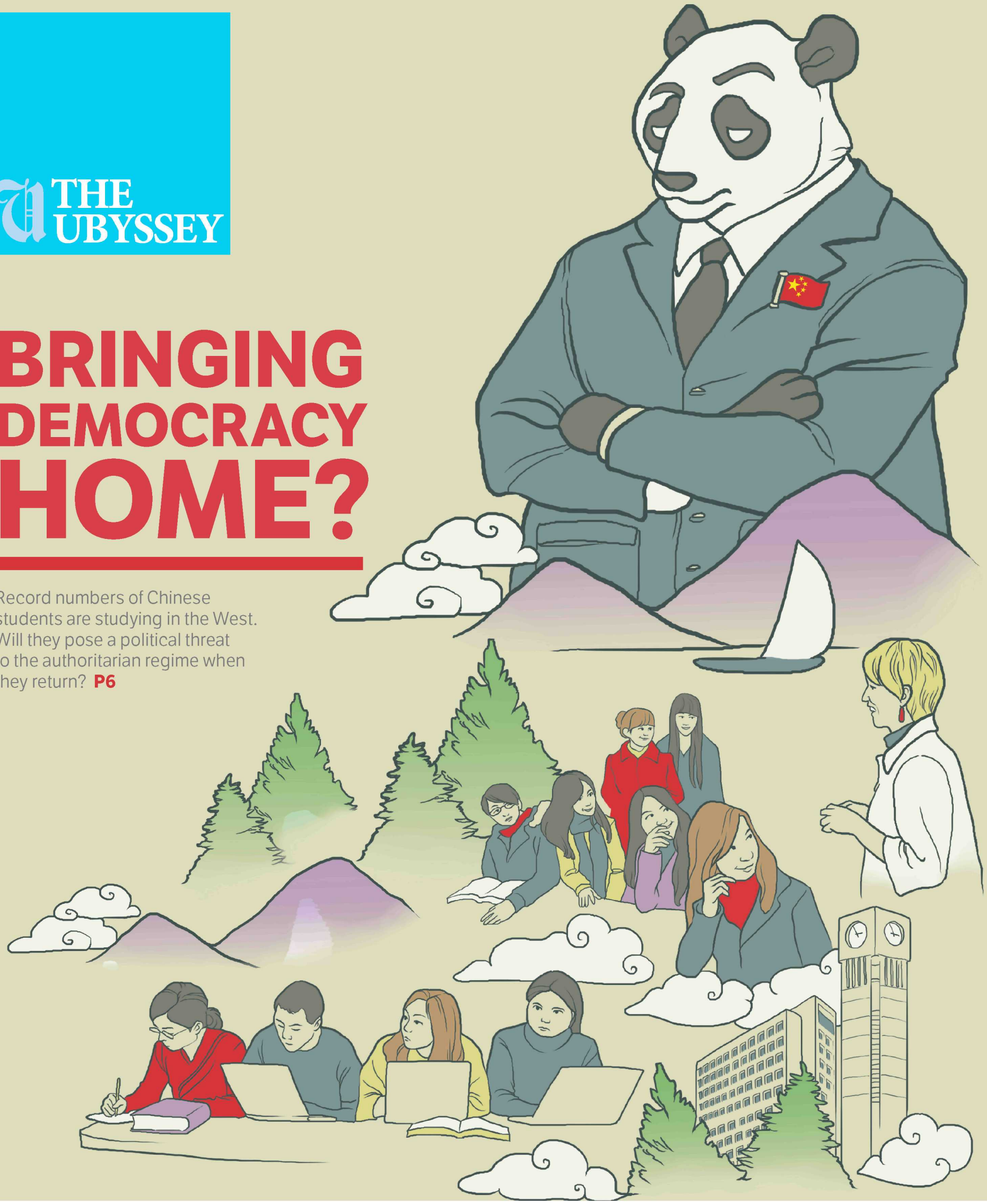
THE UBYSSEY

BRINGING DEMOCRACY HOME?

