THE UBYSSEY

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Vol. LXXXVIII N°34 www.ubyssey.bc.ca Tuesday, 30 January, 2007

TAKIN' IT TO THE STREETS
Students in Newfoundland protest new housing policy. Page 5

REDISCOVERING HISTORY
Lawrence Hill unveils an 18th Century event in "The Book of Negroes". Page 7

T-BIRDS TRIUMPH:
Archibald out, but UBC beats up on TWU again to sweep season series. Page 12

INSIDE INSITE: Employee Jeff West is upset the Conservatives are pursuing ideological agenda over scientific research. OKER CHEN PHOTO

Fate of Insite still unknown

by Meghan Roberts
NEWS WRITER

Vancouver's safe injection site (Insite) has been a hotbed of controversy since opening three years ago. The most recent research indicates that the site is beneficial both to its patrons and the Vancouver community, however, the conflicting ideological views of the BC and Federal governments continue to threaten its future.

Insite provides a safe atmosphere and clean equipment for persons with drug addictions. There are over 60 safe injection sites primarily in Western Europe and most recently Australia. Vancouver's site is the first of its kind in North America.

"I've traveled to Ottawa several times to advocate for the continuation of the safe injection Site," said Vancouver mayor Sam Sullivan, "I hope my efforts have had a role in convincing the federal government to continue the site."

Tony Clement, federal minister of health, remains skeptical of Insite despite his recent visit to the facility on January 3, 2007. The tour came as a surprise to the Insite staff, who were not expecting the high profile visitor. Both staff and Insite users were present during Clement's 30-minute tour.

Clement did not reveal the impact of this visit on his views of the site, but said that it was educational. He has yet to decide Insite's fate beyond the end of this year.

Jeff West, an employee and advocate of Insite, is passionate that it has been beneficial both to its patrons and the community. But he is concerned about the potential closure of the site if the Conservative Party manages to seize power as a majority government.

West also mentioned United States influence on Canadian policies, citing the US War on Drugs as a source of dissent in Canada for a project like Insite.

He is adamant that community harm reduction is a major goal of Insite, and that a regulated space brings drug usage out of the public eye.

"Amongst this population the first thing you have to do is treat them with dignity, passion and respect and break down their self-loathing," he said.

Evan Wood, assistant professor in the UBC Department of Medicine and principal investigator for the study of Insite, was involved in its founding through his work at the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS. Wood helped with feasibility research

see "Insite" page 2.

Mobilise, says Green leader

by Stephanie Taylor
NEWS WRITER

Elizabeth May, the Green Party of Canada's new leader, discussed globalisation and climate change as she called for students to demand for change on environmental issues in her closing speech at UBC's annual Seeds for Change sustainability conference on January 20.

May spoke of the pressing need for action on environmental issues at both the national and local levels.

"We have to have a response to globalisation, which is localisation...but we can't confront global issues like the climate crisis if all our actions are local," said May, who believes that it is still possible for Canada to meet its Kyoto Protocol commitments.

May stressed the importance of individual responsibility, especially among students.

"The one thing you must not do is decide that the [climate change] issue will take care of itself, and you can afford to continue to party or just study. You have to recognise [that] you have a responsibility to yourself and the larger world to inform yourself and take action," she said.

May also encouraged students who did not attend January 20's conference to get involved, urging them to rent 'An Inconvenient Truth' or contact the David Suzuki Foundation.

Rebecca Hall, the conference coordinator and a fourth-year political science student, was thrilled that May was able to take time out of her hectic schedule to speak to students at UBC.

"[May's] always spoken a great deal about how important student mobilisation was, so I was glad to see that she was still able to make the effort to come [to UBC] and talk to us," Hall said.

While May's appearance at Saturday's conference provided evidence that UBC is embracing sustainability, not everyone is convinced that enough is being done.

"There are many challenges yet to [come]," said Cara Camcastle, a UBC political science professor who attended the conference. "I think that it has to go beyond... a green building, perhaps some plans for 2010 [Olympics], bicycle routes."

"There has to be more organisation—systemic organisation. The whole system has to be changed so that we don't have just one element here and there," explained Camcastle.

'Hall seconded Camcastle's

see "Green Party" page 2.

The fruits of Campus 2020's labour

Uncertainty surrounds $1 million provincial endeavor

Eric Szeto
CUP WESTERN BUREAU CHIEF

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Ask any post-secondary expert what results the $1 million Campus 2020 consultation will produce and you will likely get the same response: they don't know. All they can do is hope that the recommendations that come from this spring's report will help turn British Columbia's post-secondary sector into a bellwether for a generation to come.

As of December 2, 2006, according to the Campus 2020 website, more than 200 online and written submissions—including one from the Alma Mater Society—had been made by individuals and organisations. Of the 14 scheduled public meetings, the average attendance was roughly 30 people, with the exception of the November 9 consultation in Abbotsford that yielded 500 attendees.

The sporadic attendance and the number of online submissions is not representative of a province that has a post-secondary student population of a quarter-million, said NDP education critic Rob Fleming.

"It was sparsely attended for most of the province and it had the appearance that it was a quick and dirty job," said Fleming.

The project, designed to focus on the future of post-secondary education in BC, was launched in July 2006.

Geoff Plant, special adviser to the project and a former BC attorney general, feels there was a diverse range of opinion from all sectors represented.

"We did what we could to raise awareness. People come or they don't come. They participate or they don't participate," he said.

The report, Plant said, will highlight the information gathered from the public consultations and online submissions and make recommen-

see "2020" page 2.

Between the sheets: BC Place as Vancouver's newest aquarium? Turn to page 10...

Unclear if government will act on recommendations made from this spring's report

"2020" continued from page 1.

dations on what should be done about the state of the post-secondary sector, how it is evolving and how it should appear in ten to 20 years.

Fleming questioned the timing of the project.

"People are a little skeptical...why now?" he asked. "Six years into their mandate they decide to look ahead to post-secondary needs of our province."

Tuition fees in BC, according to Statistics Canada, have risen 96 per cent since the Liberals lifted the tuition freeze in 2001. They now average $4,960, the fifth highest in the country.

Fleming said the tuition increase has led to the second-highest level of student debt in the country and has contributed to declining enrolment in rural colleges. The 25,000-seat expansion promised in 2004 by the provincial government is at half of its target, and the private post-secondary sector is a buyer-beware situation, he said.

Plant declined to comment on whether Campus 2020 was put in place to reverse policy mistakes that the Liberal government made.

"It's not intended to be a tool to respond to whatever issues appear in last month's headlines," he said.

"I think the challenge I face is to strike a balance for issues that need to be looked at now and the plan we need to make sure we can have a vitally important post-secondary system 15 years from now."

Others are eagerly awaiting the results of the report.

"I think [Plant's] gotten the message that the system is definitely in need of addressing the general affordability and accessibility issue," said Cindy Oliver, president of the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC.

"What status will the government give this report? Will they implement [the recommendations] or just say 'That's great.'"

Whether any of the recommendations of the report will come to fruition will be up to the provincial government to decide, said Plant.

"At the end of the day I suppose the question of whether the government acts on any recommendations is a question for the government and I'm going to write a report which I hope will command their attention," he said.

UBC chief researcher for Insite claims the government has chosen to ignore the study results

"Insite" continued from page 1.

for the site and worked with Vancouver Coastal Health to obtain the exemption necessary to operate an organisation facilitating persons addicted to illegal substances.

Wood's research concludes that the site is highly beneficial to its patrons and the Vancouver community. Patrons who visit the site regularly were shown to have an increased likelihood of entering a detoxification program; in addition, shared usage of needles in the Downtown Eastside has decreased; users are practicing safer injecting techniques, and there have been fewer overdoses among Insite users.

Perry Kendall, Provincial Health Officer for British Columbia's Ministry of Health and chair of the project's steering committee, wrote on behalf of Vancouver Coastal Health requesting a 3.5-year extension based on the encouraging results of the research that has been conducted.

"Multiply 700 by 365 and that's how many injections would be happening on the street [per year] if the site closes," Kendall said.

The federal government has cut select funding to the project and denied Insite's request for a 3.5-year extension to operate in favour of one that will last until the end of 2007. Wood links this lack of enthusiasm to the proximity of the USA and ideological conflicts.

"Results are black and white and crystal clear," Wood stated. "[The] Conservative government has chosen to ignore these findings in pursuit of their ideological agenda."

"I think it's appalling," said Wood, who believes that this set back will halt development of similar sites in other Canadian cities, potentially resulting in avoidable medical care costs and loss of human life.

Dunk Duncan

To start off this year's Science Week Science Undergraduate Society President Michael Duncan created an event to dunk him into a pool of water. Donations were accepted in exchange for throw. Alma Mater Society President Kevin Keystone was among those who participated in the event. **OKER CHEN PHOTO**

Sustainability needs improvement at local and federal levels

"Green Party" continued from page 1 .

assessment of sustainability at UBC, adding that there are still contradictory practices taking place.

"[UBC] does a really good job of advocating personal sustainability, for example recycling, that sort of thing. However, I think that there's a real tension between this advocacy of personal sustainability and the campus development that's going on," said Hall.

May, Camcastle and Hall all agree that if students want change, they have to demand it from University officials.

"It's up to students to play a much bigger activist role, to challenge university administration on a lot of the policies," said Hall.

'tweens

Ethnic Eroticisms, Etc.
Anthropology and Sociology Building, Room 205
Feb. 1, 11:30am
An examination of the cultural interactions between Japan and Korea by Dr. Millie Creighton. Presented by the UBC Department of Anthropology.

RAGE
Waterfront Theatre
Jan. 30 – Feb. 11, 8:00pm
A student approaches his pacifist guidance counselor with a gun and gives her two choices: shoot him or be shot. Tickets $20/$26

The Laugh Gallery
Rime (1130 Commercial Drive)
Jan. 31, 9:30pm
Comedian Graham Clark, called the "hardest working lazy comic" by *the Georgia Straight*, performs in The Laugh Gallery, cited to be "Vancouver's premiere alternative comedy showcase." Tickets $5

Reggae Night
Café Deux Soleils
2096 Commercial Drive
Jan. 31, Evening
Come for Reggae night every Wednesday at the Café Deux Soleils.

Correction:

***The Ubyssey* (Jan. 26)**
The photo attributed to Kellan Higgins on page 8 was taken by Candice Okada.

The Ubyssey (Jan. 12)
"Who needs a degree when you can buy one?" Cape Breton's run Dorset College was cited as operating illegally in BC. It is in compliance with government regulations.
The Ubyssey regrets these errors.

CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements

ROBOTICS FOR SOCIETY CONFERENCE FEB. 2-3. UBC Students Free (must register) http://ling75.arts.ubc.ca/cogs/roboticsforsociety/

SPARTACUS YOUTH CLUB CLASS SERIES. Part two of a five-part series. Women's Oppression and the Family: For Women's Liberation Through Social Revolution! Wednesday, February 7th, 6pm. Room 212, Student Union Building, UBC. For more information and to obtain the readings, call the SYC at (604) 687-0353, email trotskyist_vancouver@shawcable.com or write to: Box 2717, Main P.O., Vancouver, BC V6B 3X2. www.icl-fi.org

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Call for Submissions

MULTIDISCIPLINARY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE (MURC): Deadline for submission of abstracts to present at the conference is February 5. Deadline to register for the conference is February 23. http://www.research.ubc.ca/murc

UBC INTERNATIONAL WEEK PRESENTS UBC PASSIONS. The UBC 2007 Passions Gallery is coming on February 28th! We welcome your submissions (artwork, photography, poetry, paintings, pottery, etc.) for display! Prizes available for top entries in each category. Please send your submissions and a write-up about your work to ubcpassions2007@gmail.com. Do not hesitate to contact us with your questions! Submission deadline: Friday, February 9, 2007

Extra-curricular

MALAYSIA-SINGAPORE NIGHT 2007. Date: Feb 3, 2007. Time: Food and Performances 6:30 to 10:15pm, Dancing with DJ 10:15 to midnight, Venue: SUB Ballroom, Tickets: $15, All are welcome. The Singapore-Malaysia Night is an annual event by the Singapore Raffles Club and the Seri Malaysia Club of UBC. We are two social and cultural clubs under the AMS. The Singapore-Malaysia Night provides the audience with a night of entertainment including cultural performances and fashion show, a play portraying interaction between Canadian, Singaporean and Malaysian cultures, and a band show. A light dinner featuring traditional Malaysian/Singaporean cuisine will be served. For further information and tickets, contact srcubc@yahoo.ca or smc@club.ams.ubc.ca

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EDITORIAL GRAPHIC *Michael Bround*

Canadian University Press

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UBC, SFU conduct cutting-edge brain study

by Stephanie Taylor
NEWS WRITER

Hopes are high that a new brain-imaging study being conducted by UBC and SFU will offer an alternative treatment for people suffering from depression.

According to Mario Liotti, an SFU psychology professor who is working on the study with UBC psychology professor Kalina Christoff, teaching subjects how to modulate thoughts within the prefrontal cortex, the area at the very front of the brain, could lead to a breakthrough in the treatment of depression.

In the study, subjects are placed in a Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) scanner with a screen directly above their heads. On the screen, subjects are shown which areas of their brains are active as they try to move a cursor up and down. The cursor moves in response to different kinds of introspective thoughts, allowing patients to reinforce positive thoughts and cope with negative ones.

Christoff is optimistic that fMRI technology will increase the chances of success for breaking negative thought patterns by drastically reducing the response time of brain scan results. This, Christoff hopes, will break the cycle of negative thoughts associated with depression and improve the chances of recovering from a depressive episode.

"The fMRI method allows us to see which parts of the brain are active during different emotions and thoughts," said Christoff.

"Since frontal cortex activity increases with depression recovery, the goal is to actually demonstrate that real time fMRI can be used as an auxiliary treatment for mild to moderate cases of depression," said Liotti.

The real-time format allows subjects to associate different thoughts with different regions of the brain. "The fMRI has about a one-second delay," explained Christoff, while previous scan techniques took several weeks to be processed.

So far Christoff and Liotti's method has been successful on healthy subjects. Subjects are able to modulate their thoughts with precision after three to five two-hour sessions. The next step is to test the method on subjects suffering from depression.

"The key ability is not to just think about your own thoughts, but to think about them in a low mood," said Christoff explaining that a low mood is when someone feels sad or depressed.

Christoff has had success with the fMRI technique from her work at Stanford University. However, the method has never before been used to study complex thought patterns, she said.

The computer program used in the study is so advanced that it had to be custom-designed by UBC students.

REAL TIME: new fMRI may lead to breakthroughs in treating depression. COURTESY OF KALINA CHRISTOFF

Fourth-year psychology student Ivan Kuznetsov put together a medial prefrontal cortex (MPFC) localiser for the study, which he anticipates will allow for greater accuracy in locating the prefrontal cortex during the fMRI scan.

"Hopefully when we start scanning we will be able to use this localiser task to determine with greater accuracy than we would be able to by looking at anatomy alone, the location of the MPFC in individual participants which will help improve the real time feedback," Kuznetsov said.

Currently the best treatments available for depression are medication and psychotherapy. However, once patients cease treatment, they face the risk of relapse. This is especially true with medication.

Christoff hopes that fMRI can be used in conjunction with psychotherapy to reduce the odds of a relapse.

DNA ancestry just a click away

DNA analysis making family trees more insightful, says expert

by Alisha Randhawa
NEWS WRITER

UBC alumnus June Wong, in conjunction with two major biotechnology companies, has launched a user-friendly website that allows people to track their genetic heritage as far back as 150,000 years ago.

DNAancestryproject.com was put up last November by Genebase Systems and is sponsored by Genetrack Biolabs, Inc. It lets users order "participation kits" which gives them easy access to DNA testing and an extensive online database of other people's genetic information.

A cheek swab is included in the kit as a means to get a personal DNA sample from the user, which is then sent to Genetrack. The user is then sent their DNA results, which they can share with other members of the site or keep to themselves.

"One could question whether the extent and quality of the information that Genetrack can provide will be any better tool for genealogists than the traditional methods of searching public or private registries," said George Mackie, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at UBC.

The Vancouver Public Library (VPL) offers numerous programs and materials that utilise a more traditional approach. According to Janet Tomkins, a genealogy librarian, the VPL has "an extensive collection of resources including how-to manuals, books on genealogy software, and data such as cemetery transcriptions, census records and a subscription database called Ancestry Library Edition, offering access to digitised images of original records from many countries," in addition to monthly workshops.

> "AFTER IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE RELATIONS THROUGH TRADITIONAL RESEARCH, DNA TESTING COULD BE USED TO CONFIRM THE CONNECTION."
> *–Janet Tomkins genealogy librarian*

"Both approaches are worthwhile and interesting," she said, although "to find out who [the ancestors] are...requires digging through documentary records and interviewing family members, working backwards, building up the picture, one generation at a time."

Tomkins explained that "serious genealogists corroborate and document all the information in their family tree to build up an authentic picture," however "after identifying possible relations through traditional research, DNA testing could be used to confirm the connection."

David W. Brown, a member of the International Society of Genetic Genealogists, has found that combining the traditional approach with DNA testing is an effective strategy.

"[DNA testing] has provided many exciting breakthroughs for those trying to establish their family history," but "you have to use traditional research together with it," he said.

DNA testing is a huge leap ahead, said Brown, and is extremely helpful when paired with "relative genetics and family trees which offer tremendous databases." He explained that as the companies expand their own databases, users will have access to more insightful results. " All of this [testing] is based on comparisons to other results and there is nothing to it unless people can make comparisons," Brown said.

"We've used DNA testing a lot," said Brown "and it is revolutionary. It helps to break through brick walls."

The DNA Ancestry Project site has been experiencing a lot of success even though it has only been up and running for a few months. Over a quarter-million participants have joined from all over the world.

Don't panic—it's just art

Attack #15 (Montreal), an exhibition by L'Action Terroriste Socialement Acceptable as part of the PuSh Festival for the Performing Arts, used the figure of a damaged SUV to stimulate consideration about Canadians' commitments to the environment. JESSE FERRERAS PHOTO

Cast Your Vote

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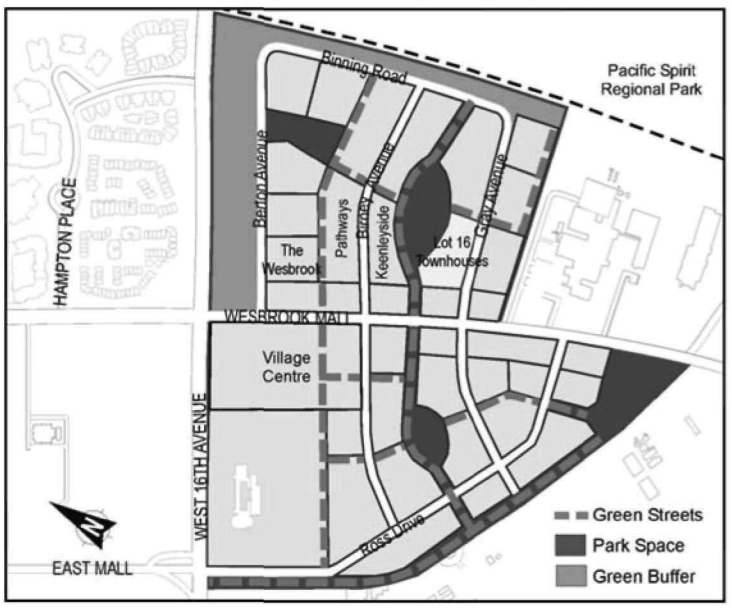

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SFU students' society employee re-instated

by Iain W. Reeve
THE PEAK (SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY)

BURNABY, BC (CUP)—The event that triggered months of scandal and conflict, not to mention seven impeachments, was reversed as the new Simon Fraser Students' Society board of directors reinstated Hattie Aitken at full pay.

Aitken was released last August for reasons that have not yet been made public. Claims that the board did not follow regulations, including gaining full board approval before releasing Aitken, led to the impeachment of seven executive members in November.

Aitken was re-instated to her position as graduate issues and university relations co-ordinator after arbitration between the students' society board and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), the union representing Aitken.

The issue was immediately sent to arbitration when Aitken was released, but was not resolved due to ongoing political strife within the board. However, a new board was elected December 18 and on December 21 it was decided that the Aitken issue be mediated in order to find a resolution.

Representatives from the student society labour committee worked with CUPE using a mediator to settle the matter. This took place over an 11-hour meeting on January 8. The final agreement saw Aitken re-instated. She will also be retroactively paid for the time she was dismissed, as well as an undisclosed amount in damages.

The reasons for the dismissal will remain confidential. As Derrick Harder, the new students society president pointed out, "...a significant part of the grievance was the lack of confidentiality."

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New activist group keeps an eye on Winnipeg police

Copwatch compiling stories from community members

by Derek Leschasin
CUP CENTRAL BUREAU CHIEF

WINNIPEG (CUP)—A Winnipeg activist group is urging the public to come forward with any stories of police misconduct.

Copwatch, a community volunteer group, is "interested in increasing police accountability and decreasing misconduct," said one group member, who requested to remain anonymous.

Copwatch groups follow patrolling police officers in low-income neighbourhoods, inform members of the public about their rights when interacting with officers and compile reports of incidents dubbed as "police brutality."

Winnipeg Copwatch focuses on gathering statements from the public to create a database of incidents in order to "really get an idea of what brutality looks like in our city," the member said.

To that end, the group is hosting a series of public meetings and inviting citizens to convene and share stories of alleged police abuse. The first meeting took place January 17.

"I think near the top of all of our lists is that we want to be able to go to the public and show how much of a need there is for a group like Copwatch to start," said the Copwatch member. In the future, the group may undertake more aggressive monitoring campaigns.

Part of the motivation for a Copwatch group in Winnipeg is the perceived failure of the provincial Law Enforcement Review Agency (LERA) to hold police accountable.

According to its 2005 report, LERA documented 251 formal complaints against police officers for alleged abuses of authority. More than half of them were abandoned or withdrawn, the CBC reported, and many have argued that the process for complaints is too lengthy and convoluted.

"Complainants have the right to do as they wish," said George Wright, the LERA commissioner. "Our investigators discuss the results of investigations with complainants who choose to go no further. That happens pretty often . . . that just reinforces the fact that it's a complaint-driven process."

Recent complaints include some stemming from Critical Mass bike rides last summer. Participants, some of whom were charged with disrupting traffic, alleged they were subject to physical abuse and taunts from officers. A number of complaints were filed with LERA.

Operation Clean Sweep, a 2005 initiative that saw increased numbers of officers directed into Winnipeg's low-income West End to combat drug and gang-related crime, has been met largely with praise. Some West End residents, a high proportion of whom are Aboriginal, have also complained of "bullying" and racial profiling by police officers, as documented in the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives 2006 State of the Inner City report.

