

The Ubyyssey has tons of exclusive online content including a new theatre blog with a review of *The Laramie Project*, video coverage of the Zimbardo lecture and a video profile of Devon Joiner, a UBC pianist.

Check it out at [ubyssey.ca](http://ubyssey.ca).



**T-BIRDS BREAK SIX-GAME LOSING STREAK!**  
**PAGE 6**

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**SLATE RESURRECTION MOTION DEFEATED**

A motion to once again allow slates in AMS elections was defeated last week, maintaining a ban on slates that has lasted since 2004.

The motion required a two-thirds majority to pass, and failed with 14 for banning slates and 15 against.

Prior to the 2005 elections, slates in AMS politics functioned much like political parties. They allowed candidates to pool resources and unite under common platforms to create cohesive brands. A ban eventually took hold under the argument that slates restricted the success and involvement of independent candidates and created a polarized and fractured executive.

The debate surrounding slate resurrection reappeared this past spring during the AMS executive elections. AMS President Blake Frederick found himself temporarily disqualified after complaints were made regarding his running on an "apparent" slate with other candidates.

While Frederick was later reinstated, many began to question the vague wording of the ban. While a motion to amend AMS Code wording regarding slates was also defeated this week, many councilors remain divided on the issue of the prohibition of slates.

"I think slates are an incredible mechanism of engagement," explained Arts representative Matthew Naylor, making the case that slates would be another way to draw new students into student politics who might not otherwise know where to begin or would rather unite with a group of students who had similar concerns.

Defending the ban, Engineering representative Lin Watt reminded students that "slates will increase barriers for independent students...[if a candidate] is not part of the AMS insider groups...there would be a very slim chance that they will be elected."

All potential candidates will be forced to run as independents during the January 2010 elections.

—Kalyeena Makortoff

**AMS TO OPPOSE INCLUSION OF U-PASS IN YVR ADD FARE**

The AMS voted last Wednesday in favour of opposing the inclusion of U-Pass holders in the \$2.50 YVR Add Fare for those riding the Canada Line.

Effective January 1, 2010, the Add Fare will be required of passengers traveling between Bridgeport and Templeton Canada Line stations in either direction. The AMS has been informed that this fee will be applicable to students with the U-Pass.

The motion passed unanimously, and the AMS external office will develop an action plan.

**STATSCAN: HIGHER INCOME MEANS LONGER LIFE**

A new study conducted by Statistics Canada has concluded that Canadians who earn high incomes can have up to ten years more healthy living than the country's poorest citizens, reported the *Times Colonist*.

The study is based on a quality of life rating that is determined by eight basic health attributes including mobility, pain, emotion, thinking and memory. Socioeconomic status is related to differences in lifestyle choices such as diet and nutrition, stress level, and behaviours such as drinking and smoking.

The study found that men in the top income group at 25-years-old can have 11.4 more years of full health than those in the bottom income, while the gap for women is slightly less at 9.7 years.

**THE UBYSSEY.ca**

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ANTHONY GOERTZ GRAPHIC

**READ MORE ON PAGE 8...**

NOVEMBER 23, 2009  
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LEGAL

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Letters to the editor must be under 300 words. Please include your phone number, student number and signature (not for publication) as well as your year and faculty with all submissions. ID will be checked when submissions are dropped off at the editorial office of The Ubsysey; otherwise verification will be done by phone. "Perspectives" are opinion pieces over 300 words but under 750 words and are run according to space. "Freestyles" are opinion pieces written by Ubsysey staff members. Priority will be given to letters and perspectives over freestyles unless the latter is time sensitive. Opinion pieces will not be run until the identity of the writer has been verified. The Ubsysey reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. All letters must be received by 12 noon the day before intended publication. Letters received after this point will be published in the following issue unless there is an urgent time restriction or other matter deemed relevant by the Ubsysey staff.

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HONORABLE DRAKE FENTON, HILLARY ATKINSON AND KALYEENA MAKORTOFF:

Never has a Nicole Gall had to practice Sam Jung's profession under such Melody Lotti conditions; never has such a Paul Bucci of overwhelming Brendan Albano been Trevor Record against an accused Gavin Fisher. In this Kate Barbaria, Jonny Wakefield and Laura Fedoruk are one and the same. As Austin Holm, he has not even been able to take a Kasha Chang at the Alex Barbaria. As Katarina Grgic, for the Trevor Melanson 76 days Maria Kari has been locked away in Wanyee Li, held totally and absolutely Ashley Whillans, in violation of every Vanessa LeBlanc and legal Christine Li.

Christine Wei and Sarah Ling who speak to Mark Penny hates Gordon Yang with all Arshy Mann's being, nor are Joanna Chiu's temperament or frame of Lorretta Lo inclined towards Sarah Chung or Tara Martellaro of any kind. If Kyrstin Bain has had to assume Gerald Dea's own defence before this Court it is for Michael Thibault. First: because Geoff Lister has been denied Sean Morrow almost entirely, and second: only Anthony Goertz who has been so deeply wounded, who has seen his country so forsaken and its justice trampled so, can speak at a moment like this with words that spring from the blood of Justin McElroy's heart and the truth of his very gut.

# EVENTS

ONGOING EVENTS

**Ubsysey Production** • Come help us create this baby! Learn about layout and editing. Expect to be fed. • *Every Sunday and Wednesday starting at 2pm*

**The Dance Centre presents Discover Dance!** • *Discover Dance!* is a series showcasing BC-based companies. • *Until May 27, more info* [thedancecentre.ca](http://thedancecentre.ca)

**Monday Night Community Music & Meal** • Like to play fun music? Just want to listen? Looking for a sense of community? This is for all members of the UBC community who want have a good meal and great conversation. All meals are home cooked and are vegetarian-friendly. • *Every Monday, 6:30pm-8:30pm, Chapel of the Epiphany (6030 Chancellor Blvd), more info* [revnathanwright@mac.com](mailto:revnathanwright@mac.com)

**Drippytown: Vancouver's comic artist on display** • Want a different take on Vancity? The collection features contributions from six local comic artists whose work provides a look at life in Vancouver. • *Continues until Jan. 31, Rare Books and Special Collections located in IKE, more info* [puddingsocklivejournal.com](http://puddingsocklivejournal.com)

**Donate your Aeroplan Miles to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)/Doctors Without Borders** • Booking flights with Miles saves MSF thousands of dollars, money used to deliver medical humanitarian assistance to people who need it most. By donating, you're supporting MSF's aid work and helping reduce the amount spent on air travel. • *Nov 5-Dec 4, donate at* [msf.ca/beyondmiles](http://msf.ca/beyondmiles), *contact* [msfubc@gmail.com](mailto:msfubc@gmail.com) *for more info*

**The Laramie Project** • Director Nicola Cavendish examines the true story of the murder of gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard. *The Laramie Project* chronicles the life of the town in the year after the event. The play has since become a lightning rod for gay rights and the establishment of laws against hate crimes. • *Runs until Nov. 28, 7:30pm-10:30pm, ticket \$10-20, Frederick Wood Theatre, more info* [theatre.ubc.ca/laramie\\_project](http://theatre.ubc.ca/laramie_project)

