles are interactive. When the vampiress calls out to the child in his mind, the words fade slowly, darkly onto the screen in blood red. When a character reads from a computer screen, the subtitles are typed out in real-time and scroll up for each new line. When a character shouts, the letters scatter.

Even though the film employs concepts already seen in other darker films, it captures the audience's attention by being just a little bit different. It's refreshing to see a movie that is obviously more a work of art than a form of commercial entertainment churned out by Hollywood. *Night Watch* is the first of a trilogy, and the second film, *Day Watch*, was released in Russia at the beginning of this year. ■

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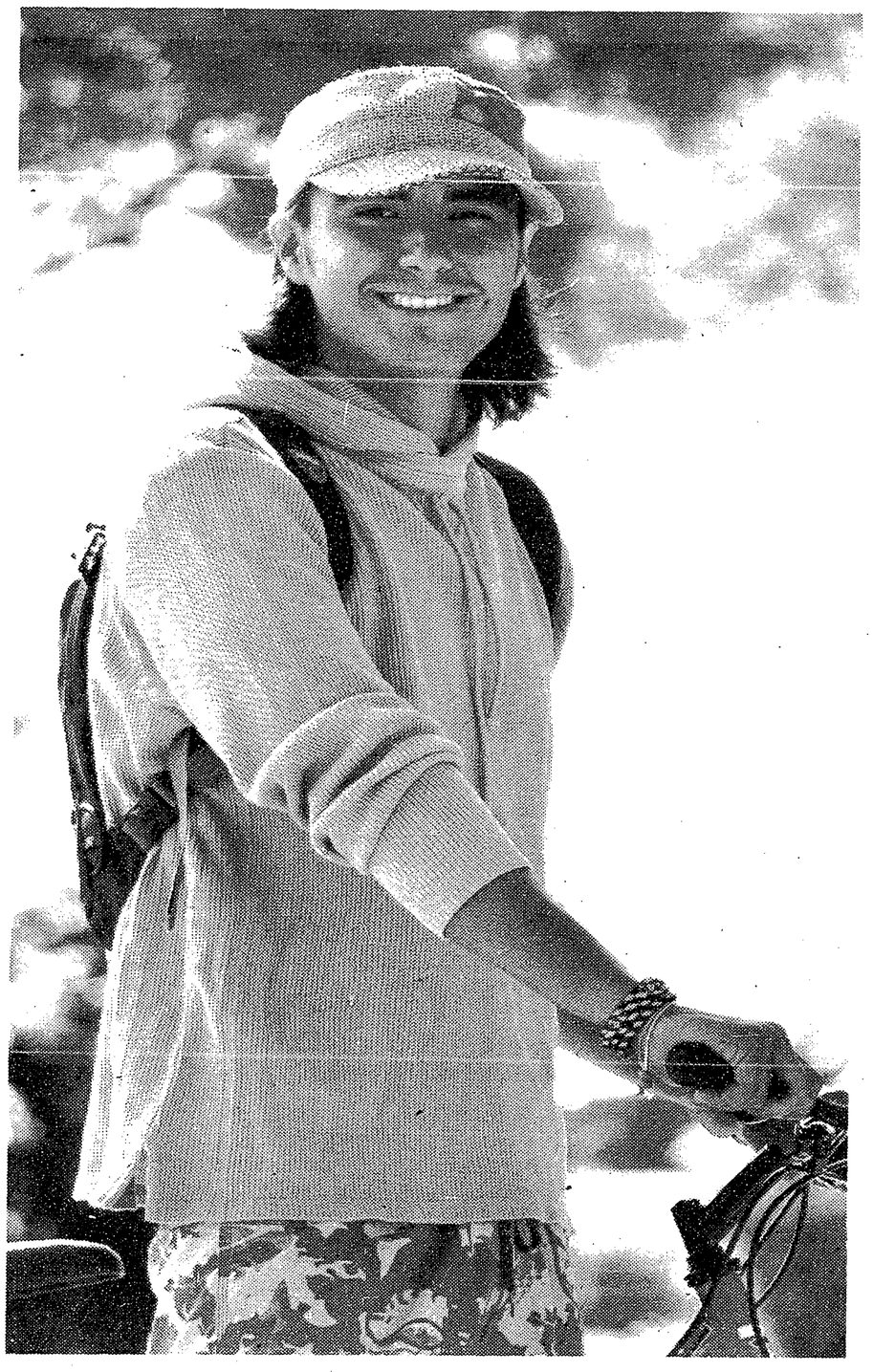
New Housing for UBC Students Approved



Phase two of UBC's Marine Student Residences will proceed. This decision will benefit thousands of students and will add substantially to UBC's commitment to build a more complete and vibrant university community.