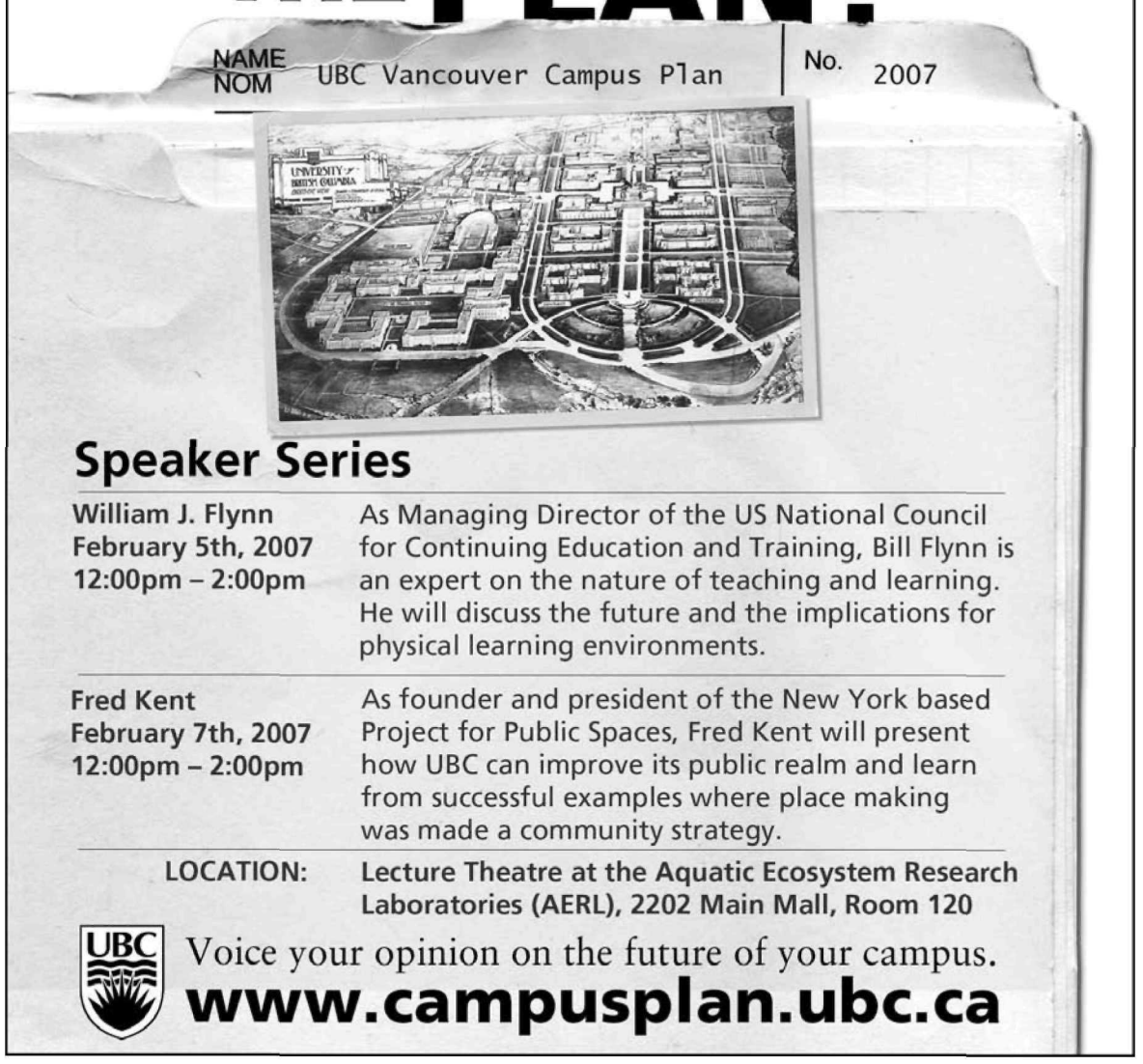
Relations between police and the Winnipeg Aboriginal community have been strained in the past, dogged by accusations of racism and abuse. The Aboriginal Justice Inquiry (AJI), formed by the province after the investigation into the police shooting in Winnipeg of native leader JJ Harper in 1988, documented systemic inequality in the way policing and the justice system treat Aboriginals.

While initiatives like employment equity in the police service have been undertaken, many of the inquiry's recommendations have not been addressed. The AJI, and its successor, the Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission, both recommend that LERA be reformed to ensure greater police accountability.

For now, Winnipeg Copwatch says it will not focus on creating "a new LERA," but continue work on its database.

The Winnipeg Police Service was contacted by Canadian University Press, but refused to comment on the organisation.

WHAT'S THE PLAN?



Speaker Series

William J. Flynn
February 5th, 2007
12:00pm – 2:00pm
As Managing Director of the US National Council for Continuing Education and Training, Bill Flynn is an expert on the nature of teaching and learning. He will discuss the future and the implications for physical learning environments.

Fred Kent
February 7th, 2007
12:00pm – 2:00pm
As founder and president of the New York based Project for Public Spaces, Fred Kent will present how UBC can improve its public realm and learn from successful examples where place making was made a community strategy.

LOCATION: **Lecture Theatre at the Aquatic Ecosystem Research Laboratories (AERL), 2202 Main Mall, Room 120**

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E-BUTT urges schools to kick the "nic"

Student group advocating for schools to stop investing in tobacco industries

by Adrian Ma
CUP ONTARIO BUREAU CHIEF

WATERLOO, Ont. (CUP)—A student group at the University of Toronto is circulating a petition to convince the school's administration to sell off more than $10 million of stock in the international tobacco industry.

The school currently has investments in tobacco companies like Altria Group, Japan Tobacco, and Rothmans Inc.

While $10.5 million is a small fraction of the university's overall investments—about $2.5 billion according to the University of Toronto Asset Management Corporation—Gerard Kennedy, a student at U of T and the communications director for Education Bringing Youth Tobacco Truths (E-BUTT), said any amount of money invested in tobacco is too much.

"As a student, I don't want my tuition fees going towards products that kill people," said Kennedy, whose group will continue their lobby efforts until the school's administration divests "100 per cent" of their investments in the tobacco industry. E-BUTT is also demanding a clause in investment rules to prevent the university from buying shares in tobacco again.

"I don't really see much compromise on this issue," Kennedy said.

Joanne DiNardo, a tobacco control specialist with the Ontario Lung Association, believes U of T is being hypocritical by investing in the tobacco industry.

"The university trains doctors and dentists, who are in the healthcare field," DiNardo told The Canadian Press. "They really shouldn't be [supporting tobacco companies] if they're a medical teaching university."

THEY INVESTED, BUT HEY, THEY DIDN'T INHALE: U of T gets heat for investing in the tobacco industry. GEORGE PRIOR PHOTO

U of T spokeswoman Rita Pocius said the university has formed a committee to explore the possibility of selling these shares.

E-BUTT has been seeking signatures from students, faculty, alumni and private donors for the past year. Since holding a press conference in January, the group has received national exposure from the Canadian media and their story has caught the attention of NDP Leader Jack Layton and his caucus. Kennedy says Layton's office has contacted E-BUTT to announce their intent to sign the petition.

The student group is now looking to investigate the investment practices of other campuses. E-BUTT has been working with students at other schools including UBC, Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., and Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ont. Students at the University of Alberta in Edmonton have also been pressuring their administration to sell off tobacco stocks. Kennedy said E-BUTT's goal is to establish a liaison "at every major university" in Canada.

While the investment information for U of T was easily accessible on the web, the stock investments of other universities may prove more difficult to find.

Gary Lambert, the assistant vice-president of financial resources at Wilfrid Laurier University, said that the school's money is invested by Frank Russell Canada, a professional money manager, to purchase mutual funds—open-end funds that are not listed for trading on a stock exchange. Lambert said it is impossible to know exactly what companies or industries the university has bought stock in.

Memorial's new housing rules spark mass rally

New housing policy will displace senior students, say residents

by Sheena Goodyear and Stephanie Robinson
THE MUSE (MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND)

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CUP)—Changes to the Memorial University of Newfoundland's on-campus housing policy prompted more than 400 students to gather in protest on January 19.

To deal with growing demand, Memorial plans to let more first-year students into housing—a move that will see the number of senior students drop. This, critics say, will kill the spirit of residence.

The Paton College residences and Burton's Pond apartments house 1,500 students. Last year demand grew to 2,800, largely due to first-year students.

Starting in the fall of 2007, 68 per cent of Paton College residents will be first-year students. Burton's Pond, which is currently limited to senior students, will set aside 50 per cent of its rooms for freshmen.

The widespread discontent with the decision spawned the creation of the Society of Active Residents (SOAR), which organised the rally.

At noon, hundreds of students poured out of the residence buildings and filled the square near the Paton College complex, boasting residence shirts, colourful signs and furry mascot costumes.

> "WE CAME OUT TODAY BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT THE CULTURE PATON COLLEGE HAS BUILT UP FOR ITSELF IS VERY IMPORTANT. IT NEEDS TO BE PRESERVED AND THIS NEW RULE IS GOING TO KILL IT."
>
> *–Michael Snow*
> *Memorial University resident*

"We came out today because we believe the culture that Paton College has built up for itself is very important. It needs to be preserved and this new rule is going to kill it," said resident Michael Snow. "We think it's unfair for the university to say you can go here but you can't live within its walls."

In an interview with *the Muse* a few days after the rally, Christine Burke, director of student housing, said something has to be done to accommodate the growing number of first-year applications to Memorial.

She said housing met with the Burton's Pond Student Association (BPSA) and the Paton College Council in October to discuss that need.

"We've been working with the BPSA and the council to try to alert them that changes are coming and to ask their input ...recognising that the status quo was not an option and the status quo was what they would like to see."

She said the administration is still working with students to find a solution, but notes housing will not back down from the policy completely.

What Burke calls status quo, Bowater resident and SOAR member Coady Bustin calls culture.

"By taking [seniors] away you're losing the heart and soul of the spirit on campus," he said. "If you're a first-year coming in, you're losing out on the culture that's been here for 40 years. There's no retention. There's no consistent culture. There's no tradition."

He said Paton College's sense of community was what prompted him to come to the university from his hometown in Cape Breton. Without that, he believes enrollment will drop.

"MUN has a huge housing problem," he said. "But they're thinking that by opening residence up for more first-years, they are somehow going to retain the students. That's just not going to happen."

SOAR says the policy will leave about 200 senior students "homeless," while the university estimates only 69 or 70 students will be displaced and promises to help them find other accommodations.

Both SOAR and Burke agree that what Memorial really needs is a new residence.

Burke says the plans for a new building have been in the works since 2003, and the university is waiting on government approval for funding.

"We need a new residence if the university wants to grow and to accommodate the students," said Burke, adding, " ...especially for their first year they are going to want to live on campus."

In the meantime, Bustin does not think the new policy will stand up to student dissent.

"The support we had today in the protest was great. It was loud. It was aggressive," he said. "I honestly do not see this policy succeeding as it is."

Money woes for Ontario schools

by Adrian Ma
CUP ONTARIO BUREAU CHIEF

WATERLOO, Ont. (CUP)—The Council of Ontario Universities is calling for additional government funding in anticipation of another year of surging enrollment numbers.

Applications to Ontario post-secondary institutions this year have increased 5.2 per cent compared to 2006 and nine per cent compared to 2005. Despite the impending graduation of the double-cohort class this spring, many universities are saying they will be hard-pressed to accommodate the growth.

This past fall, universities in Ontario scrambled to find spaces for 14,000 more new students than expected. In 2005, the McGuinty government unveiled the Reaching Higher Plan, a five-year funding program that committed $6.2 billion to improve the accessibility and quality of post-secondary education in Ontario.

In a way, the Reaching Higher Plan has become a victim of its own success: the council said unexpectedly high enrollment numbers have created a funding shortfall of $100 million in 2006-07, a figure that is expected to grow to $300 million by 2009-10.

"You can't squeeze in more students and expect the quality of education to remain high," said Jamie Mackay, vice-president of policy and analysis for the council.