MONDAY, NOV. 23

**AMS Elections Information Meeting** • Come learn about nominations and proper electoral procedure (new and old). Meet current executives to learn about their positions and what their jobs entail. Occurs one week before elections nominations open. Everyone welcome! • *5pm-6pm, SUB 212*

**Fatal Enlightenment—Rousseau's Discourse on the Origin of Inequality** • Come join other UBC students as they explore this fascinating text! • *10am-12pm, Victoria Learning Theatre (Rm 182), IKBLC*

**Leave Them Laughing** • Sneak-peek at a new documentary. A comedian rolls toward doomsday (due to ALS) vowing that humour will be the last sense to go. Ninety riveting minutes of songs about life and quips about death from the wheelchair of a woman who vows to exit laughing. Q&A with director John Zaritsky following the screening. • *6pm, Norm Theatre, donations accepted, more info* [leavethemlaughingfilm.com](http://leavethemlaughingfilm.com)

**Forum: Why do men buy sex?** • Ever wondered why? Ever wondered what sex workers think about men who buy sex? This public forum promises to answer those questions and more. FIRST is a national coalition of feminists that advocates the complete decriminalization of sex work. FIRST believes that Canada's prostitution laws rob sex workers of their livelihood and prevent them from creating safe and empowering working conditions. • *7pm-9pm, Vancouver Public Library (350 W Georgia St.)*

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25

**Sand and Sorrow** • UBC STAND presents a screening of *Sand and Sorrow*, a shocking documentary about Darfur. Refreshments will be provided. • *Free admission, 6:30pm-9:30pm, Global Lounge, Marine Drive Building One, more info* [sandandsorrow.org/about.html](http://sandandsorrow.org/about.html)

THURSDAY, NOV. 26

**White Ribbon pancake breakfast** • Allies UBC is raising money for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre. Support the White Ribbon's cause to end violence against women. • *8am-12pm, SUB partyroom (upstairs), by donation (recommended \$2 minimum)*

**Jean Barman Comes to UBC** • In 2008, BC celebrated the founding of the Crown Colony of BC and 150 years of cultural diversity, community and achievement. In *British Columbia, Spirit of the People*, historian Dr Jean Barman delves into the region's history, from the first humans to arrive in BC to the promises and hopes of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, including the first contact between Indigenous Peoples and newcomers. • *2pm-3pm, Lillooet Room (301), IKBLC*

**Queerbash presents: Creatures of the night vs. Ladies of the evening** • It's a dress-up mess-up! Join the cabaret of oddities. Come dressed as a spooky creature of the night or a glamorous lady of the evening for a chance to fight it out on the dance floor. Enjoy music by DJ Jef Leppard and DJ Mickey Wonker, with performances by Vancouver's Isolde N. Barron, Sean Horlor, and Crystal Precious. Queerbash is a non-profit organization that emphasizes fun, art, and community. • *Anza Club (West 8<sup>th</sup> and Ontario), doors at 8pm, cover \$5-10, ID required*

**Shakespeare Movie Night** • The English Students' Association is screening *My Own Private Idaho* directed by Gus Van Sant (loosely based on *Henry IV Part I*). • *5pm, MASS (BUCH D140), free popcorn*

**Lace Up for Kids** • Grab some skates and lace up at the second annual Lace Up for Kids event! UBC REC wants to help the Rare Disease Foundation, working with BC Children's Hospital, to achieve their mission of transforming the world of rare disease care. • *6pm-2am, UBC Thunderbird Winter Sports Centre, more info, contact* [Caitlin Brenchley \(cbrenchley@recubcc.ca\)](mailto:Caitlin.Brenchley@recubcc.ca) *or visit* [recubcc.ca/laceup](http://recubcc.ca/laceup)

SATURDAY, NOV. 28

**Emerging Leaders UBC (ELU) Helps the Homeless** • Help empower Vancouver's most vulnerable community, the Downtown Eastside. We will be delivering sandwiches and care packages to the homeless and DTES shelters. • *12pm-5pm, SUB 427/DTES, free, more info* [eelubcc.com](http://eelubcc.com)

MONDAY, NOV. 30

**ELU Speaks** • Come and listen to your fellow students speak about their most inspirational leadership experiences and how they plan to put their ideas into action. Event will be followed by some

cheese and sparkling wine. • *6pm-8pm, BUCH 313, free, part of ELU Week, more info* [eelubcc.com](http://eelubcc.com)

**If you have an event you want listed here, e-mail us at [events@ubyssey.ca](mailto:events@ubyssey.ca). This means you, campus clubs!**

## CORRECTION

In the November 16 issue, in the article titled "E.coli traffic light takes gold," we said that "ten UBC undergraduate students win biology competition" in the deck. We would like to clarify that Cambridge University (UK) team came first in the competition, winning the BioBrick Trophy, and the UBC team won one of the gold medals from the competition, which does not equate to winning. As well, the team did not receive a special recognition for a "potentially fundamental advance," they were in the project track for the "best foundational advance" award but did not win. *The Ubsysey* regrets this error.

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MEDIUM

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**AGENDA | STAFF MEETING**  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

**NASH RETREAT RESTRUCTURING**

**FN ISSUE**  
**SATIRE ISSUE**  
**SEX/DATING ISSUE**  
**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

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## Power of the situation



World-famous psychologist Philip Zimbardo of Stanford University gave a lecture on Friday at the Freddy Wood theatre to a packed house of a thousand students. His talk, titled "A Journey from Evil to Heroism," discussed his research on circumstances that can lead good people to do evil things,

but also how ordinary people can perform heroic acts. Zimbardo is most famous for his 1971 Stanford Prison Experiment, which drew conclusions about the power of a situation in influencing behaviour.

—Melody Lofti

SEE THE VIDEO AT [UBYSSEY.CA](http://UBYSSEY.CA) AND AN EXCLUSIVE ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEW IN THURSDAY'S ISSUE.

News Editor: *Samantha Jung*

## News

# No seat for disabled students on AMS Council

**KALYEENA MAKORTOFF**  
kmakortoff@ubyssey.ca

A motion to create a non-voting seat for students with disabilities was voted down by AMS Council last week following a heated 90-minute debate.

The position was put forward by the External office and student Andrew Rooney, and would have allowed a representative to sit on AMS Council, add motions to agendas and sit on committees as a general spokesperson for students with disabilities.

Over 20 students were present at AMS Council Wednesday night to express their opinions. The motion was defeated with 12 councilors for creating the seat, 21 against, and five abstentions. A few students left the room in tears, with one shouting "shame on you all."

Non-voting seats already exist on AMS Council, including representatives from the Alumni Association, international students, Regent College and St Mark's College.

Arts representative Matt Naylor explained that he opposed the motion partly because he was concerned that creating the seat would be out of line with the faculty-based system of AMS Council. "Creating any kind of non-voting seat for a specific constituency that isn't one of the faculties has a lot of problems. We, as faculty representatives, should be the voice for all of our faculty, and we should be considering what is best for the society holistically," he said.

"Creating special seats for special groups specifically dissuades that because they are responsible for articulating a viewpoint, and not articulating what they think is best for the entire society, so it creates a really fractious system."