After careful consideration of community and student needs, phase two is proceeding based on a plan for 1,067 beds in 3 buildings, as well as a single-storey student amenity service building. In total the Marine Drive Student Residences will add 1,634 beds to UBC's student housing inventory. Phase 2 will be located on a site currently occupied by UBC's Department of Food Science.

In March UBC will begin to prepare the site for construction This will include the relocation of various utilities as well as the demolition of the existing Food Science building.

By spring 2006 foundations will be poured for the new buildings and staged building permits will begin at this time. The first students are expected to move in for September 2007.

To our students, faculty, staff, and all of our neighbours, thank you for your participation in the planning for this project.

For further information on the Marine Drive Student Residences please contact UBC Campus and Community Planning at 604-822-6930 or visit: **www.planning.ubc.ca**

AMS INTERACTIVE

www.ams.ubc.ca

Events Calendar

AMS Job Fair 2006!

March 15th & 16th. Main Concourse - Student Union Building. 10am to 4pm .
Bring your resumes and meet your future employers
Introducing UBC students to prospective employers for part-time, summer, full time, work abroad and post grad opportunities.

AMS Summer Volunteer Opportunities Fair

March 22 - 23, SUB Concourse. 10am – 3pm.
Summer volunteer placements are available in and around Vancouver and internationally. For more information visit our website: www.ams.ubc/vex or email vcassist@ams.ubc.ca.

UBC International Week 2006 - *AkSents* - is the largest multicultural event on campus and it is just around the corner! The festivities run from March 20th - 24th.

UBC International Week is truly a unique event in that it offers students a chance to engage in sociopolitical debate as well a chance to showcase and share their cultural identity!

This year our guest speakers include Oscar winnning director Ross Kauffman who directed the documentary "Born into Brothels", Marc Kielburger CEO of Free the Children, an organization that has been nominated for 3 Nobel Peace Prizes, as well as Jack O'Dell who has spent fifty years organizing and participating in the social change movement.

The week long celebration also includes documentaries, dance workshops, an international buffet, a photography show, career fairs, an International Idol competition, a grand finale event known as Festiva and much, much more. See www.students.ubc.ca/international for the full program.

ALSO, there are spots remaining for students who would like to help out with UBC International Week. To volunteer, contact Irene Sattarzadeh at ubcinternationalweek@hotmail.com

Catch Fire

A student-organized play that takes a critical look at war, peace, and activism from a North American perspective, negotiating questions of responsibility, what it means to bear witness, and how we see ourselves in issues that aren't just "over there." It is based loosely on the Firefly Project, an international compilation of poetry and monologues written by youth, and performed for the first time last year at UBC to huge success.
Friday, March 24th & Saturday, March 25th. Doors at 7:00; performance at 7:30
Graduate Student Society UBC Ballroom, 6371 Crescent Road Vancouver.
Tickets: $7 for students; $10 for others. Available through contacting Krista Riley at krista@warchild.ca / 778.858.7861, Sumayya Kassamali at sumayyak@yahoo.com / 604.722.1350, or Naomi Tessler at naomi.tessler@gmail.com / 604.730.2894

ART SHOW BEER GARDEN

March 31st, SUB 245. Doors open @ 7pm
What could be better than beer, wine, food, and art combined? No cover, cheap drinks. Put on by the AMS Resource Groups

Help Wanted

AMS Services Hiring Four Assistant Coordinators

Joblink Assistant Coordinator

The AMS Joblink office is seeking an Assistant Coordinator. The position will assist the coordinator in the protiomon and operation of the only student-run employment service in Canada.
Duties / Responsibilities:
- Post part-time positions onto the Careers Online website including review and approval of job postings
- Follow up and liaise with employers
- Provide resume and cover letter consultations (training provided)
- Assist the coordinator with planning and running the AMS Job Fair and various Joblink workshops throughout the year
- Provide general job search advice to students
- Perform general administrative tasks and other assigned projects/tasks
- Direct reporting relationship with the Joblink coordinator

Commitment: A minimum of 10-15 office hours per week for a 1- year term commencing May 1, 2006
Compensation: $6,000; 2 weeks paid vacation to be arranged through the ECSS considering Service requirements

AMS Safewalk Assistant Coordinator:

AMS Safewalk is looking to hire an Assistant Coordinator for the 2006-2007 school year (position starts May, 2006). If you are an enthusiastic individual who is interested in campus safety and getting involved in student life, you may be interested in this opportunity!
Duties / Responsibilities
- Assist the Safewalk coordinator in ensuring that Safewalk is adequately staffed and is open to meet student needs throughout the year. Assist in the recruitment, hiring and training of new staff
- Liaise with Campus community including assisting with Outreach efforts
- Responsible for payroll, scheduling and staff supervision of approximately 100 student staff
- Oversees equipment, email list-serves and office organization and maintenance
- Shares on-call duties with other Coordinators
- Direct reporting relationship with the Safewalk Coordinator

Commitment: A minimum of 10 hours per week throughout the year (service operates year-round), with longer hours during hiring periods in Aug-September, for a 1-year term commencing May 1, 2006
Compensation: $6,000; 2 weeks paid vacation to be arranged through the ECSS considering Service requirements

Speakeasy Assistant Coordinator

The AMS Speakeasy office is seeking an Assistant Coordinator for the 2006/2007 academic year. The position will assist the coordinator in the promotion and operation of the counseling, referral, and information service. Experience in peer support is an asset.
Duties / Responsibilities
- Assist in ensuring that the SUB info desk is staffed with informed volunteers who are capable of providing quality support during peer support drop-ins and phone calls. This includes: assisting the coordinator with review of applications, interviews, hiring and training, and scheduling volunteer shifts and team meetings
- Assisting with volunteer recognition events
- Ensuring that Speakeasy maintains a visible presence year-round in the SUB and around campus
- Direct relationship with the Speakeasy Coordinator in all aspects pertaining to Speakeasy including working relationship with the team leaders, information, social and promotions coordinators, as well as with other service coordinators and community members/committees.

Commitment
- Minimum of 10 hours per week (with increased hours during hiring/training periods and reduced hours during the summer when the service is not active) for a 1-year term commencing May 1, 2006
- Depending on decisions made regarding responsibilities, duties and division of tasks, the hourly commitment is subject to change. Please note that the possibility of co-coordinatorship is to be discussed throughout the coordinator and assistant coordinator's term at Speakeasy. Previously the mutual decision was made early in the summer (June) after analysis of the working relationship.

Compensation: $6000 (unless otherwise decided during co-coordinator negotiations)

Tutoring Assistant Coordinator

Duties / Responsibilities
- Shared responsibility for tutoring programs, tutoring workshops, the tutor registry and other initiatives
- Assist the coordinator in scheduling, new initiatives and promotions of the service
- Direct reporting relationship with the AMS Tutoring Coordinator

Qualifications: Hardworking, enthusiastic, comfortable with public speaking and strong organizational skills. A background in university-level tutoring an asset
Commitment: A minimum of 10 hours per week, with an increase during tutor hiring periods in August and September for a 1-year term commencing May 1, 2006
Compensation: $6,000: 2 weeks paid holiday to be arranged through the Executive Coordinator of Student Services considering service requirements.

Applications for all these positions should be e-mailed to applications@ams.ubc.ca with the job title included in the subject heading or hand-delivered by March 20, 2006 to:

Jeff Friedrich
Vice-President Academic & University Affairs,
Chair of the Appointments Committee
c/o Alma Mater Society
Room 238 - 6138 SUB Boulevard
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

Your student society since 1915

Get off campus and stuff your face with cupcakes

CUPCAKES
1116 Denman Street

by Amanda Stutt
CULTURE STAFF

Big ones, small ones, round ones, chocolate ones; whatever your sweet tooth craves, it's sure to be satisfied at Cupcakes on Denman Street. The pretty-in-pink storefront, opened in April of 2002 by savvy 28 year-old childhood friends Heather White and Lori Kliman, is the first bakery to exclusively hawk cupcakes, and the idea was an instant hit. According to store manager Dayna Backus, on opening day the first batch sold out in a mere three hours.

Four years later, on a dull and rainy Sunday afternoon, the bright, cheery store is packed with customers lined up at the display case, drooling over the confections. It comes as no surprise: the array of flavours and colours is truly dizzying. The store makes everything from one-bite, mini-me cupcakes to huge honkin' layer cakes.

My favourites include the "Monkey Bizness" cupcake; a chocolate, banana and walnut cupcake with a banana butter cream frosting, sprinkled with walnuts. The "Blue Hawaii" also looks awesome; a vanilla cupcake with blue vanilla butter cream and sprinkled with coconut.

"I love it here," says enthusiastic staffer Neil Morrison. "This is the funnest job that I've ever had. We've got lots of rad stuff, and all we do is eat cupcakes and wear pink t-shirts and rock out to our own music all day. It's awesome."