Chris Bentley, minister of training, colleges and universities, said the provincial government remains committed to investing in post-secondary education, but does not believe there is a funding shortfall.

"I understand the passion and the call for money—everyone wants more money," Bentley said. "But let's let the facts speak for themselves: there are now 86,000 more students [compared to 2002-03.] Our commitment is evident in the huge, historic investment of $6.2 billion."

Earlier this January, Premier Dalton McGuinty publicly criticised the federal government for annually shortchanging the province out of billions, including $1.1 billion in federal grants for post-secondary education and health care.

McGuinty also blasted Prime Minister Stephen Harper for failing to follow through on his promise to honour the Canada-Ontario Agreement, a $6.9 billion package intended to address the fiscal imbalance between Ottawa and Ontario, originally signed by former Prime Minister Paul Martin.

Mackay said he understands that the provincial government is financially constrained, but is requesting they "at least provide provincial funding to the students that's on par with the rest of the country."

In March 2006, the Ontario government lifted the tuition fee freeze and fees increased between four and eight per cent.

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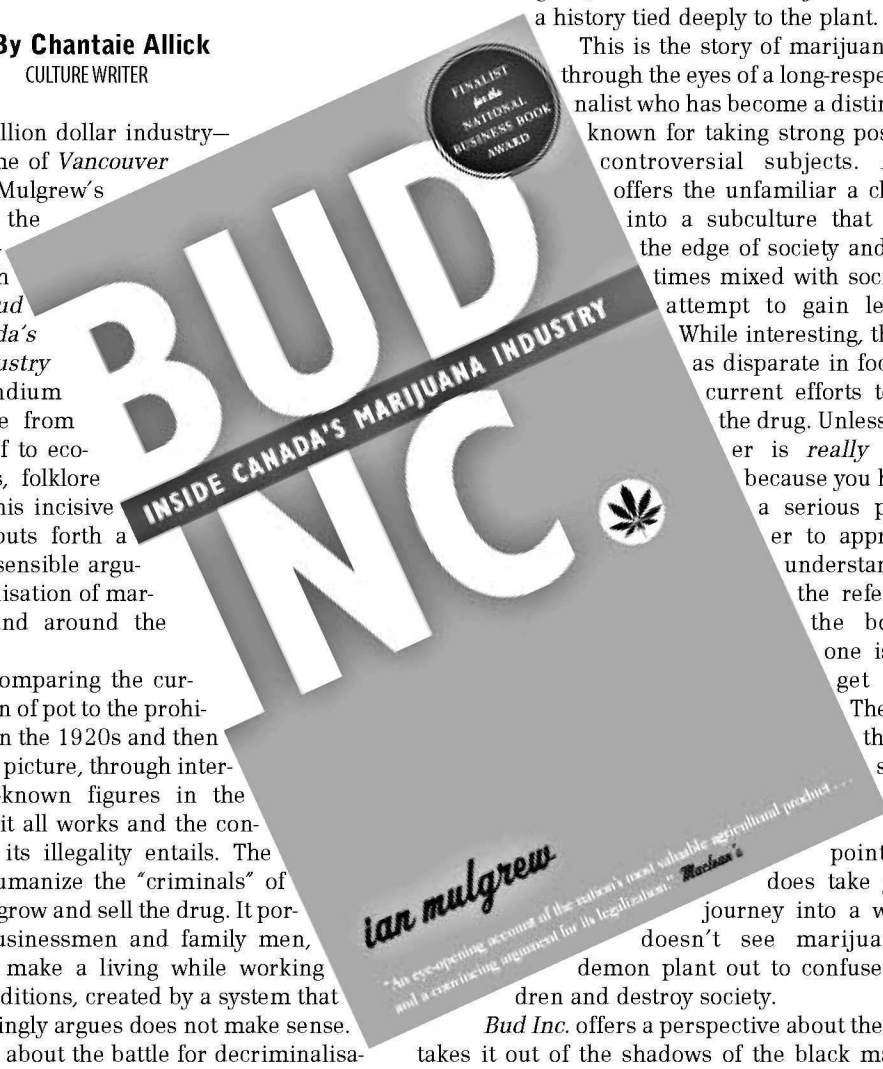
Money's in the pot

BUD INC.: INSIDE CANADA'S MARIJUANA INDUSTRY
by Ian Mulgrew
Random House Canada

By Chantaie Allick
CULTURE WRITER



Marijuana is a billion dollar industry—so begins the tome of *Vancouver Sun* writer Ian Mulgrew's exploration of the marijuana industry in British Columbia. *Bud Inc.: Inside Canada's Marijuana Industry* offers a compendium of pot knowledge from the industry itself to economics, business, folklore and history. In this incisive book, Mulgrew puts forth a very cogent and sensible argument for the legalisation of marijuana in B.C. and around the world.

It begins by comparing the current legal situation of pot to the prohibition of alcohol in the 1920s and then goes on to paint a picture, through interviews with well-known figures in the industry, of how it all works and the constant battle that its illegality entails. The book works to humanize the "criminals" of the industry who grow and sell the drug. It portrays them as businessmen and family men, simply trying to make a living while working under hostile conditions, created by a system that Mulgrew convincingly argues does not make sense.

He also writes about the battle for decriminalisation of the drug, providing recent examples of civil disobedience and lobby efforts by people within the movement who are committed to effecting change. This is a very young movement (the book gives little information that predates the 1960s) in which some of these people, mostly men, are treated by the author as living history and figures striving forth in a hard-fought battle. For Mulgrew, Vancouver is a marijuana mecca with a history tied deeply to the plant.

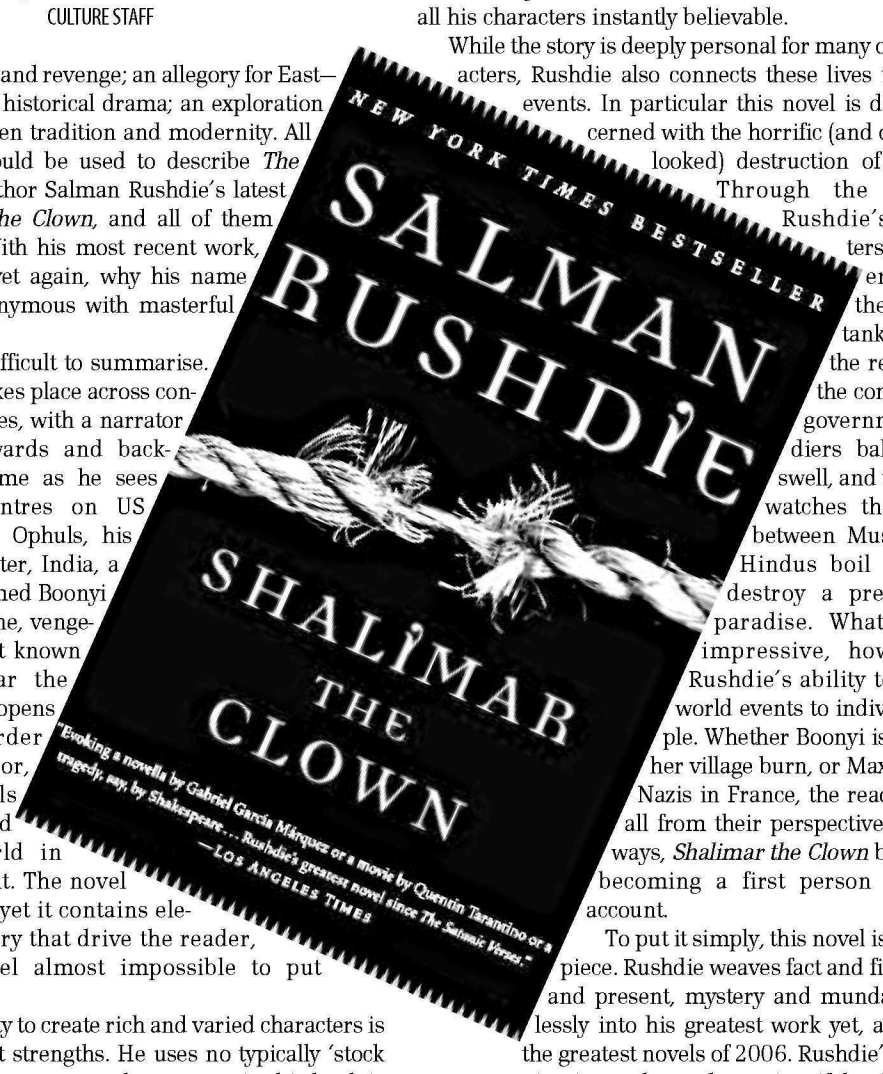
This is the story of marijuana as seen through the eyes of a long-respected journalist who has become a distinct writer, known for taking strong positions on controversial subjects. *Bud Inc.* offers the unfamiliar a closer look into a subculture that exists on the edge of society and is sometimes mixed with society in an attempt to gain legitimacy. While interesting, the book is as disparate in focus as are current efforts to legalize the drug. Unless the reader is *really* into pot, because you have to be a serious pot smoker to appreciate or understand a lot of the references in the book, this one is hard to get through. The pace of the book is slow and stalls at some points, but it does take you on a journey into a world that doesn't see marijuana as a demon plant out to confuse our children and destroy society.

Bud Inc. offers a perspective about the drug that takes it out of the shadows of the black market and back alleys and into a place of serious and open discussion about the potential of the plant. This is something very new and while I don't smoke reefer myself, in a strange way, I have a renewed respect for it. Even for me, it was well worth the read.

Rushdie's *Shalimar* is a masterpiece

SHALIMAR THE CLOWN
by Salman Rushdie
Vintage Canada

by Peter Warren
CULTURE STAFF



A tale of jilted love and revenge; an allegory for East—West relations; an historical drama; an exploration of the clash between tradition and modernity. All of these terms could be used to describe *The Satanic Verses* author Salman Rushdie's latest novel, *Shalimar the Clown*, and all of them would be right. With his most recent work, Rushdie proves, yet again, why his name has become synonymous with masterful fiction.

The novel is difficult to summarise. It is a story that takes place across continents and decades, with a narrator who jumps forwards and backwards through time as he sees fit. The tale centres on US Ambassador Max Ophuls, his illegitimate daughter, India, a village dancer named Boonyi Kaul, and an insane, vengeful tightrope artist known only as Shalimar the Clown. The story opens with the murder of the ambassador, and then travels through time and around the world in order to explain it. The novel is not a mystery, yet it contains elements of a mystery that drive the reader, making the novel almost impossible to put down.

Rushdie's ability to create rich and varied characters is one of his greatest strengths. He uses no typically 'stock characters;' nearly everyone who appears in this book is given a background story and one or more unique foibles. For example, a female French resistance fighter who refers to herself as "The Rat" is an aging immigrant and apartment superintendent who practices potato witchcraft. There is also an Indian army Colonel who is cursed with the ability to taste colour. These descriptions may seem wacky and off the wall, but Rushdie is able to make all his characters instantly believable.

While the story is deeply personal for many of the characters, Rushdie also connects these lives to historic events. In particular this novel is deeply concerned with the horrific (and often overlooked) destruction of Kashmir. Through the eyes of Rushdie's characters, the reader watches the Indian tanks roll in, the reader sees the contingent of government soldiers balloon and swell, and the reader watches the tension between Muslims and Hindus boil over and destroy a pre-partition paradise. What is truly impressive, however, is Rushdie's ability to connect world events to individual people. Whether Boonyi is watching her village burn, or Max is fleeing Nazis in France, the reader sees it all from their perspective. In many ways, *Shalimar the Clown* borders on becoming a first person historical account.