Naylor added that problems regarding representation lie in representatives' engagement with their faculties, and not necessarily the structure of AMS Council. Councilors should make a larger effort to engage their constituents to make sure everyone's voices are being heard.

A few students left the room in tears, with one shouting "shame on you all."

AMS Equity and Diversity Coordinator Emma Ellison believes that there are deeper issues to be addressed. "There's never a sort of focus on what some of the [barriers are]...that actually affect individuals' decision-making processes," she said. "In AMS Council, we actually heard [from students with disabilities] that the meetings are inaccessible, that it's an environment where students have felt that their concerns aren't voiced, aren't listened to; their representatives don't actually take into consideration their views."

"The AMS exists as a student union. It should be advocating for student rights, for access to education, for participation on campus in the broadest sense, and that is fully and inherently within the mandate of the AMS," added Ellison. "For councilors who choose to ignore that aspect of their responsibilities as an elected representative, they're completely negating the purpose of them being elected."

Amongst the supporters and advocates were a number of students

with disabilities who left the meeting clearly unimpressed with Council's decision.

"I'm disappointed that the motion...failed because I believe that students with disabilities should have equal representation on the council," said Rosalind Ho, a UBC student with profound hearing loss in both ears. "Having a disability is a part of ourselves, something that affects our daily functioning and our daily life. Students shouldn't be slotted into the faculty they're in...[We] should have our views, our issues—that affect our lives as students—heard."

Rooney, a student with Pervasive Developmental Disorder, noted the challenges students with disabilities may face in solely attending AMS meetings and engaging with representatives who currently sit at the Council table. "I guess the main problem for myself is just getting to these meetings and going to say what's on my mind," he said. "Frankly, it's something I just can't do because of my disability...part of autism is a communication barrier."

Science representative Tahara Bhate said she would like to see the results of the AMS Equity Review before making any decisions on how to properly represent students with disabilities. "I think there's other ways to do it," she said. "I personally abstained on the motion because I didn't think that this was the best way to create engagement within our society."

"But to have all those students come out and think that by voting against this motion we were saying that we didn't want to hear their views, that's something I wasn't comfortable with, either."

Other student councils across

Canada have already implemented non-voting seats for students with disabilities, including the University of Victoria and the University of Toronto.

Despite the motion being defeated, Bowen Tang, a student with profound hearing loss, says this isn't the end of the issue.

"Even though tonight the motion failed, I believe that given enough time, that when we gather more people with disabilities, get them to know more about what happened tonight, and if they voice the same concerns that we do, then we'll eventually bring this motion back to Council, and that this time it'll be more successful."

"Right now I guess that all we can do is to continue advocating for ourselves within our faculties and be able to speak our voice as loud as we can."

"Having a disability is a part of ourselves, something that affects our daily functioning and our daily life... [We] should have our views, our issues—that affect our lives as students—heard."

—Rosalind Ho, student

## SPOTLIGHT

### Student chosen to accompany Harper to APEC



MICHAEL THIBAUT PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

**NICOLE GALL**  
Contributor

UBC said "Go Global," and Amelia Boultee went—all the way to Singapore.

Boultee, a fourth-year Political Science student at UBC, attended the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in Singapore from November 9-15 as a delegate of the Global Vision Junior Team Canada. Boultee and three other Canadian university students worked to promote and brand Canada at the APEC CEO Summit.

For Boultee, the path to Singapore began long before her November 9 departure date. It was a competitive process that commenced when she attended a five-day Global Leaders Conference in Toronto.

"During the five days, you're put into teams, and it's sort of Donald Trump style 'Apprentice' challenges that you're given with your team," she explained.

In one of the challenges, Boultee and her team were given a box of daffodils to sell in the streets of Toronto. The task tested the students' business savvy, initiative and powers of persuasion—qualities that Boultee clearly exhibited. She was selected from the conference's 1000 attendees to be a part of a separate two-week mission of 20 students to Panama and Ecuador.

Boultee spent a few days in the Amazon rainforest while reviewing whether Canadian mining companies were following best practices. "We were really impressed with what we saw...We were there right on the heels of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement with Panama, so it was an exciting time to be there."

From there, Boultee was chosen as one of the four Canadian students who would fly to Singapore for the APEC CEO Summit. "Our mandate was to promote and brand Canada," she explained. She and her teammates networked with CEOs from companies ranging from Toys 'R' Us to oil companies.

Although Boultee had a brief struggle with swine flu, she was able to muster enough strength to approach and provide valuable information to some of the 100 CEOs who attended the Summit. Boultee is now back at UBC and encouraging students to pursue similar leadership opportunities. "Life within our little bubble of academia is not reflective of reality," she said.

"In real life, you need to dig down deep sometimes and go and approach those CEOs no matter how important they are or how intimidating they can be."

# UBC refuses to participate in working group

## AMS: UBC is employing "bullying tactics" on Metro Vancouver

**SAMANTHA JUNG**  
news@ubyssey.ca

UBC has announced that they will not participate in a working group with Metro Vancouver to discuss land use on campus.

The working group would include representatives from major stakeholders on campus, including the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA), AMS, UBC Properties Trust, Musqueam Band, the City of Vancouver and the Wreck Beach Preservation Society. The working group is a follow-up to Metro Vancouver's proposal to impose zoning guidelines on campus.

"We have long accepted Metro Vancouver's planning control over our residential neighbourhoods, but UBC's autonomy over its academic lands is a key principal that any university community is obligated to vigorously defend," UBC President Stephen Toope said.

AMS President Blake Frederick told the Electoral Area A board that they want to maintain the current governance structure within the UNA. "We don't see any problem at all, so we're puzzled as to why...there is a need for zoning changes in our neighbourhoods," he said. "We really want to retain that local control." He

added that the UNA does not want to participate in the working group under its current conditions.

Charles Menzies, representing University Town, told the board that the bylaw process should be suspended. "I do not believe that the Metro Vancouver board has the moral authority to act like our democratically elected government," Menzies said, calling it a "political game being played by politicians being elected outside UBC."

Johnny Carline, commissioner and CAO of Metro Vancouver, explained to those present that Metro Vancouver wishes to adopt a zoning bylaw because the Official Community Plan (OCP), the agreement between UBC and Metro Vancouver that outlines land use designation on campus, is only a guide unless it is accompanied with a bylaw.

"There have been past issues arising where third parties have come forward and said 'we object,' to put something forward," Carline said, adding that it is currently unclear as to where jurisdiction lies in making decisions about land use on campus.

Metro Vancouver and UBC will meet to discuss the issue at their joint committee meeting on Wednesday, November 25.

"Our society does not support the intimidation tactics being employed by UBC."

—Blake Frederick, AMS president

### THE WORKING GROUP CURRENTLY CONSISTS OF:

Metro Vancouver—1 member from Regional Development and 1 member from Parks

UBC Campus Planning—1 member

UBC Properties Trust—1 member

University Neighbourhood Association (UNA)—2 members

City of Vancouver—1 member

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure—1 member

University Endowment Lands (UEL)—1 member

Alma Mater Society (AMS)—1 member

Musqueam Band—1 member

Pacific Spirit Park Society—1 member

Wreck Beach Preservation Society—1 member

## Who is John Zaritsky?

Director John Zaritsky, born and educated in Ontario, came to BC in 2001 to make a documentary titled *Ski Bums* and decided to stay. For four years he taught a course in the UBC Film Production program in return for access to classes and activities on campus to shoot the 2004 reality series *College Days*, *College Nights*.