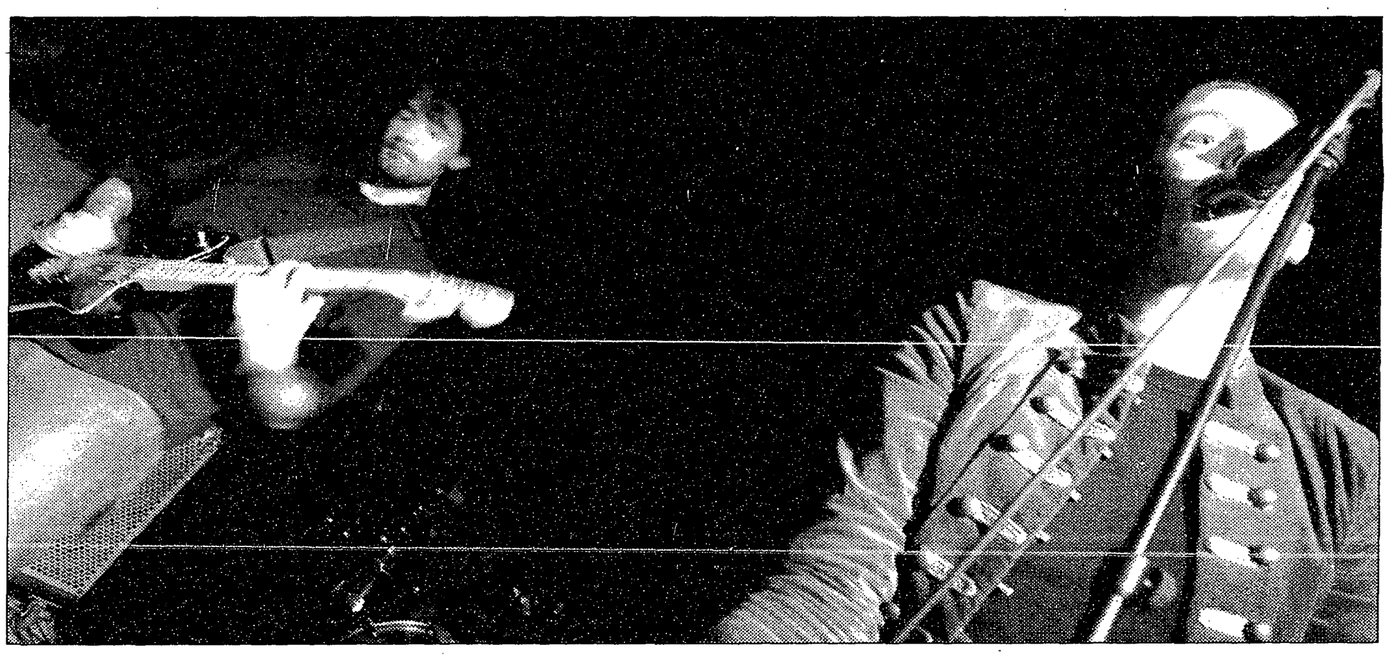
Patrons shuffle in and out of the store continuously. "This is awesome," exclaimed one customer as he walks out, his mouth crammed full of chocolately-goodness. They gave me a cupcake of my very own to savour, a 'Caramelly' that was all about chocolate and caramel and was the best thing that happened to me all day.

The cupcakes themselves start at a buck each for the little ones; five dollars for six, or ten dollars for a dozen. The big ones are $2.25 each, $12 for six; or $22 for a dozen. They also sell sexy logo T-shirts boasting various catchy slogans such as "Who you callin' cupcake?" that retail for $20-38. But most of the store revenue isn't from the catering and outside sales services that the Cupcakes provides, but instead comes from single people wandering the street, and coming in to buy a single cupcake.

"We're aiming to open a new store in Kitsilano for May 1," says Morrison. "It's going to be on the corner of McDonald and Broadway—we're stoked." Until then, if you're wandering down Denman and are suddenly overcome by a powerfully tantalising aroma of vanilla wafting down the street, it's most likely coming from Cupcakes—let the wind blow you in for a taste. ■

And if you're looking for a cool summer job—Cupcakes is hiring. You can drop off a resume at 1116 Denman Street, or visit www.cupcakesonline.com for more information.

YUMMY YUMMY YUMMY I'VE GOT LOVE IN MY TUMMY: Cupcakes! **AMANDA STUTT PHOTO**



If you like to sway

What were you doing on Saturday night? Were you sitting at home sorting your colours and your whites and rationing the laundry soap? If so, more power to you. But if you're the type of person that gets clammy hands and shaky knees when someone quizzes you on your weekend activities, you might consider a bald lie to ease your anxieties.