To put it simply, this novel is a masterpiece. Rushdie weaves fact and fiction, past and present, mystery and mundane seamlessly into his greatest work yet, and one of the greatest novels of 2006. Rushdie's status as a master writer is now beyond question, if that fact wasn't clear already. Though he is a long way into his career, Shalimar is an absolute must-read.

Author unveils black history

JESSE FERRERAS PHOTO

by Jesse Ferreras
CULTURE EDITOR

A rarely-told episode of black history in Canada is the subject of a new novel by a noted Canadian journalist and author.

Lawrence Hill, former correspondent with the Winnipeg Free Press and author of the Canadian bestseller *Black Berry, Sweet Juice: On Being Black and White in Canada,* announced Sunday the publication of his new novel *The Book of Negroes.* He made the announcement at Black Ink, an exhibit devoted to black literature at the Vancouver Public Library in advance of Black History Month.

The Book of Negroes details an event from 1792 in which 1,200 black men, women and children voluntarily departed from Halifax in 15 ships to the West African nation of Sierra Leone.

The child of a black father and a white mother who immigrated to Don Mills, Ontario from the southern United States, Hill discovered his story while "plundering" his parents' bookshelves. It was there that he came upon James Walker's *The Black Loyalists,* where he learned about the episode for the first time.

"I began to read in order to figure out who I was, and to write as a way of affirming who I was and making sense of it," he said. "I started to imagine this novel, I started to imagine a woman in a woman's life and what that might look like."

The migration to Sierra Leone is told through the perspective of Aminata Diallo, an elderly woman who recounts being abducted as a child from West Africa and living as a slave in South Carolina.

She becomes one of 3,000 names added to the titular "Book of Negroes," a document that records names, ages and "offensive descriptions" of slaves, freed as part of an agreement between the British and the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolutionary War.

Hill explained that of the 3,000 registered in the document, 1,200 were sent to Nova Scotia from Manhattan, the final stronghold of British forces in the United States.

While the migrations were voluntary, Hill noted that Africans at the time were "sold out" by the British in treaty negotiations with the Americans. He said that the British promised the Africans would be liberated and cared for in exchange for their services in capacities such as soldiery, railway construction and prostitution.

According to Hill, however, the British reneged on their promises to the Africans.

"When it was patently clear that the British had lost...they sold out the blacks that they had promised to help," he said. "Thousands of Blacks were huddled fearfully in Manhattan, hoping to get out before they were caught and perhaps re-enslaved, or enslaved for the first time."

Presenter Michael Pierre said that Hill's writing is focused largely on defining Canadian identity. And although the "Book of Negroes" helps define a crucial part of black history in Canada, Hill was quick to cite the episode more broadly as a part of Canadian history.

Hill mentioned that he recently came under fire from a caller during a radio interview who was outraged over the book's title.

"I tried to explain the history behind this book and he thought I was trying to be provocative," he said. "I had to explain that this was a historic term and I was trying to bring it back into Canadian discussion."

Black Ink organiser and Montreal filmmaker Frantz Voltaire showered praise on the attempts of artists to reflect the experience of blacks in North America. He said that blacks were learning their own stories from their own people for the first time.

"We have built this country since the beginning and today we still continue in our fight against racism, against bigotry," he said. "Today historians, filmmakers, writers, are telling our people and are telling the world what was our experience in the Americas."

Panych's *Vigil* marred by depthless humour

VIGIL
at the Vancouver Playhouse
until February 3

by Caroline Chuang
CULTURE WRITER

I agree with Westender Magazine critic Steven Schelling's take on noted author Morris Panych's play, "Vigil," now being performed at the Playhouse Theatre—it provides straight laughs, but lacks real character.

I attended UBC Prof. Gerry Wasserman's lecture before the performance of "Vigil" at the Vancouver Playhouse on Sunday afternoon. After learning that Morris Panych is an icon of Canadian theatre, I had high expectations, but the play essentially failed to completely absorb its audience, and lacked complexity and depth.

Perhaps the play's shallow laughs appealed to a full house containing an overwhelmingly geriatric female audience, especially since this play is about an ailing older woman whose "nephew" tries to bully her into dying more quickly in the most appalling fashion. He asks her to sign her will, brings her a do-it-yourself death machine, puts ant poison in her butterscotch, and exposes the wires in her lamp so that she might get electrocuted.

Almost every scene ends with the misanthropic Kemp—played by Panych himself—making some sort of allusion to her impending death. The lights go off, and the rounds of shallow self-pitying sessions and transparent antics garner more and more laughter from the audience.

But the subtext is that Kemp and his aunt Grace, played exceptionally through silent facial expressions by veteran Jennifer Phipps, really share a bond as the play progresses. This is not, however, given any clear expression until the play's final minutes.

Perhaps the treatment of a character who seeks the companionship of an elderly person is a realistic portrait of the misery shared between the ailing and the living, because the only way to create intimacy between the two is through the implied distance of black humour.

Kemp is allowed to indulge in despicable acts without ever having to share his vulnerability. Aunt Grace doesn't seem to mind it, or otherwise she would have kicked him out. But it turns out she has her own secret weapon which she keeps to herself, and rather than driving Kemp out for good, it brings him back for more. He starts to realise what it feels like to be a real person when he starts to care genuinely for another.

This is very touching, but Panych unfortunatley never drops the exaggerated and sarcastic tone and caricature he sets towards the outset of the play. And there's something very wrong with that tone when it brings up repeated allusions to Al Bundy.

A punch-up at a messy wedding

BIG LOVE
at the Telus Studio Theatre
Until February 3

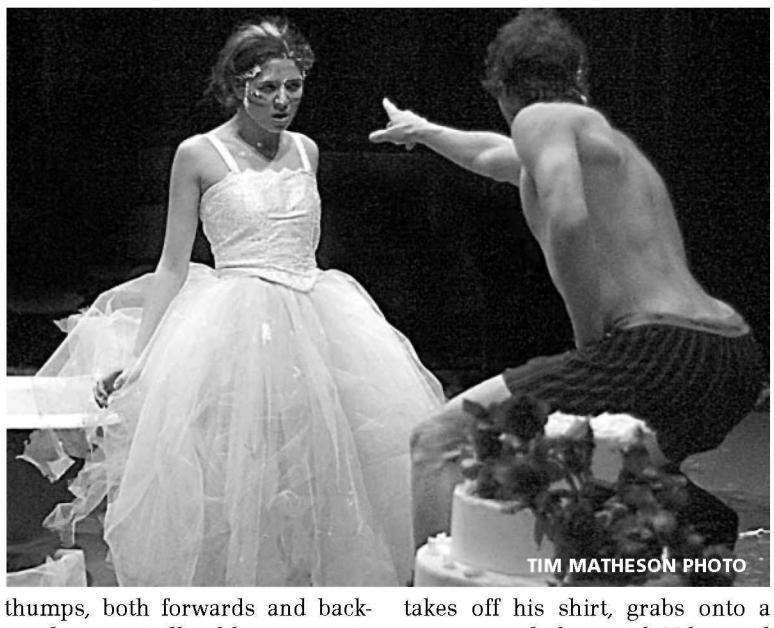
by Caroline Chuang
CULTURE WRITER

Charles L. Mee's *Big Love* is now playing at the Telus Studio Theatre in the Chan Centre and is being performed by intermediate and final year BFA theatre students at UBC. The play is a retelling of the Aeschylus play, "The Suppliant Maidens" with post-modern elements. How does this ancient Greek tragedy fuse with references to Oil of Olay and Julian Schnabel bridges? It's clearly not your average theatre.

This risky production is directed by MFA directorial candidate Joanna Garfinkel, and stars Yoshie Bancroft, Courtney Lancaster, and Cecile Roslin as three sisters (Lydia, Thyona, and Olympia) among 50 who try to escape the fate of being married to their cousins by sailing to Italy from Greece. This is the basic premise of the play, which also showcases ingenious scenes and stage effects. Three suitors (Oed, Nikos, Constantine), played by Gord Myren, Spencer Atkinson, and guest actor Daryl King, descend from the upper balcony and land on the stage with aplomb in a hipster style.

Grandma Bella, played by Joanna Ranelli, who also has a role in overseeing the girls' stay, has some of the show's best lines and delivers them in an endearing Italian accent. She shines in this supporting role, and offers the final thoughts on the play's theme in a trial scene, in which Lydia is condemned by her two sisters for refusing to kill her husband in the pact she makes with them before the wedding takes place. Other supporting actors playing the roles of Piero (Evan Frayne) and Giuliano (Kevin Kraussler) also provide comic relief—as the host of the girl's stay in Italy, Piero's t-strap sandals worn with khakis and a dress shirt complete a stereotypical Italian look, and Giuliano's gay son, dressed as a ballerina, breaking periodically into festive song during the wedding scene, both brought the audience to roaring laughter.

Half the fun, I must admit, was when the actors hurled themselves to the ground to hammer home their dramatic intent—they threw themselves violently with loud


TIM MATHESON PHOTO

thumps, both forwards and backwards repeatedly, like gymnasts doing the splits, to express their rage and frustration at the opposite sex's perceived failings and pratfalls. The women do this in a rage while the men do it when Nikos learns a lesson in pain—he allows himself to fall in love, shares a tender kiss with Lydia, but then she darts off after it ends—"playing hard to get," he laments. At once the theatre goes dark, and creepy factory alarm music blares on the soundtrack. The beefy Oed takes off his shirt, grabs onto a weapon, and along with Nikos and Constantine, the growling and venting begins. With forcefulness, the violent hurling and painful revelations begin like a scene from *Fight Club.*

In addition to the cake dipping, the water splashing and dousing and the brouhaha of a wedding scene, the play makes the stage into a big sloppin' mess near the end. It's a messy play. Fortunately for audiences, they only need experience it from a distance.

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big love
by Charles L. Mee

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AIDS benefit to raise funds for local organisations

DEE DANIELS PHOTO COURTESY OF HEATHER KITCHING

COAST CAPITAL JAZZILLA
at the River Rock Casino Resort
February 1

by Joanna Chiu
CULTURE WRITER

20 of British Columbia's most talented jazz artists will perform on one stage this week to help raise funds for local direct service HIV/AIDS organisations.

Kendra Sprinkling, executive director of the Shooting Stars Foundation, described the first annual *Coast Capital Jazzilla* benefit as "a celebration of the fantastic jazz vocalists and musicians who are home-grown and world-renowned."

The lineup includes veteran performers Lorraine Foster and Dee Daniels, as well as newer voices James Forrest, Matthew Smith and Coco Love Alcorn.

The Shooting Stars Foundation organises six productions annually, including the flagship concert in November, *Starry Night*, and the popular drag show in May, *Fit for a Queen*. Proceeds from all events go to local organisations such as A Loving Spoonful, the McLaren Housing Society, and the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre.

Although Sprinkling is a vocalist herself, she has devoted her time to fundraising since she told the original producer of *Starry Night*, David Harrison, that she would take over for him after he became too sick to continue in 1994.

"She is really passionate about this," said Coco Love Alcorn, an artist who has supported the Shooting Stars Foundation for seven years. "A lot of people spread their energies into a lot of different things, and only get so much accomplished. But some people, like Kendra, get really passionate and focused, and then they can accomplish a lot."

Like Sprinkling, Alcorn has had friends who passed away from HIV/AIDS. She believes that "there are a lot of really important causes out there that need support and awareness, and this is one of them."

"*Jazzilla* is a way for artists to get involved in an issue they care about."

This Thursday, Alcorn plans to perform *Sugar*, the title track from her critically acclaimed album released in 2006, and she is particularly excited about performing with Miles Black, a celebrated pianist. Judging from the success of past Shooting Stars Foundation productions, Alcorn predicts that *Coast Capital Jazzilla* will be a great show.