"That was the quid pro quo," Zaritsky laughed, "I got access, and they wanted something in return."

Zaritsky proudly points out that two former students of his have gone on to achieve success with *65\_RedRoses*, a documentary about a 23-year-old woman's struggle with cystic fibrosis, which won three

awards at the Vancouver International Film Festival and was recently featured on *CBC Newsworld*.

"My own dreams of teaching students who go on to produce great documentaries have been realized at last with these guys," Zaritsky said.

## Culture

Culture Editors: Kate Barbara &amp; Trevor Record

# Leave Them Laughing: A musical comedy about dying

## John Zaritsky explores the lighter side of death

**GAVIN FISHER**  
Contributor

"My whole intention as a documentary filmmaker," says the man sitting across from me, "was to do something totally unconventional, totally against all the classic kind of rules and traditional formats of documentary filmmaking. 'Musical comedy' breaks all the rules."

This man is John Zaritsky, an Academy award-winning Canadian director, and the 'musical comedy' that he is referring to is *Leave Them Laughing*, his latest documentary.

*Leave Them Laughing* is a hilarious, deeply moving and thought-provoking film about a woman coming to terms with her own mortality. It is based on a blog written by Carla Zilbersmith, a Canadian-Californian singer, actress and comedian who has been diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and given less than a year to live.

ALS is a fatal disease caused by the deterioration of the nerve cells that control voluntary muscle movement, causing the afflicted to suffer from muscle atrophy and weakness. Despite her condition and inevitable death, Carla continues to look for the

funnier side of life, wanting to literally leave this world laughing.

"I have Lou Gehrig's disease, which is also known as ALS," Carla says in a scene in the beginning of the movie. "It's a fatal and incurable illness, which means that global warming is your problem, bitches."

Zaritsky discovered Carla after reading one of her quips about death in the "memorable quotes" section of the year-end edition of *The Globe and Mail*.

Fascinated by her attitude towards the fatal disease, Zaritsky found some clips of Carla's skits on YouTube, read her blog ([carlamuses.blogspot.com](http://carlamuses.blogspot.com)) and shortly after, called her up to suggest that they create a "funny, entertaining, yet still enlightening film about dying."

Carla supported the idea, and arrangements to begin shooting the film were quickly made.

This redhead's feisty personality and raunchy sense of humour is clearly depicted through her jokes about ALS, her international condom collection and her decision to abandon making a bucket list in favour of a "fuck-it list" of all the male celebrities she'd like to sleep with before she dies. Zaritsky hopes that the humour and music will draw the college crowd to the film.

"Young audiences love to laugh, they love good jokes, good humour, sharp humour, political humour, satire, impersonation, all of which Carla does in the film," he explains.

However, the documentary does not shy away from depicting the very serious effects that ALS has on Carla's life and on her family—specifically her teenage son Maclen and her father Jack. *Leave Them Laughing* features heart-breaking scenes where Carla describes her difficulty breathing, her struggle with losing her singing voice and her periodic depression. This depression also affects her son Maclen, driving home the stark realities of the illness.

All the same, Carla never fails to overcome whatever the disease throws into her path. Zaritsky says this was evident during the filming process, which was challenging to him as well due to the bond he forged with Carla. But as Zaritsky says, "She never failed to crack a joke and get us all laughing again, so that, even at the end of the worst days, she truly did, as the title of the film suggests, leave us laughing."

Zaritsky has big ambitions for *Leave Them Laughing*. It is being entered into film festivals starting



Carla Zilbersmith in Zaritsky's *Leave Them Laughing*. COURTESY OF POINT GREY PICTURES

early next year, and is being given test screenings at colleges in BC and California. Zaritsky hopes younger generations will watch the film, not just for Carla's outrageous antics, but for the inspiration and encouragement she gives.

"Carla provides us all with a model of how we can, at least, deal with some of the worst times of our lives,

whether it's dying or flunking out of college, or whatever it may be. She gives us some emotional perspective to deal with those things." □

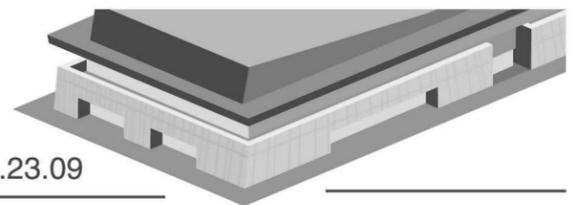
*The FilmSoc is having a test screening of Leave Them Laughing on Monday, November 23 at 6pm in the Norm Theatre. Director John Zaritsky will be present for Q&A after the showing.*

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**CiTR Fundrive Finale:**

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CiTR, CJSF and Coop Radio present Amy Goodman, award-winning journalist and host of *Democracy Now!* Wednesday, November 25 at the Alice MacKay Room, Vancouver Public Library. Tix \$12.00 in advance, \$15.00 at the door. [www.citr.ca](http://www.citr.ca)

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Join us to hear award-winning photographer and author Ian McAllister. His first book, *The Great Bear Rainforest* won the Booksellers' Choice Award for BC Book of the Year. His latest book is *The Last Wild Wolves*, *Ghosts of the Rainforest*. McAllister lives with his family on Denny Island and is an activist on the BC Coast.

Andrew Nikiforuk, an award-winning journalist, will also talk about his latest book, *Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of the Continent*, which reveals the true costs of America's oil addiction. These two authors will provide some insights and generate discussion on the two ends of the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline which would ship tar sands to oil supertankers on our north coast.

**CRUDE AWAKENING**

**Thurs. Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> - Norm Theatre, Student Union Building, 2:00–3:30 FREE**

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Well, it's nine o'clock on a Saturday, and Devon Joiner's got us feeling all right. COURTESY OF DEVON JOINER

## Artist Profile: Devon Joiner

### We're all in the mood for a melody

**LAURA FEDORUK**  
Contributor

Devon Joiner, a fourth-year Music student at UBC, has been playing the piano since the age of four, and hasn't gone more than a week since then without putting his hands on a keyboard.

"For me, music is sort of like language," he says. "We at one point didn't know how to speak English, but we can't really remember any time before that, so it seems like we've always been able to speak. For me it seems like I've always been able to play music, so it wasn't ever a decision for me to go into music, it just seemed natural."

Joiner says he "draw[s] on personal experience to find what emotions" to draw out of the music he performs. "A lot of pieces are very dramatic and take a lot out of me emotionally."

After graduating, Joiner plans to pursue a Master's of Music and possibly even a doctoral degree. When it comes down to choosing between practicing for a performance and working on an assignment, Joiner puts his piano first and, like many university students, attempts to cram in the other work in when there is time. Understandably, he doesn't sleep much.

Concert pianists that inspire Joiner include Horowitz, Rubinstein and Martha Argerich whose "incredible technique" keeps him motivated to practice.