An appropriate yarn might have you spinning poetically about a Saturday night out at the Pit. On March 11, In Flight Safety and The Acorn soared indoors with fantastical and enigmatic performances, easily setting the ethereal overtones for the evening's headliner, Milton-based The Most Serene Republic. The Canadian band played the last notes on their successful trans-Canadian tour, while both In Flight Safety and The Acorn will continue to delight audiences on their return voyage east to Toronto.

(See. You're set.) **JESSE HODGINS PHOTO**

LOVE IS ALL AROUND

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2006
Ubyssey AGM
12PM NOON
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
(SUB 206)
All Are Welcome!

Where have all the activists gone?

When someone talks about activism, images of free-loving hippies burning bras and bringing down "the man" come to mind. It certainly doesn't invoke images of student politicians running a defiant, critical Alma Mater Society (AMS) and let's face it, it doesn't exactly invoke the image of radical student journalists agitating at *the Ubyssey* either.

Years of student apathy have taken their toll on the political milieu at UBC. While there certainly are protests (think GAP and anti-GAP displays), these generally involve only a handful of students (out of tens of thousands) daring to raise their voice for something other than the grade they got on their last midterm.

It seems that the last time a significant number of UBC students came together to protest something was during the 1997 APEC summit, an event that saw the Vancouver Police Department's 70-member riot squad dispatched to the Rose Garden protest and dozens of students pepper sprayed. They had turned out to vent their ire that certain world leaders were participating in the Summit even though their human rights records were unacceptable.

But the fact of the matter is that these days we aren't the only apathetic campus on the block.

"Students see their years in university as a ticket to a higher salary," writes Jeremy Delman in the *McGill Daily*, "not as an opportunity to question the society they are about to enter, or their University's place in that society."

And there are reasons for this.

As admission standards and tuition costs continue to rise, so do the demands placed on students. More of us are taking on part-time jobs while earning our degrees, and most scholarships require some sort of extra-curricular activity in order to qualify. The economy is changing, new technologies require new, down-to-the-minute skill sets. And through all this, students are expected to maintain those high GPAs if they ever plan on attending graduate school, 'cause lord knows your undergraduate degree doesn't amount to anything.

So where does student activism fit in?

While campus might not seem to be the seething hotbed of dissent it was in the 60s, activism is far from dead on campus. Even our gaseous student society has made some positive advancements by dint of lobbying efforts and hard work. The introduction of the U-Pass, the ethical purchasing policy for food outlets, and the current Coca-Cola investigation—to name a few—represent commendable effort on the part of the AMS to be principled activists, and not just resume-padders.

Even *the Ubyssey* has attempted to promote change over the last couple years, writing editorials calling on the University to address student debt and weighing on issues like homelessness, conditions on First Nations reservations, and the unacceptable working conditions of sessional instructors.

But even we are victims of our own apathy. After all, it's a lot easier to write about student apathy then it is to actually go out and do something.

The fact of the matter is that activism has changed. Waving peace flags and making love on the steps of the parliament buildings—or whatever stereotypical hippy activist image you identify with—doesn't work anymore. The student activism of today seems to have lost a lot of its glitz.

The recent AMS delegation to the BC Legislature is a good example of this. It might not have been flashy, but their shaking hands with MPs did help get tuition issues onto the agenda for the next provincial meeting.

It doesn't always work like this. Sometimes it is the flashy, raw protests that make the difference. They don't always change the outcome, but at least they get people talking about it.

McGill's student union president Adam Conter, for example, recently led fellow students to protest a blood-drive under a Canadian Blood Services policy that wouldn't allow people to take blood from men who had sex with other men.

We can only hope that this year's executive will pick up the gauntlet and take some hard-line stances when it comes to advocating human rights and social responsibilities. There are a myriad of realities that the AMS, and all of us for that matter, can get more involved with, injustices to speak out against and issues to raise awareness for. Homelessness and drug addiction continue to plague our city, innocents continue to die in Darfur, Aboriginals are next to invisible on our councils and our campus and students continue to graduate with oppressive debt.