"There are a lot of really talented, high caliber performers that I don't happen to run into very much. You get to catch up. There's an amazing concert going on for the audience that Kendra and her team of superheroes have put tons of organisation into making it go off all seamlessly, and backstage there's basically a party going on."

The Shooting Stars Foundation works to produce events that are enjoyable for both audience members and artists. Ongoing community support means that non-profit HIV/AIDS organisations, which may have neither the time nor the resources to raise sufficient funds, will be able to continue providing essential services.

"I would love to give $100,000 a year," said Sprinkling, "We'll see what happens this year. I'm pretty excited. I feel like we're on the edge of something. We're going through a tremendous growth spurt right now, and it just feels like something good's going to happen."

O, weep for my wasted money—it is gone!

THE HITCHER
now playing

by Carmin Carotenuto
CULTURE WRITER

Have you ever gone on a date knowing it was going to be bad? Your friends told you not to, but you went anyway? The conversation was terrible, your date kept making jerking motions and loud noises every time you ran out of things to say, and then Sean Bean came in and killed the waiter? Probably not. But after seeing the new horror flick *The Hitcher*, you won't have to suffer through it to know what it's like.

The movie stars Zachary Knighton and Sophia Bush as a young couple stalked by Sean Bean as the psychotic hitchhiker Boromir—er, I mean John Ryder. Neal McDonough plays the venerable Lieutenant Esteridge whose dialogue is peppered with phrases like "Gosh!" and "I don't give a rat's cock-bag!"

If you can't tell, this film is obviously so bad that I don't even care if I spoil it for anyone.

So here goes.

Sean Bean's character is infused with some unholy, sniper-like combat skills. Among them include his ability to spring out of nowhere (accompanied by a loud noise, no doubt designed to make my jaded generation jump with fear) and shoot helicopter pilots in the brain from the ground. He harasses the main couple by framing them for his various murders, which occur frequently and silently (except for the loud spring-up noises.) The couple should share part of the blame for their conspicuousness, since they keep running away from the cops and stealing their guns. In fact, at one point they kidnap a police officer at gunpoint.

I wish I could say that the poor understanding of the legal system was the worst thing about the film, but really, that prize has to go to the soundtrack. When it's not just plain old ominous suspense music, it's teen-pop ballads sandwiching Nine Inch Nails' "Closer" —it played whenever Sean Bean gained on them. Get it?

What's that, a lull in the action? Cue the emotional infighting and blame-gaming of whose fault this whole mess is (my guess is it was the director's.) Don't worry, they'll make up for this with a shower-sex scene. But be warned: the ubiquitous sex scene was not only disturbing in its use of cuts and blood; it only lasted a minute, while Zachary Knighton's spineless character (you'll get why that's funny later) goes off to make a phone call.

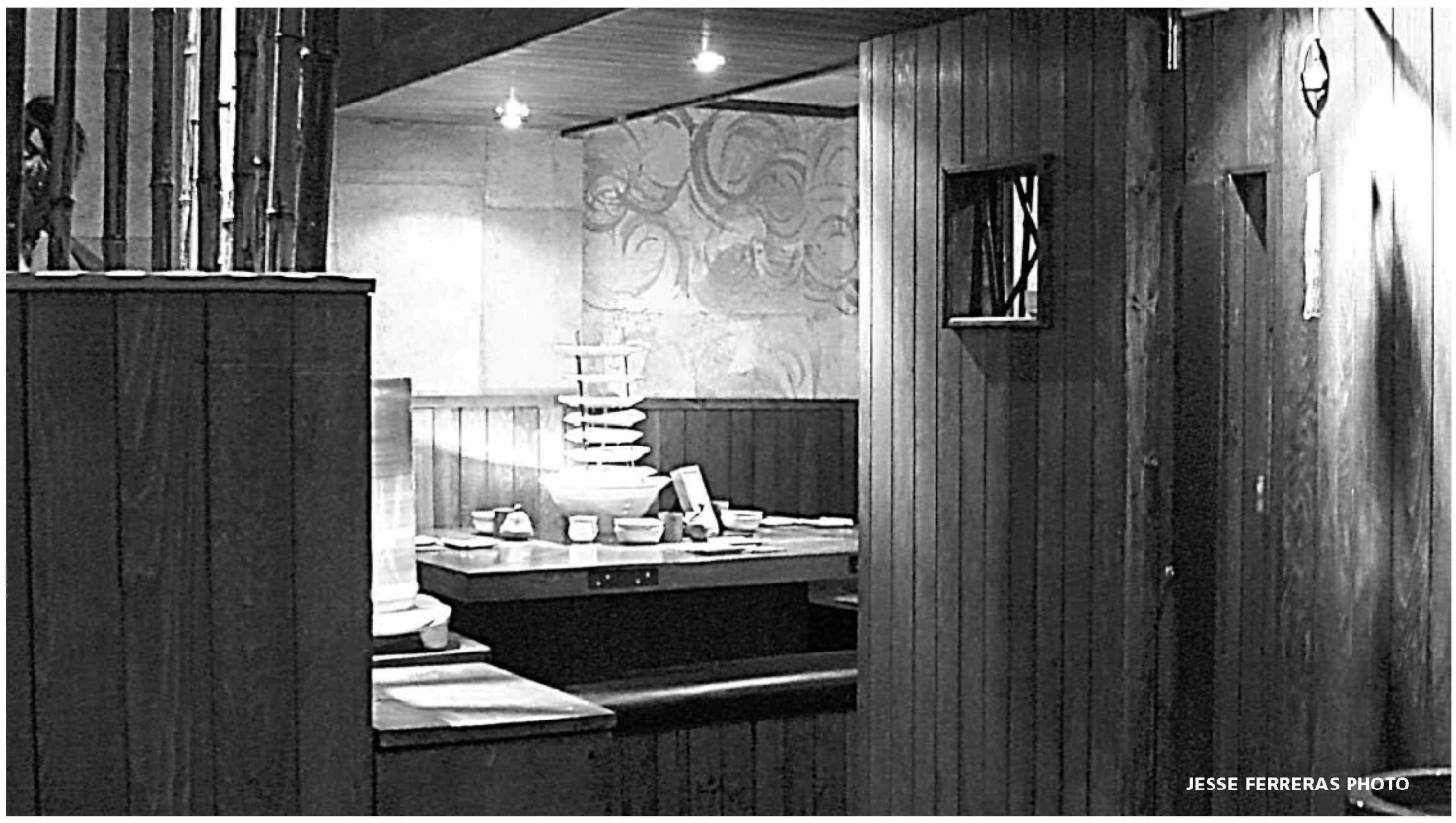
Other than the pathetically predictable story and lame dialogue, the directing was uninspiring and bland. Dave Meyers (a music-video director) did nothing that I hadn't already seen in a billion other suspense flicks. The only saving grace was that this movie was mercifully only an hour and a half long.

In the end, Jim gets split in half while tied up to a truck, a disgusting metaphor of how I felt watching the movie. Add another fifteen minutes of the most boring epilogue you've ever seen on film, followed by the credits rolling to the tune of me, gently weeping into my jumbo popcorn, and you have the full experience of *The Hitcher*.

Charcoal yields comfortable atmosphere

ZAKKUSHI CHARCOAL GRILL
1833 West 4th Avenue

by Jessica Roberts-Farina
CULTURE WRITER


JESSE FERRERAS PHOTO

On the outside, it is non-descript with plain wood paneling and no visible sign. Pedestrian traffic might not even notice it. However, if you peer into the warm, inviting space of the new Zakkushi Charcoal Grill located a few doors east of Videomatica on Fourth Avenue, you can tell that this Japanese restaurant does not need any bright or garish sign hanging outside its door to attract customers. Its tables are full almost every night. Unique décor, friendly service, and excellent food speak for themselves.

The space is truly cozy with only four tables that can seat sixteen at the most, one unisex bathroom, and an open kitchen area. Even the bathroom is worth checking out; it is the coziest and most thoughtfully constructed bathroom of any restaurant in Vancouver. They even provide you with a drugstore size bottle of mouthwash.

Tables, seating, walls, and much of the cutlery are wooden, and along with the lighting it adds up to a comfortable feeling that evokes the atmosphere of a winter lodge protecting its guests from the frigid cold outside. This was pretty much the case throughout my meal, as it was -15 degrees Celsius outside and two days after a snowstorm that shut down the city.

Much of the menu is a selection of grilled meats, vegetables, or seafood that are all served on skewers. However, they had an excellent variety of items such as salads, deep-fried tofu dishes, and noodle platters. The favourite item of the night was the *ninniku memaki* (grilled garlic stubs wrapped with sliced pork. They were crunchy on the outside, juicy on the inside, and bursting with flavour. A similar dish was the *aspara maki*, which was asparagus wrapped with sliced pork and also very tasty. The only item on the *yakitari* menu that was not especially impressive was the chicken wrapped in herb, which was juicy, but neither crunchy on the outside nor particularly flavourful.

On the fresh *tsukune* menu, the Japanese chicken meatball with sauce and with black sesame skewers were delicious. The meat was tender enough to melt in your mouth. It was juicy, and yet still lightly crisp on the outside. The same can be said about the delectable charcoal-grilled scallops. The *agedashi tofu*, deep-fried tofu with eggplant and sweet and sour mushroom sauce, was also excellent and provided a necessary challenge to those learning how to properly use chopsticks for the first time since childhood. Beer, whether of the Mexican or Japanese variety, went well with the grilled food, and the banana *gyozas* with vanilla ice cream were a tasty way to finish off the meal.

Everything from the friendly and coordinated salutations of the staff to the delicious food and inviting décor were thoughtful and impressive. The restaurant's prices were even affordable, which is always a concern for the indebted student. A full meal costs around $25 for a single person. The Zakkushi Charcoal Grill on 4th Avenue is a dining experience perfect for an escape from the weather and for post-final exam celebrations.

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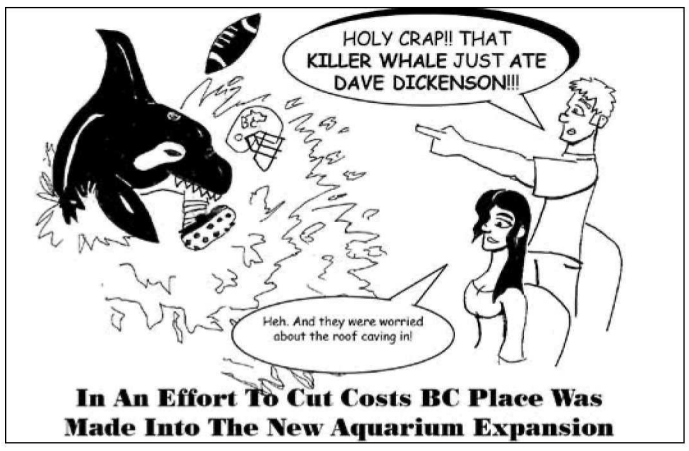
BCAA
RELAX. WE'VE GOT IT COVERED.

BC Place: Landmark or pimple on city landscape?

Breaking news! BC Place is falling apart. Well, that's nothing new but the debate about what should be done about the stadium after the 2010 Olympics has come under serious discussion once again after the flimsy Teflon™ roof collapsed last month. Maybe it was the visceral reaction everyone had after seeing their beloved dome collapse on CNN, but since then, everyone has had their own take on what should or should not be done about the aging coliseum.

Some have suggested they replace the fallen roof with a retractable roof. Some have asked that the area be made into condos. Some have even suggested they fill BC Place with water to house a pod of killer whales and make it a huge aquarium.

Like most subjects, the editorial board of *the Ubyssey* could not agree on what should be done with the stadium. But as this topic affects us all, healthy debate on the dome's future can only benefit that discussion.