Joiner's more personal inspiration comes from his great-grandfather, who was also a concert pianist as well as an orchestra conductor for silent movies. "Although I never heard him play, I've heard many great things about his music that have [inspired me] to pursue this career as well."

In addition to playing with the UBC Symphony Orchestra, Joiner has had the privilege to play with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. His current endeavours include a trio which combines a French horn, a violin and, of course, the piano. This may seem a bit unusual, but Joiner says that the odd combination is a large part of the appeal, because it's "interesting to see how we can blend the different sounds together".

Earlier this year, Joiner won first place in the prestigious national Knigge Music Competition, earning him a coveted solo recital in the noon-hour concert series put on by the UBC School of Music. Joiner's solo performance will take place this Wednesday, November

"For me, music is sort of like language. We at one point didn't know how to speak English, but we can't really remember any time before that, so it seems like we've always been able to speak."

—Devon Joiner,  
pianist

25 from 12-1pm in the UBC Music Building Recital Hall.

The program for Wednesday's performance includes a piece by his favorite composer, Chopin, who he refers to as "the poet of the piano." Joiner hopes that his audience on Wednesday will "enjoy [the pieces] as much as [he] enjoys playing them." 

## Walter TV and Peace out of place

**JONNY WAKEFIELD**  
jwakefield@ubyssey.ca

Walter TV set up their equipment before a sparse crowd of typical Pit dwellers, who seemed to hardly notice they were there. From the beginning, it seemed like this band and bar were an odd fit. This was immediately confirmed as they began their sound check; the abrasive, muddy sound of the singer's guitar cut through MGMT's woefully ubiquitous "Kids," bouncing off the cavernous walls of the Pit and driving the few who were on the floor to the many empty seats.

The show was part of CiTR's fourth Fundrive, the station's annual push for donations. The event was being broadcast live on CiTR's *Live From Thunderbird Radio Hell*.

A few CiTR folks trailed in, shouting the occasion "woo!" to encourage the band, but not looking overly stoked to be there. Some CiTR staff took the stage to introduce the band and ask for donations. At least, that's what I assume they were saying.

Before playing, Walter TV threw some blankets over their heads. Perhaps this was an attempt to enhance the charming nature of their low-fi indie fuzz pop, but the Pit rendered Walter TV's sounds indistinguishable. As soon as they launched into their set, we were washed with a grating, high-end cymbal and guitar slush, which caused many to noticeably plug their ears. I can certainly tell you Walter TV featured some guitar, some drums, definitely some bass, and I think some of those melodic "ooh oohs" that are now a low-fi staple.

To their credit, there was something endearing about Walter TV. It's a shame that there weren't more bodies to dampen the sound.

Peace, the second act, took the stage shortly after. Kasha Marchineak, CiTR's promotions director, told me before the show that the band

had recently returned from a cross-Canada tour. The lead singer, clearly still in rock star mode, stripped down to some briefs and a pair of fishnets and drained his beer over his head prior to playing.

Antics aside, Peace played a refreshingly audible six-song set. Peace's brand of post-punk was driving and tightly put together. They mainly kept their heads down and their playing workman-like, perhaps to focus on their instruments, or perhaps to avoid looking out at the dwindling number of Pit patrons.

Despite the less-than-ideal venue, the rare opportunity of seeing local bands without having to leave campus was refreshing. 

CiTR's Fundrive continues through Friday, featuring a talk by Democracy Now's Amy Goodman and two more shows with local artists.

The lead singer, clearly still in rock star mode, stripped down to some briefs and a pair of fishnets and drained his beer over his head.

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# THUNDERBIRDS WEEKEND RECAP



## THURSDAY

**MEN'S BASKETBALL:**  
WIN, 84-81

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:**  
WIN, 76-62

## FRIDAY

**MEN'S BASKETBALL:** WIN, 84-68  
**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:** WIN, 80-57  
**MEN'S VOLLEYBALL:** LOSS, 0-3  
**WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL:** LOSS, 3-0  
**MEN'S HOCKEY:** LOSS, 4-5

## SATURDAY

**WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL:** WIN, 3-0  
**MEN'S VOLLEYBALL:** LOSS, 0-3  
**MEN'S HOCKEY:** WIN, 4-3 (SO)

## Sports

Sports Editor: Justin McElroy

# UBC snaps seven-game losing streak

**HILARY ATKINSON**  
Contributor

The UBC Thunderbirds (4-7-1) avoided going eight-feet-under on Saturday night, breaking a seven game losing streak when Brandon Campos scored the deciding goal in the shootout to squeeze out a 4-3 win against the Lethbridge Pronghorns. The victory was UBC's first since their October 17 win against Manitoba.

"It was like a huge gorilla on our backs for the past five weeks and tonight that gorilla finally jumped off," said head coach Milan Dragicevic. "It didn't matter how we got two points as long as we got them, so tonight was a small step but it was a step in the right direction."

Entering into the weekend double-header with the Lethbridge Pronghorns (4-8-2), the Thunderbirds were on a six-game losing streak. Friday night looked promising when the T-Birds led 4-3 into the third period, but ended up losing 5-4 to make it an unlucky seven in a row.

Saturday, it took the better part of three periods for the Thunderbirds to get some passion back in their game. Down 3-2 at the 11-minute mark of the third period and shorthanded, forward Matthew Schneider, tired after killing off part of the penalty, picked up the puck at the centre line. Rather than dump the puck deep, he decided to play it up the ice.

He ended up out-muscling two defenders and popped the puck in the top corner to tie the game, his fourth goal of the season.

Schneider's hard work and gritty play is the type of hockey that the Thunderbirds have been missing since mid-October. Despite grinding out a split this weekend, it's clear that the Thunderbirds need to improve if they are to make the playoffs.

Thunderbird fans have some interesting theories about how the team can get better.

"More fans in the stands," said Christy Jones, a Human Kinetics student. "Hopefully, we can bring a



UBC forward Jordan Inglis evades Pronghorn defenders in a wraparound attempt in Saturday's game. MICHAEL THIBAUT PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

better atmosphere to pump the team up."

The home ice advantage has been anything but for the Thunderbirds this year. The attendance records linger in the low triple digits for games, leaving hundreds of empty seats for the boys to look at when they hit the ice.

Doug Mitchell Arena may be an Olympic venue. It's big, it's new, but when only 320 people are in attendance (the average attendance last weekend), it's a white elephant that sucks the atmosphere out of the game.

"The arena will get some colour with time," said Wayne White, father of backup goalie Jordan White. White spelled François Thuot in net on Saturday and stopped all but one shot in the shootout in addition to his 28 saves in regulation time, earning the first star in the game.

"We need to advertise like everyone else. University hockey needs to be broadcasted, at least the scores, on the Team 1040."

White also suggested that a beer garden wouldn't hurt to rally fan

**SERIES OF THE WEEK**



VS.



**Friday**

**4**

**5**

**Saturday**

**4**

**3 (SO)**

support. Many fans agree that allowing beer to be sold at games would bring a lot more fans and a lot more money for the hockey program.

"All you have to do is cross a street," complained Jackie Campos, when asked about the lack of students at her son's game. Even the Campos grandparents make to every game, and they come all the way from White Rock. "I'd just like to see them make the playoffs."