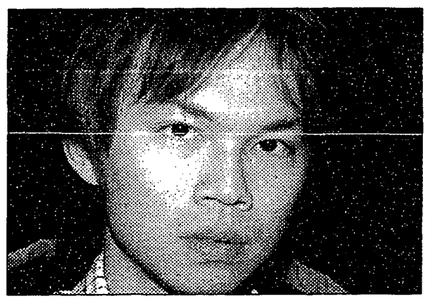
Sure, it's overwhelming and hard to see how to make a difference amidst all these problems. But just pick one and get involved. Before we get old and crotchety. ■

STREETERS

IS STUDENT APATHY A PROBLEM AT UBC?

"No, I don't think so. Just for myself, I don't see any apathy around."

—Ian Simpson
History 3



"Yes. Me and my friends, we're just not interested."

—Matt Lam
Psychology 4

"I don't know. I'm not an undergrad anymore."

—Sam Cohen
Medicine 4

"Yes. I think people are really concerned with their grades and not a lot else."

—Leah Pearse
MLIS 1

"No. I haven't noticed any apathy around."

—Emma Olsson
Law 3

—Streeters coordinated by Simon Underwood

LETTERS

Setting the record straight

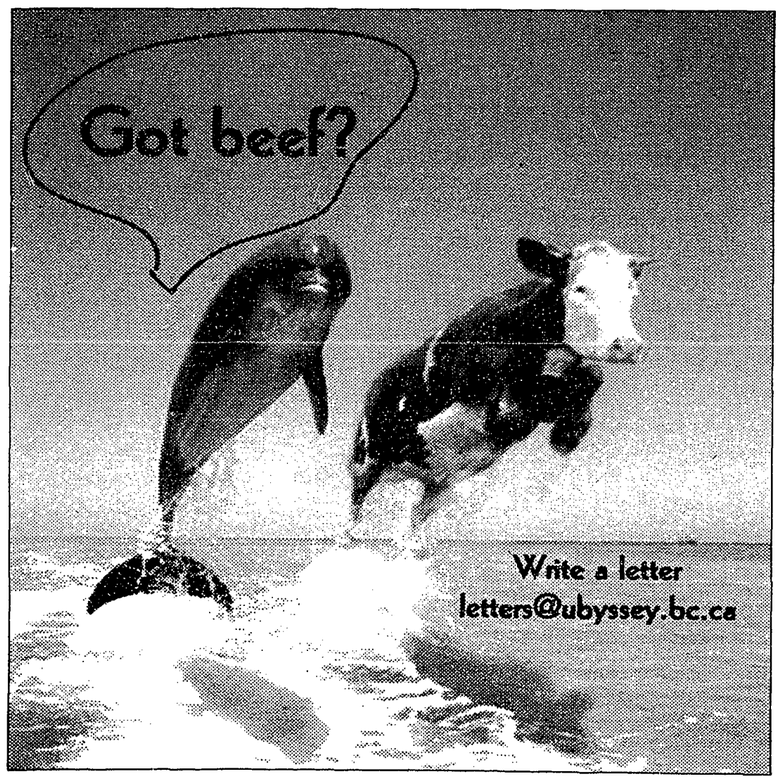
I'd like to draw your attention to the February 28, 2006 issue of *the Ubyssey*, more specifically the article *Engineers Can Still Pull it Off* by Amanda Stutt.

In the aforementioned article, it was stated that the national engineering sorority, Alpha Omega Epsilon, "is not recognised on campus by the Panhellenic Society," I would like to briefly clarify as to why that is, for future reference and general knowledge.

The Panhellenic Council at UBC comprises seven sororities that are affiliated with the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC). The NPC is an umbrella organisation comprised of 26 sororities and women's fraternities, all of which are recognised as a social Greek-letter society for university women. While Alpha Omega Epsilon is a highly respected professional sorority, it is *not* a member of the NPC, and therefore not a part of our Panhellenic. For more information regarding the NPC please visit their website at www.npcwomen.org.

Having clarified the reason why Alpha Omega Epsilon is not a part of Panhellenic, I would also like to state that they have always been more than welcome to participate in the events we put on. Alpha Omega Epsilon has always had, and will continue to have our support and we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them on their recent philanthropic success.

—Nicole Yap
Vice President of Public Relations for the Panhellic Council at UBC



The Kitchen cooks up promising sounds from the Cellar

THE KITCHEN
The Cellar
March 10

by Peter Warren
CULTURE WRITER

One of the things I hear far too often is that few good bands ever play Vancouver. This kind of attitude really bugs me; it suggests that if a band is not attached to a major label they aren't worth hearing. It also means that shows like Friday's benefit concert by local indie band the Kitchen have a grand total of thirty audience members. No wonder we've picked up the fun little nickname of "no fun city."