In An Effort To Cut Costs BC Place Was Made Into The New Aquarium Expansion

Bulldoze that b*tch!

Okay, so die-hard BC Lions' fans can stop reading right now. Those who believe we "need" the behemoth that is BC Place for the wellbeing of our city spirit and the sanctity of our community cannot be swayed with logic. Sports teams and huge buildings = happy society. That's that.

But for those of you open to new ideas, ask yourself this: Is it really that crazy to sell a faltering 60,000-seat stadium to those salivating realtors biting at our city's heels, make off like bandits, and spend the cash on things we really need?

Now hold on, before you ruffle your feathers compulsively at the prospect of more stratospherically priced housing: let's remember the current situation of the downtown core: it needs money. Last month Mayor Sullivan made the pilgrimage to Ottawa lobbying for Vancouver's public concerns, which included homelessness. Even Sam thinks we need more financial support for housing programs in our city.

And yet he supports maintaining a concrete monolith that takes up to 275,000 square feet of floorspace (not to mention 60,000 frequently empty seats) while its property value continues to go through the roof—which deflated prematurely this month, by the way.

If developer Bob Rennie is right and the land under BC Place is worth up to $400 million dollars, imagine what could be done selling off three-quarters of it to the realtors encroaching the Downtown Eastside and saving a quarter for community space or affordable housing. That's $300 million right into our pockets, which can then go towards further affordable housing initiatives, all while giving the property to private investors who hold a vested interest in keeping its value high.

Now some of you might think this idea a bit extreme. Many people see BC Place as a beloved icon, one that sets us apart as a world-class city. But these people probably don't realise just how useless and redundant BC Place has become.

According to its Events Calendar, over the next five months BC Place will be empty or preparing for events more days out of the week than it will actually be hosting them. The events it will be hosting include boat and auto shows, home and garden shows and the Vancouver Sun Run (during which people run *outside*.) None of these require any seats, let alone 60,000. And yes, BC Place got a lot of attention during Expo '86. But that was 20 years ago. That would be like saying we should keep supporting Jordache because their jeans made us so happy then. Seriously, it's over.

Some push for renovating BC Place: "Invest more money into it to generate revenue! Build a retractable roof!" Two words: Sky. Dome. Most people don't remember that the SkyDome was a financial embarrassment for the provincial government since its creation. It generated a $400 million debt before being sold for $85 million five years later. Not to mention the fact that it cost $570 million to build in the first place. Let's not make the same mistake. Nostalgia and pride isn't worth that much.

Don't bulldoze that b*tch!

Don't let alarmist news reports about the roof cave-in scare you away from the sacred ground that is BC Place. Most major cities have multiple stadiums, and we're fortunate to have BC Place Stadium and GM Place adjacent to each other. Don't let the aesthetics fool you; the stadium may be over 20 years old, but the facility still has some life left in her.

Just as New York City is defined by the Empire State Building, the mention of Vancouver often conjures the image of its beautiful skyline, a large part of which is the vast structure of BC Place Stadium. It is a grandiose symbol that helps define the city and has been home to some of the most memorable events in the history of the city.

Among those events we can count numerous Lions' games, including a rare 2000 Grey Cup win at home (a victory that neither the Pacific Coliseum nor GM Place have ever had the privilege of hosting,) Expo '86 (heretofore the most defining event in the development of the city) and visits by Queen Elizabeth II and Pope John Paul II. The structure has already been set as the site where the opening ceremonies for the 2010 Olympics will take place.

Sports are a favourite pastime of Vancouverites and BC Place Stadium has long been home to the BC Lions. The prospects of having the Lions play in Surrey will effectively kill a large portion of the team's accessibility.

BC Place isn't just a one-trick pony: It houses more than just BC Lions. Where would insomniac baseball, the boatshow, the car show go? It's also used for BC high school football, UBC intramural games; ultimate and soccer league championships.

Many also forget that the Stadium is home to the BC Sports Hall of Fame.

Other Vancouver venues simply cannot house the events that BC Place is capable of. It has been home to various trade exhibitions over the years at which Vancouverites have convened and exchanged both business and ideas. It would be impossible to hold them at venues such as GM Place, the Pacific Coliseum or the Agrodome, and to build a new centre to hold them would be too expensive.

BC Place serves a multitude of purposes for Vancouverites and is one of the city's biggest tourist attractions.

Don't be fooled! Handing over an icon of the city to those pesky local developers, who's modus operandi is to turn an already homogenous city landscape into more of the same will only embolden the epithet that Vancouver is a "no fun zone." Keep the dream alive people!

Streeters

What do you think we should do with BC Place after the 2010 Olympics?

—Wilhelm Tse
Applied Science, 1

"I have no idea."

—Brad Peter
Geology, 3

"Tear it down."

—Terrance Ng
Arts, 3

"Do something resourceful with it. I haven't put much thought into the specifics."

—Anthony Chu
Arts, 3

"They should make money off of this after it. For generating revenue, to give back to the public."

—Brenley Macleod
History, 3

"I don't really follow sports. I don't know what happens in BC place now."

—Coordinated by Caroline Chaung and Oker Chen

PERSPECTIVE

Academics, yuppies, hippies, hipsters?

by Maayan Kreitzman

While Alex Campbell's unfunny rant in this space on Tuesday hardly warrants a direct response, he does put forth several mythic constructions of interest, while leaving the realm of actual environmentalism well and truly neglected. While the people working toward sustainability on campus are indeed a community, they are a diverse, pragmatic and grounded one, undeserving of the simplistic scorn quite often directed their way.

Other than the annoying, repeated use of the singular *male* pronoun 'he' when referring to an entire (albeit fictional) species, Campbell dwells with alacrity upon antiquated notions of 'hippies,' UBC's eco-conspiracy propagated by professors and administration alike and the evils of grassroots movements generally. These three oft-repeated social memes contain stereotypes that would be better dispensed with.

The concept of a 'hippy' in the context of current environmental activism is a false parallelism. Your garden variety (and probably mythic) stoned, hemp-clad, bead-haired, Wreck-Beacher may not give a damn about the environment and why should s/he? Seventies' back-to-the-landers are no longer with us in youthful guises; the people that you imagine who both stopped the war in Vietnam and founded Greenpeace are not the substance of modern environmentalism. The environmentalists you see on campus are just as likely wearing a suit as a sarong. The very concept of 'hippy' is a dubious conservative construction that is not relevant to politics now, if it ever was. To relegate a modern political movement to a particular dated social stereotype is anachronistic and unfair.

The ever-present fear of being dogged by liberal conspiracies perpetuated by professors says more about one's own state of ignorance than those surrounding you. As a society, we must incorporate the environment into every aspect of our growth.

Regarding the issue of grassroots versus top-down, Campbell manages to denigrate both by branding one ineffective and the other fascistic. The environmental movement has used both approaches to forward goals. Anyone who is familiar with Al Gore, Stephane Dion, and the wide range of companies that have adopted 'green' policies will acknowledge that people in mainstream high-level political and business positions are fast realising how much sense it makes, morally and practically, to address issues of sustainability. The groups that comprise the bulk of the movement though, must necessarily be grassroots. It is citizens' groups and researchers that originally mobilised and convinced public figures of the sustainability message.

Here at UBC, we have seen the administration take some (disproportionately publicised) leadership on sustainability with the formation of the Sustainability Office. On the 'grassroots' side, a variety of student groups continue to advance their campaigns. These groups include the Student Environment Centre (SEC) resource group, Sierra Youth Coalition, Friends of the Wetlands, the UBC Farm, Sprouts, the Environmental Law Group, Sustainable Ambassadors and others. The AMS itself is in the process of adopting a sustainability policy.

This network of activism, while more fragmented than it should be, is a strong basis for realistic, comprehensive forward motion. The thoroughly informed, motivated students that form the grassroots environmental groups on this campus will not be living in isolated communes in ten years. They will be incorporating and institutionalising the things they learned as grassroots activists here at UBC in whatever direction they choose to take their lives.

—Maayan Kreitzman is a third-year science student

Help, Learn, Discover

by Nina Chan and Matthew Yan

Volunteer experiences can be gained throughout our current society. However, how often does one have the opportunity to provide need and support to those who live in a society that's very much underdeveloped when compared to ours? This past summer we had the fortunate opportunity to join the Ecuaexperience Program on a month long volunteer and learning project that can only be described as one of our most rewarding life experiences.

As we touched down on the city of Quito, the first thing that came to our attention was how similar it was to Vancouver. The city had its share of fancy skyscrapers, luscious green mountains, and beautiful people. But this is where the similarities ended. On top of being in a Spanish-speaking environment, what struck us most was all the children on the streets. Once we approached an intersection, the children, many without their parents, would run up to our van hoping to exchange whatever goods they had for some cash. This scene was repeated at most of the main intersections we came upon, and it became clear that this was the norm. It was moments like these that made us realise how most things in our lives are really insignificant.

Help. After witnessing a scene that is so common to many third world nations, we were committed to making a difference no matter how big or small its impact would be. We had the chance to live out our common dream—to provide help and comfort to those most in need. Using funds that we had raised, we were able to reconstruct an abandoned shelter and open our own medical clinic, providing diagnosis and medications to an extremely poor community with the help of a hired physician. The impact that the centre had on the community was immediate as the waiting room quickly filled up. Most of the patients that the doctor saw were young children and infants growing under the conditions of malnutrition and dehydration. Being able to provide even the most basic medical care for them was more rewarding than ever imagined. Even without the aid of modern technologies that come with the comforts of hospitals, we managed to put a smile on the face of those who came for our help.

Learn. Aside from the volunteer work, we were also given the opportunity to expand our knowledge of what it really means to be in the medical field. As patients went in to see the doctor, we were given the opportunity to shadow, learning about proper diagnosis techniques and taking vital signs. We were also given the opportunity to go on rotations in other hospitals and clinics. We were even given the opportunity to stand in and watch surgeries being performed right in front of our eyes. You like watching those live surgical shows on television? Well, you haven't seen anything until you're actually witnessing it in person!

Discover. Because a lot of our time in Quito was dedicated to working at the medical centres and in the hospitals, we had to be reminded that we were in an entirely differently continent, yet alone country. As avid tourists, we spent the weekends exploring the city of Quito, taking in all of its markets, historical churches and museums, and its nightlife. We also ventured past the city to the Amazon jungle, where we hiked, rafted, and made some memories along the way. These adventures often made us question why we did not explore the vastness of British Columbia more often.

Although the mantra of help, learn, discover mostly pertains to the volunteer work, medical experiences and expeditions in Ecuador respectively, the terms actually apply to every aspect of our lives. It is through helping in which we can learn about ourselves and discover our true capabilities. It is through our knowledge that we are able to provide help for others. As we sit here caught up in the complexities of life, it is through rediscovering that summer in Ecuador that allows us to escape back to the simplicities that are hidden beneath society.

—Matthew Yan and Nina Chan are fourth-year science students

Touching a Raw Nerve

by Patrick Bruskiewich

There is something disturbing that information about the general concerns of students, collected by universities, can only become public through the process of Freedom of Information. *Maclean's* published its annual survey of universities after having to use Freedom of Information to gather pertinent information about UBC.

In tort law there is a basic principle that the entity that pays for the work owns the work. Since the people of Canada finance UBC, information about the general concerns of our students belongs in the public domain and should not be hidden away.

The Fourth Estate, of which *Maclean's* is one of its active players, is a balance to the abuses that can arise in an autocracy. An institution like UBC is more than just a business. Providing more than just an educational service to many demanding and diverse individuals, it should also be a personification of our national spirit. Ours is a Liberal Democracy, not an autocracy.

If we find that our students are unhappy, it is not the end of the world to bare our breast and say yes we can do better. When you hide facts away, how is this going to help keep our national spirit alive and prosperous?