Other fans have a slightly different take on how to make opposing teams hate playing in Thunderbird territory.

"We should have cheerleaders," said Derek Meulmeester, an Engineering student at the game. "We should have the girl cheerleaders on the home side and the male cheerleaders on the visiting side to make it fair."

Cheerleaders or not, UBC is still in sixth place in the seven-team Canada West conference, and will need to step it up for the duration of the season to make the playoffs. Yet Dragicevic is optimistic.

"It's all about playing for 60 minutes," he said.

## BIRD DROPPINGS



GERALD DEO PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

### MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM MIRED IN MISERY

The woes continue for the Thunderbird Men's volleyball team, as they lost both their games this weekend against the Thompson Rivers Wolfpack, failing to win a set in either match (20-25, 18-25, 18-25 on Friday, 21-25, 24-26, 22-25 on Saturday).

"Statistically, we aren't getting to where we need to win and we know that," said head coach Richard Schick after Saturday's loss. "We can be happy with the fight we showed tonight but we are still playing too tentative."

UBC has now lost six straight games, and has failed to win even one set since October 31, a shocking development for a team ranked No. 7 in the country to start the season. Robert Bennett had 23 kills over the weekend to lead the T-Birds, who do not play another regular season game until January 8 in Regina.

### CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS NET TOP TEN FINISH

UBC went to Vancouver, Washington last weekend for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Cross Country Championship. Both teams came home with a top ten finish.

The T-Bird women finished eighth overall with 269 points, with strong performances from Sabrina Reeve (19<sup>th</sup> overall) and Nelly Amenogbe (26<sup>th</sup>). On the men's side, rookie Luc Bruchet grabbed UBC's top individual finish of the competition earning 15<sup>th</sup> with a time of 25:38, propelling the T-Birds to ninth overall.

The NAIA consists of hundreds of smaller colleges and universities in the US not associated with the NCAA, which UBC competes against in sports where very little competition is available within Canada, such as cross country and golf.

### CALGARY FOOTBALL TEAM ADVANCES TO VANIER CUP

The Canada West champion Calgary Dinos' football team advanced to the Vanier Cup on Saturday, defeating the St. Mary's Huskies 38-14 in the Uteck Bowl. Calgary, who defeated UBC 50-26 on October 3, advanced to the Uteck Bowl by defeating the Saskatchewan Huskies in a 39-38 thriller in the Canada West championship.

The Dinos now go on to face the Queen's Golden Gaels to determine the best team in Canada, as the Gaels upset the defending Vanier Cup champion Laval Rouge et Or by a score of 33-30 in the Mitchell Bowl.

### CORRECTION

In the November 19 issue of The Ubyssey, the photo accompanying "UBC's Big Friendly Giant" article should have been credited to Michael Thibault. We regret the error.

# Wolfpack toothless against T-Birds

## Women's volleyball team extends perfect record to 8-0

**DRAKE FENTON**  
Contributor

On Saturday night, during the game against Thompson Rivers University (TRU), Shanice Marcelle was set up with an outside shot. Three TRU defenders jumped up to block her. Unfazed by the triple block Marcelle punished the ball past the defenders, putting another point on the board for UBC.

It was a scene that would repeat itself over and over again. Not once this weekend did any of the TRU defenders show ability to truly contend with UBC's high-powered offence, as the T-Birds captured victories on Friday night (25-21, 25-12, and 25-21) and Saturday night (25-10, 25-11, and 25-18) to move to a perfect 8-0 on the season.

The weekend sweep was no surprise, as going into Friday's game the Wolfpack were sitting at 0-6. It would have been easy for the number one ranked and undefeated T-Birds to

overlook them.

But coach Doug Reimer thought otherwise. "TRU is a 0-6 team with a lot of upside. We came prepared to play, we came focused, and we did not let their record change our opinion of them. We expected a good game from them," he said.

His words proved true, as UBC narrowly won their first set 25-21. In the second set though, UBC showed why they were 6-0 and why the Wolfpack were 0-6, as the T-Birds' hitters rained down a volleyball-laden apocalypse upon TRU for the rest of the night. Production came from everywhere, with Liz Cordonier leading the team with 16 kills and Nicky Osbourne adding 9, along with player of the game honours.

"How we played tonight, the players that came off the bench, and the general production of the team was really good to see. It was nice to witness how much depth this team has. As we head down the stretch towards

playoffs that will be important," said coach Doug Reimer following Friday's win.

The next night TRU entered War Memorial Gym looking to rebound from their Friday night loss. Unsurprisingly, they did not, with the night unfolding in much the same manner as the second set of Friday night's game. UBC showed that they are an exponentially better squad. Liz Cordonier again led UBC in kills with 12, and libero Claire Hanna added a team-high 9 digs. After the game, with UBC needing just one win next week against SFU to have a perfect 9-0 first half, the one word that came to mind was 'blowout.'

"Katie [Tyzuk] moved the ball around quite nicely, and Claire [Hanna] did a great job anchoring the defence" said Reimer. "And [Liz] Cordonier's numbers (12 kills) spoke for themselves. We are playing at a very high level and look to carry that over into the second half of the season."



Kyla Richey (#12) had 13 kills for UBC over the weekend, good for second on the team. GERALD DEO PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

# WRITE US A LETTER

We got three today! That's almost a record for this year. We'd like three more, people. Keep 'em coming. Tell us what's on your collective mind. Send your letters to [feedback@ubyssey.ca](mailto:feedback@ubyssey.ca).

## Ideas

Ideas Editor: Trevor Melanson

### SEX COLUMN

# TOO SEXY

KASHA CHANG  
& AUSTIN HOLM  
[toosexy@ubyssey.ca](mailto:toosexy@ubyssey.ca)

Esoteric readership.

If these dark days have got you feeling closed in on all sides, remember this: It could always be worse. You could be naked and trapped in a cave full of Amazonian bird-eating spiders. You could be stuck in an elevator with someone smelly in a building scheduled for imminent demolition while the sound system plays "Who Let the Dogs Out" over and over. You could be getting mauled by a flaming bear while wearing your least favourite, itchiest sweater. You could be wading through a leech-infested pond in nothing but your socks.

Or you could be on the receiving end of a beloved partner's truly bizarre new fetish, like the author of this issue's letter. But, as we're about to show you, even that's not too bad.

**I AM A FOURTH-YEAR STUDENT WITH** a fantastic boyfriend. Our sex life has always been active, happy and healthy, but lately he has taken on a new fetish that I simply don't understand. He likes to hang over me, and pretend that I am a bird, trying to peck at a worm, which is obviously his penis. Why do you think he's gravitated to this strange fetish? What is it with animals that gets people off? Should I oblige him, even though I find it to be rather disturbing?

—*Can't Please Wormy King*

Yo CAWK,

Thanks for your letter. Let's start by recognizing that, although its manifestation in your relationship may be new, your partner's fetish itself likely is not. Unless he's

recently had some pretty powerful experiences with birds and worms, it's probably that this "new" predilection has been gestating in his noggin for quite some time. With that in mind, the fact that he has chosen to share this admittedly odd kink with you is actually (beleaguered as you may feel) a good thing. It demonstrates the trust and honest communication that are integral to healthy relationships, which should allow you to ask him directly about the particulars. You should feel free to ask him about his fetish, what about it turns him on, where he got the idea, etc. That way it might be easier to determine if it's longstanding, or just a phase.