It's tragic how few people showed up to catch the band at the Cellar last Friday. With ten-dollar tickets, and all the benefits going to orphans in Ghana, it was still an empty club. But I have to hand it to the Kitchen—with only a handful in attendance, they still put on an awesome show. That's what sets these guys apart from other local bands; it's clear that they love what they do. That type of energy is really rare in a rock show these days. It's too bad so many people wait for the big names, because they rarely exude the kind of passion that was displayed by the Kitchen.

A lot of that energy can be credited to vocalist Joshua Hundert. It's a small club and he still belted it out as though it was an unplugged show at GM Place. During a couple of songs he got so into his singing that he didn't open his eyes once. The music was good, so I'm going to assume that was because he was really into the moment and he wasn't having some sort of seizure.

Guitarist Andrew Park was equally impressive. While the rest of the band got a little rowdy, Park just maintained his cool, as if he were embodying some sort of guitar assassin. Hundert and Park provided the two energetic extremes while the rest of the band evened out the spectrum nicely.

Each one had their moment to shine, however, as one of the last songs of the evening contained a solo by every band member. That was very impressive, everyone in the group was stellar. And let me tell you it's rare that I'm impressed by a drummer, but Luke Cyca was absolutely explosive. I was surprised his drums survived the evening.

LISTEN TO US FOR ONCE: This review marks the second time that the Ubyssey has declared its fervent support for this lil' Vancouver band. Submit. **MATT WILLIAMS PHOTO**

The Kitchen, unfortunately, remain one of Vancouver's hidden gems. It's a crime that a band this talented is unable to attract a larger crowd. However, with their obvious passion, and their first professionally mastered CD produced this past November, it's a safe bet that big things are ahead for these guys.

Ubyssey elections

To vote in the Ubyssey elections you must be a Ubyssey staff member. Staff members have attended three staff meetings this term and made at least three contributions to the paper this term

Staff members

Jesse Marchand
Michelle Mayne
Eric Szeto
Paul Evans
Yiman Max Wang
Claudia Li
Megan Smyth
Simon Underwood
Colleen Tang
Boris Korby
Champagne Choquer
Alex Leslie
Carolynne Burkholder
Bryan Zandberg
Andrew MacRae
Mary Leighton
Levi Barnett
Kellan Higgins
Momo Price
Aaron Carr
Jesse Ferreras
Liz Green
Alia Dharssi
Amanda Stutt
D. Winterwhite
Micheal Kenacan

Elections kick off on March 17 at the all candidates forum in the AMS council chambers

Nearly staff

Jill Orsten needs one meeting
Jenn Cameron needs three contributions
Whitney McCaskill needs one contribution and one more meeting

Need to write a letter

Matt Hayles
Johanna Yaworsky
Catherine Hart
Nick Black
Alissa McArthur
Alvina Lo
Candice Mokada
Ada Chen
Tia Town-Schon
Kian Mintz-Woo
Mai Bui

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Affaires étrangères Canada
Canada

UNIVERSITY TOWN

times

ISSUE NO.5 MARCH 2006

SERVING UBC'S EMERGING RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY

UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD
HAWTHORN PLACE
HAMPTON PLACE
SOUTH CAMPUS
EAST CAMPUS
CHANCELLOR PLACE
NORTH CAMPUS
GAGE SOUTH

Did you know?
University Town is not part of the City of Vancouver, nor is it a municipality. University Town is part of UBC, which operates under the Provincial University Act.

National Wildlife Federation Recognizes UBC For Leadership in Campus Sustainability

The National Wildlife Federation, North America's largest wildlife conservation agency, has presented the University of British Columbia with a NWF Campus Ecology Recognition Award for sustainability initiatives.

As part of this honour, the NWF has created a Campus Ecology Yearbook, available on its website, which offers a comprehensive look at UBC's sustainability efforts during the 2004/2005 academic year.

These include the Ecotrek infrastructure upgrade, which has reduced campus energy use by 10 per cent since 1998 despite a 24 per cent increase in students; a colour-coded composting system for food organics in cafeterias; and the Campus Sustainability Strategy, which seeks to collect, synthesize, and publish all UBC actions relating to sustainability on campus.

As a result of these initiatives, UBC is on track to meet and surpass the Kyoto Protocol's 2012 target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25 per cent. The first Canadian university to adopt a sustainable development policy in 1997, UBC is the only Canadian university in North America to receive this recognition.