My theory as to why UBC last year decided not to cooperate with the *Maclean's* Annual Survey was because they described UBC in a way that touched a raw nerve. It portrayed this university as the last haven of socialism in Canada. It is a fair and accurate representation and is one of the main reasons why students are so dissatisfied with UBC.

Students arrive here expecting a modern education and instead have to put up with 19th century prejudices. Instead of learning, for instance, about modern Canada, they are lectured about Marx, Engels, Dewey and the dark political ages. There is little Canadian content at UBC and during much of the past decade some pretty disturbing things went on under the guise of "making this university international."

I can't understand, when the rest of the world is trying to become Liberal Democratic like peaceful and prosperous Canada, why many of the profs here at UBC would want us to become socialist like much of the troubled world? Most of the 150 million people who perished in the 20th century were victims of Marx's legacy—or have we forgotten this?

Only one in eight students are truly satisfied with their educational experience at UBC. They don't feel at home here or feel they are getting a modern education. It is a question of the role of the state, which is to educate, not indoctrinate. Our profs should be modern when providing an education and not proffering political prejudices. Most students here at UBC understand how much socialism is the measure of a lazy intellect and is bereft of modern scholarship.

For instance, when we want to learn about the Nobel Laureate Lech Walesa and his struggles to end totalitarian rule in Eastern Europe, we are taught instead the myths that created Soviet rule in the first place. Nor is the work of John Paul II and his efforts to bring democracy to Eastern Europe mentioned; instead it is Lenin, Marx and Dewey.

Recently when Canada asked NATO for help in Afghanistan it was Poland who came to our assistance. When President Ford passed away recently it was mentioned that he helped Canada become a member of the OECD. Historians will tell you it was because of the work Canada did, in particular Mitchell Sharp and Pierre Trudeau, in helping the US to extricate themselves from Vietnam. Canada, along with Poland, were members of the UN sponsored International Control Commission for Vietnam. You won't see this taught at UBC. Instead, it is the myth of the Soviet and socialism.

One very important step forward to help students at UBC would be to not hide public information from the Fourth Estate. UBC should welcome *Maclean's* and assist them in their annual review of universities to help UBC to become a modern university.

—Patrick Bruskiewich is a Ph.D. physics student

AMS INTERACTIVE

www.ams.ubc.ca

Events Calendar

AMS EVENTS THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Sue Johanson
Feb 1st, Totem Park Ballroom
7pm $3

Leeroy Stagger
Feb 1, Gallery Lounge,
8pm – free to students

Feb 2 – **SUS Cold Fusion w/ Thunderstruck!** (AC/DC tribute) 8pm $3

Feb 3 – **Classic Rock Tribute Show**. $3

Feb 4 – **Super Bowl Party** – Pit Pub

for more info visit
www.ams.ubc.ca/events

Vote in the AMS Elections on campus
Wednesday, January 31st from 9am-6pm.

Polling Stations are located at:
SUB South Plaza, SUB North Entrance, Bus Loop, Koerner Library, Vanier, Greek Village, Buchanan, Angus, Kaiser and Forestry

Unofficial results announced in the Gallery Pub on January 31st at about 8pm

Notice of Student Court Hearing

Take note that the Student Court is convening to hear the following matter: A reference from Student Council on the interpretation of the Court's previous ruling defining who is an AMS member, and what powers the AMS has in waiving fees, service entitlements, and voting entitlements of certain students.

The hearing is to be held at **1 pm on the 2nd day of February, 2007 in SUB Room 266J**. Persons desiring to give evidence or submissions on this matter are directed to give notice to the acting clerk of the Court before commencement of the hearing.

Sheldon Goldfarb, Acting Clerk of the Court,
c/o Executive Secretary, SUB 238

Job link AMS

Still looking for a part-time job this term?
Drop by AMS Joblink in SUB 249D for help with your resume, cover letter or interview skills!

The AMS is hiring…
The Executive Coordinator of Student Services is responsible for providing general supervision and guidance for the AMS Service Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators in the effective operation of the AMS Services. The ECSS is also the main point person between the Executives and Services and participates as a non-voting member at the Council and Executive meetings.
One-year appointment from ***March 1, 2007 to February 28, 2008.***

The position is open to all registered UBC students.
Please visit ***www.ams.ubc.ca/jobs*** for more information, including how to apply.

*Brought to you by **your** student society*

A LESSON FROM THE HOLY TRINITY

TWU Spartans at UBC Thunderbirds

	1st	2nd		
UBC: 17-2	43	42	85	Final
TWU: 8-12	38	39	77	

59 — 79

by Andrew Kim
SPORTS WRITER

To say that the UBC men's basketball team missed injured captain Casey Archibald Saturday against Trinity Western University would be an understatement. Let's face it; a healthy UBC squad would dismantle this season's mediocre TWU team, especially with Spartans leading scorer Brian Banman out due to injury. Instead, the new look Thunderbirds tantalised those in attendance by letting Trinity back in the game on more than one occasion, exposing weaknesses but also allowing for a few unheralded players to step up when called upon.

Like any good fairy tale, everything started well. The Thunderbirds opened the game on a 18-5 run, perhaps trying to prove that Archibald's absence wasn't going to affect their game. TWU's small lineup seemed unable to contain UBC's inside presence. But after regrouping, TWU came out and put the pressure on UBC's guards, creating turnovers, scoring off the rush, and forcing the T-Birds into taking low percentage shots. The result: a 10-0 run for Trinity that got them right back in the game.

UBC head coach Kevin Hanson's response was first-year guard Alex Murphy, whose ball-handling skill proved to be the solution to TWU's press. A see-saw battle ensued, but Trinity played some inspirational half-court defense to go into the break down by just five.

You had to give credit to the Spartans. Showing great energy and skill, the speedy TWU guards kept the pressure on UBC all night. Maybe the T-Birds had earplugs on during Hanson's halftime talk because their shaky defense, rebounding, and passing got worse as the second half got under way.

Thunderbirds fans, however, didn't have to worry for long. Third-year guard Chris Dyck got UBC's offence rolling by hitting some huge shots from behind the arc to keep UBC on top.

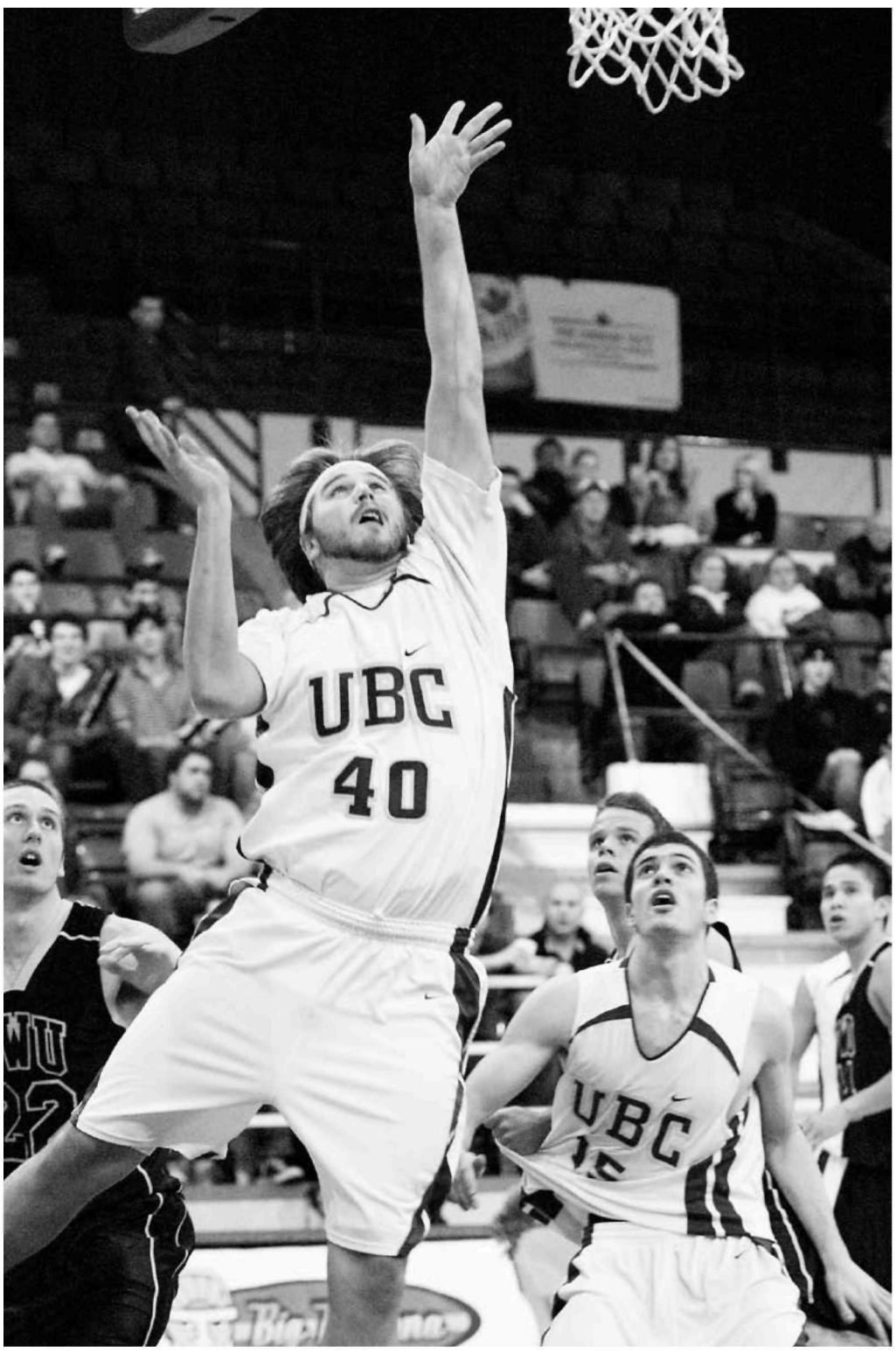
"Chris showed a lot of maturity tonight," said Hanson. "After a big night last night Trinity played him pretty tightly and he earned his hoops."

Murphy, who's shown a lot of poise for a first-year this season, calmed UBC's offence down in the second by cutting down on the dumb passes and mistakes that had been killing the Thunderbirds early.

To cap it off, Hanson switched to a zone defense in the latter stages of the game. Instead of assigning a defender to each attacker, the team formed a pentagon around the hoop. Coupled with a renewed concentration and focus and some strong play by third-year forward Bryson Kool on the boards, the zone defense proved to be the final blow for Trinity Western.

"It was a real test without Casey, both in terms of how many minutes he logs and the leader that he is," said Hanson. "When you take out Casey's point production, leadership, defence and basketball smarts, that's taking away a lot of our punch. Of course, it's a team game but one person can have a real impact."

Saturday's performance reaffirmed that the T-Birds are a good basketball team. But they can be better, especially when it comes to handling the ball and staying calm under pressure. Considering the playoffs start in a couple of weeks, this team has work to do.



THE DANCE OF A THOUSAND MOONS: UBC's Sean Stewart dazzles all on the way to the hoop, leaving opponents and teamates alike in awe. **KELLAN HIGGINS PHOTO**

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WOMEN ON TOP
A HILARIOUS COMEDY OF GENDER BENDERS!
Adapted from Assemblywomen by Aristophanes
Written by Matthew Klippenstein
Directed by Irina Templeton
January 27-30, 2007 at 8 pm
Detwiller Lecture Theatre, 2255 Wesbrook Mall
Regular Admission: $7 & $10
For reservation and information, call 778-885-4092
Just come to Room 23, the Ubyssey Business Office in the basement of the SUB, to receive your complimentary ticket.
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