As to why this is a turn-on, that's a question that no one, with the possible exception of your boyfriend, can truly answer. No one knows for sure how people acquire fetishes. The most commonly accepted explanation is one of experiential confluence—that is, at some point your boyfriend got turned on while experiencing something to do with birds and worms, leading him to effectively associate the bird-worm stimulus with hot sexytime.

We also don't really know why people find sexual situations involving animals and animal role-play hot. We hazard that role-play of any sort during sex may act as a mild dissociative, disconnecting people from their actual identities so that they feel more liberated sexually. Role-play is a kind of game that changes the rules of sexual engagement by providing different socio-sexual scripts for interaction. As such, people who feel

blasé about conventional sexual scripts (i.e. "I am a woman/man, you are a woman/man, we are going to have sex now") may use role-play to transcend traditional sexuality and be more creative. In the case of animals, we think this may have something to do with a desire to self-objectify and get in touch with visceral feelings rather than over-thinking things. But that's a guess, and should be taken with a grain of salt.

So, what now? Well, CAWK, that's up to you. First off, how necessary is this to your boyfriend, sexually? Does he need you to do this to get turned on at all, or is it just one activity among many that he enjoys? Fetishes exist along a continuum of intensity, and where you guys fall on this continuum is definitely something to consider when assessing your options. Secondly, does doing this adversely affect your ability to be aroused, or are you just indifferent and confused by it? If it's the latter, CAWK, we'd encourage you to try new things and attempt to oblige your man. Who knows, maybe you'll discover a kinky side of your own. Ever wanted to prance around in a bear costume or eat sushi off a naked body? This might be your chance. In fact, we're willing to go so far as to say that your boyfriend's weird fetish could open the door to a whole new frontier of exploration for you guys. And that's pretty cool.

That's a wrap, folks. Got a problem that makes Amazonian bird-eating spiders seem like a walk in the park? Send it to us at [toosexy@ubyssey.ca](mailto:toosexy@ubyssey.ca).



ANTHONY GOERTZ GRAPHIC/THE UBYSSEY

### EDITORIAL

## Bleeding-heart politics

Last Wednesday, AMS Council defeated a motion to create a non-voting seat for students with disabilities. Nearly 20 students with various disabilities came to council to argue for their inclusion. The disabled students left en masse after the debate, some in tears, and one shouting "Shame on you all," before leaving. Needless to say, it made all parties involved uncomfortable. But Council shouldn't be uncomfortable with their decision—a non-voting seat for students with disabilities would be against the fundamental nature of how our student government operates and is therefore not the ideal change for more equitable representation.

Just like the Canadian government, AMS Council operates on proportional representation from each riding—in this case, faculties. There are over 300 clubs on campus and many student resource groups such as Pride UBC, the Women's Centre, and so on. If Council creates a seat for a student representing students with disabilities, they should create seats for all of these groups as well to ensure fair and proportional representation. We're sure VP External Tim Chu, who prides himself on his sensitivity to equity, would agree that one group is not more deserving than another.

Additionally, each of the representatives on AMS Council do not share the same viewpoints. They are designed to represent all of the students within their faculty and bring their concerns to Council. Creating additional seats for minority groups is not the way to ensure equitable representation or that concerns are addressed.

Council tried this path last year, when they created a non-voting seat for international students. The election for the seat was a sham and the representative has barely contributed to Council at all, even on issues pertaining to international students. While it's fair to suggest that the blame lies with the person rather than the position, it also showed Council that you don't solve a problem by blindly adding a non-voting seat to student government.

Chu's goal of creating a Council that reflects the makeup of its constituents is admirable in spirit, but without substantial changes to the structure of Council, this avenue is ineffectual and ill-conceived. Instead of tugging at heart strings to no avail, Chu should consider the following—is the ultimate problem about representation, or about effective communication with different groups?

Asking Council to alter their makeup needs to be done without shaming them. Without a well-thought-out and balanced plan, Chu's ambitions will remain as halfbaked as his boss' press releases.

## Don't be an umbrella jerk

Everybody's favorite time of year is back. Darkness falls well before dinner-time, what light we do get is wan and grey, and the rain switches from 'insistent' to 'never-ending' and falls not just down but occasionally sideways.

In the midst of an assault from the sky it makes sense to shield oneself. Be it through rainboots, umbrellas, the unfortunately ubiquitous Gore-Tex, or those yellow rubberized slickers reminiscent of fishermen of yore.

While current rainfall patterns make it seem like we'll all be underwater one day, that day hasn't yet come, and we should heed that which is most disconcerting in this weather: jerks with umbrellas.

On the one hand, it makes sense to literally shield oneself. But on a campus where walking space halves when the weather turns, the sudden bloom of raised umbrellas becomes more reminiscent of algae than flowers: minute irritations that, through repeated exposure, end up poisoning the day. At this time of year, they multiply so quickly that we almost wish the geriatric Bob Barker would appear to remind us all to have our umbrellas spayed and neutered.

It's easily avoided, though. Hold your umbrella close to your body. Watch where you're going, and raise your umbrella when passing people. Keep your umbrella above eye level, and use both hands to control it when it's windy. If this seems like too much work, just invest in one of those "hooded rainjackets." We realize that it may not fulfill your pitiful peacoat fantasy, but it will keep your body warm, your hair dry and more importantly, your arm umbrella-less.

### LETTERS

#### IT GETS CHEAPER

I read the article on food prices and I found it very interesting, but not too surprising about how expensive it is at places such as Safeway. I was surprised however by no mention of the No Frills on Alma at Jericho Village on Alma Street. The address of Jericho Village is 101-2083 Alma Street, which is right off a stop from the #4 bus or you could get off the #99 and walk right after the first stop on West Broadway. I do almost all of my grocery shopping at No Frills. Unlike the other stores, this one is kind of hard to find because it is underground. There is poor selection and sub-par service, but the price is right and that matters a lot in our current economy.

—*David Lu*

#### WAKE UP, WAKEFIELD

I'm writing in response to Jonny Wakefield's article, "The return of a bad idea," about the monthly bike event, Bad Party, published in a recent edition of *The Ubysey*. I am friends with the organizers of this event and have attended and participated most months since its inception in the early summer, 2009.

Jonny Wakefield's article, "The return of a bad idea," is an example of just how bad bad journalism can be. Reporting on a monthly, community-based bike event, one would assume a writer to introduce himself to the

organizers or participants, or—as entry is open to anyone with a tall can—participate himself.

Instead, Wakefield held up our early-November, rainy-Vancouver race to some epic one he heard about in Seattle, and expressed disappointment at the lack of "bruised and broken hipsters." Let me tell you, Wakefield, those hipsters are my friends.