Visit **www.nwf.org** for more information on the UBC Campus Ecology Yearbook, or contact Ruth Abramson, UBC Campus Sustainability Office, at 604.822.0473

UBC has been Canada's leader in campus sustainability since 1997

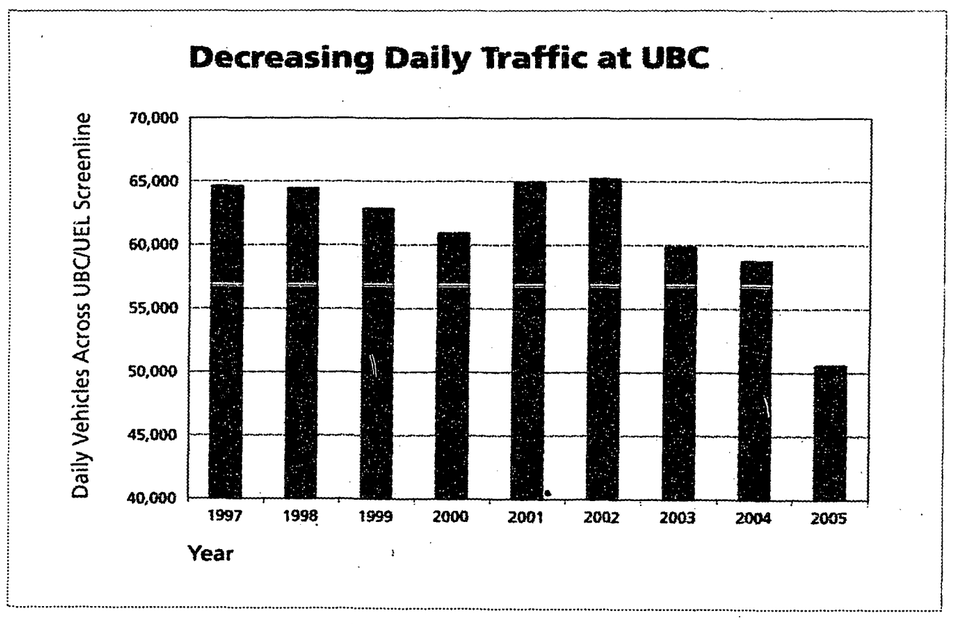
Photograph by Martin Dee / UBC Public Affairs

Traffic Down In U.Town

The 2005 traffic counts are in and UBC's performance continues to lead the region in traffic reduction measures. Since 1997 UBC has reduced Single Occupancy Vehicle traffic to and from the campus by 18 per cent, increased public transit use by 140 per cent, and decreased total vehicle traffic by 22 per cent.

"UBC's success in shifting commuter trips from automobiles to transit is unprecedented in the region," said Nancy Knight, UBC Associate Vice-President of Campus and Community Planning. "No one could have imagined that we would reduce total traffic volumes by 22 per cent during the same time that student enrollment and the campus population increased 26 per cent."

Major factors in UBC's success are the student U-pass program and the elimination of nearly 3,000 surface parking stalls since 2000. For further detail on UBC's 2005 traffic counts please visit: **www.planning.ubc.ca**



A New Way To Get To UBC!

TransLink's new #84 bus route with service between VCC-Clark Station and UBC is now running. This limited-stop service provides a good alternative to the #99 B-Line, especially for UBC commuters using the Millennium Line and transferring to the #99 at the Commercial/Broadway Station.

Now, transit users can stay on the Millennium Line for one more station to catch the #84. The service operates on Monday through Friday on 15-minute frequencies with the first departure from VCC-Clark Station at 6:45 am and the last departure from UBC at 7:30 pm.

While the service currently operates on weekdays only, there are plans to increase service and frequencies as ridership continues to grow. For more information on route, schedule, and frequencies, visit **www.translink.bc.ca.**

myth busters

Myth: Construction of the new South Campus neighbourhood will harm Pacific Spirit Regional Park.

Reality: The neighbourhood development will not happen in Pacific Spirit Regional Park nor will a single tree in the Park be impacted by this development. In fact, UBC will extend the benefits of the park by creating a 30-metre buffer between South Campus and the park.

Myth: UBC is building housing for the rich.

Reality: 50 per cent of all homes in University Town are for residents who are in some way affiliated with the University. In the nearly completed Hawthorn Place neighbourhood, nearly 75 per cent of the residents are affiliated with the University.

Myth: Student fees are being used to build University Town.

Reality: No student fees are being used to build University Town. All proceeds from University Town go towards endowment to support student bursaries, scholarships and research.

University Town UBC External Affairs Office 6328 Memorial Road, Vancouver BC V6T 1Z2 T: 604.822.6400 F: 604.822.8102 **www.universitytown.ubc.ca**