We've had races where people have been injured and bikes have been destroyed, and it's not something that any rational person would want to encourage. Many of our participants are bike messengers, who not only can't afford to replace their bikes, but need them for their job. All in all, this article expressed the author's utter lack of dedication to his craft, right down to the misreading of "premier" on the flyers. Bad Party was scheduled to precede the "premier" of the indie bike film, *The Revival*, and wasn't touted as being anything other than what it was: a friendly race around the block.

—*Shmoo Ritchie*

#### REACHING PINK

Young Women in Business (YWIB) works to connect young women with the skills and support to achieve personal and professional success and become engaged members in their community. We work to ensure our events are accessible and appeal to a diverse group of women. The Beyond Pink conference is our flagship event

that aims to connect and inspire women over an energetic weekend. Thank you for recognizing the value in the speakers that we were able to bring out this past weekend and for your enthusiasm for making the event accessible to more students.

With an event of this size there are a number of costs that are incurred. We are working on an ongoing basis to provide this conference at the most affordable rate, given that we do not have many subsidies to provide delegates. This year we were fortunate to be able to provide eight delegates with a \$150 subsidy, given on an application basis. Being current students and recent grads we are very cognizant of costs. With Beyond Pink in its second year, we are looking to bring in more sponsors and open up other ways for delegates to attend, such as offering day passes.

Thank you for your article on our conference. I hope this clarifies any concerns you may have about our organization. Please do not hesitate to contact me with further questions at [marica@ywib.ca](mailto:marica@ywib.ca).

—*Marica Rizzo*  
Marketing Director, YWIB

*This letter is a response to the letter published Nov. 16 entitled "Beyond Pink, Beyond Reach."*

Want to respond?  
Send us a letter:  
[feedback@ubyssey.ca](mailto:feedback@ubyssey.ca)

# UBC Bookstore a target for thrill-seeking thieves

MARIA KARI  
Contributor

On a busy day, from September to January, as many as 17,000 people walk in and out of the Point Grey campus UBC Bookstore. In the summer months the number will drop to less than 3000 a day. Those who enter the underground alcove tucked beneath the UBC Campus Security Office and Biological Sciences building come in for various reasons. They may be there to pick up course textbooks. They may need to make a last-minute pencil purchase before a final exam. They may be there to replace a lost U-Pass at the UBC Carding Office. Or they may be there to steal.

The image of an impoverished underachiever stealing to make ends meet is no longer valid. It is clear to me when strolling through the aisles of the UBC Bookstore that the face of shoplifting has changed drastically.

Lurking through the magazine aisles, I hope to unveil the identity of an undercover Loss Prevention Officer (LPO). On my third day of nonchalant strolling, while staring upward at cameras and security mirrors, I peer around for potential LPOs. I think I have found my man. He is standing a few feet away, dressed in all black—Dickies and a hoodie.

One student attempted to evade prosecution by hurling himself through a large ground-level window. The window did not break.

He's staring at women's fashion magazines. He's young and he would look like a student had it not been for his lack of baggage. He has no backpack, no longboard, nothing. I am suspicious. I refer to my inner Dr Watson. Despite pouring rain he is without an umbrella and unlike most harried students he looks almost bored. When my suspect picks up the latest issue of *Glamour* magazine my suspicions intensify.

I've never been one for much poise: I immediately ask him if he is who I suspect him to be.



ANTHONY GOERTZ PHOTO: THE UBYSSEY

He looks confused, but confusion quickly turns to anger. I am provided with no real confirmation. But one thing is clear: The bookstore, like Big Brother, is always watching.

In 1972 *The Ubysssey* reported on changes made to the bookstore layout to deal with the increasing problem faced by personnel due to shoplifters. The aisles were made wider and personnel would act as surveillance for 15 minutes a day.

Thirty-seven years later the face of crime prevention at the bookstore looks very different: LPOs patrol the aisles, circular mirrors hang on the ceiling, security alarms shriek, signs request beeping customers to kindly return to the cash counter, and security cameras monitor 24/7.

Despite the massive amount of reserves injected into prevention measures, crime is still very much a reality at the bookstore. Past incidents have encouraged bookstore personnel to find new ways to battle the ever-present problem of theft.

One student, upon being apprehended and held by police, returned the monitor he had stolen, only to come back and steal again the next day. Bookstore employees decided to remove large, expensive merchandise off of the floor for security reasons.

"The reality is a free market situation, so we can't really raise it past the market price," Wong says.

Another employee talks of a markup that can be as little as two per cent or as much as ten per cent, depending on the product. A 1992 issue of *The Ubysssey* confirms reports of up to a ten per cent price markup.

However, both parties agree on one thing: Anti-theft measures affect customer service in a negative way.

"If a certain area or if a certain product poses a threat of losing profit, we may order less and that will make it inconvenient for customers to find, and this hurts our customer service," Wong explains. "The loss that results from shoplifting is customer service."

Anna Li, the associate director of operations at the bookstore, talks about the frustrations of having to deal with shoplifters through the course of a day.

"Employees are passionate about helping our students, the vast majority of whom are honest customers," Li points out. "No one likes dealing with the unpleasantness of shoplifting during the course of their workday."

Some student shoplifters can be found bragging on blogs about their latest shoplifting escapades. One shoplifter warns the bookstore against people like her, advising them to watch out for those that engage in "in-store ownership," a technique whereby an item is given the appearance of being the student's property. This is done by making it appear aged and used.

"By the time I make my exit, the book appears well-used," she says.

And if she were to be stopped? She has her excuses ready: "Was I supposed to leave it at the counter when I entered your store? Sorry, I didn't see the sign. I'm distracted by exams. I've lost my glasses. I'm in love. Anyway, this is obviously my book, as you can see from all the personal touches. So long, sucker."

The 1992 *Ubysssey* issue reported that up to 80 per cent of shoplifters steal on impulse. The current situation is similar. Police searches have

"Real shoppers never notice loss prevention," an undercover security officer said. "They are interested in the items they are looking for, not in surveying the store to see where staff is, the mirrors are, who's around them, etc."

—undercover security officer

One shoplifter warns the bookstore against people like her, advising them to watch out for those that engage in "in-store ownership."

yielded well-off students, whose wallets were stuffed with cash, stealing petty items worth no more than \$5.

Moreover, as *The Ubysssey* previously reported, it's not just students and visitors who are being caught. Even professors have been caught taking books and supplies.

Theft is taken seriously at the bookstore. If someone is found concealing an item and stepping outside of the store, the police are called and charges are pressed.

Nonetheless, arresting people is no simple matter.

The 1992 report outlined the difficult faced by security. For example, one student attempted to evade prosecution by hurling himself through a large ground-level window. The window did not break.

In another situation, an aboriginal man was identified as having stolen and was subsequently arrested. The man then yelled and claimed the security officers were "racists." He said he had been watched specifically because of his race.

"Real shoppers never notice loss prevention," an undercover security officer says. "They are interested in the items they are looking for, not in surveying the store to see where staff is, the mirrors are, who's around them, etc."

But ultimately, "you can never tell if someone has the capability to steal until they do."

—With files from Wanyee Li, Ashley Whillans, Vanessa LeBlanc, Christine Wei, Mark Penney, Gordon Yung, Lance Zhou, Arshy Mann, Joanna Chiu and Loretta Lo.



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