Record numbers of Chinese students are studying in the West. Will they pose a political threat to the authoritarian regime when they return? P6



IMMIGRATION CHANGES

Law revisions make it easier for international students to travel and get jobs off campus P4

EATING OUT

UBC students like fancy restaurants, but don't actually like sitting down P9

UBC SLIPS IN RANKINGS P3 NEW ASIAN-CANADIAN MULTIDISCIPLINARY MINOR P3 **WINE JARGON P10**
UBC TRIATHLETES ENTER PAIN CAVE P5 **MACINNES FIELD NOT DEAD YET P3** UNCOVER CRANE LIBRARY P10

WHAT'S ON // THIS WEEK, MAY WE SUGGEST...

MONDAY / 10

JAPAN FAIR
11 A.M.–3 P.M. @ SUB CONCOURSE
Organized by the Rits Real Japan Project, the theme for this fair is for students to learn the real Japan. The event coincides with the three year anniversary of the 2011 east Japan earthquake. Runs until March 12.

TUESDAY / 11

CANUCKS RECRUITMENT FAIR
11 A.M.–2 P.M. @ CENTRE FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT
Nope, not to play alongside the Sedins (although maybe these days it doesn't really matter) but to be part of the Vancouver Canucks/Rogers Arena staff team. Part time or seasonal event positions available.

WEDNESDAY / 12

UBYSSEY STAFF MEETING
12 P.M. @ SUB 24
Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them. We will be voting on whether or not to implement a pay structure for contributors next year and the theme for our annual spoof issue.

ON THE COVER

"We need a Chinese authority figure looking on."

"It has to be a face people recognize."

"What's the Chinese equivalent of Uncle Sam?"

"Let's do a dragon."

"What about a panda? It's more humanoid. And Stephen Harper held one."

Illustration Indiana Joel.

Want to see your events listed here?
Email your events listings to
printeditor@ubyssey.ca

THE UBYSSEY

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OUR CAMPUS // ONE ON ONE WITH THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE UBC

PHOTO JUSTIN LEE/THE UBYSSEY

Second-year comp sci student Justin Lee said he photographed UBC Holi by chance when his roommates told him of the event.

Colours of UBC

The Ubyssey, along with the Artona Group, held a photo contest soliciting images from UBC students that best captured school spirit. We received over 40 entries and our judges have picked Justin Lee's colourful photo of UBC Holi as the winner, beating out pretty scenic photos, squirrel closeups and more.

A second-year computer science student, Justin picked up photography when he was in Grade 6.

"On impulse I decided to document UBC Holi on March 30 on MacInnes Field. I had an incredible time photographing the event, and I think that my image shows not only the diversity of events at UBC, but also the fun we have as students at the university. I was, needless to say, covered in colours by the end of the event, as was my camera, but the images were worth it," Justin wrote in his caption.

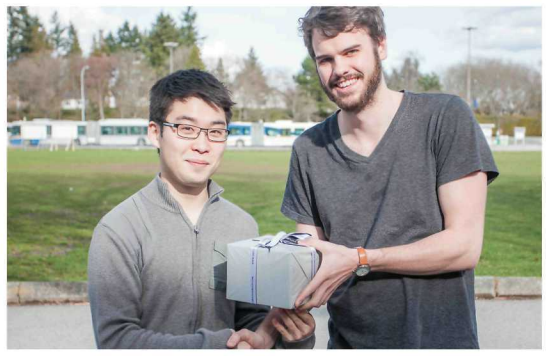

PHOTO CARTER BRUNDAGE/THE UBYSSEY

Justin Lee, left, poses with coordinating editor Geoff Lister.

He said it took a while to clean out the powder from his camera. Holi is traditionally a Hindu festival that includes the throwing of coloured powder.

"I've never seen anything like that before."

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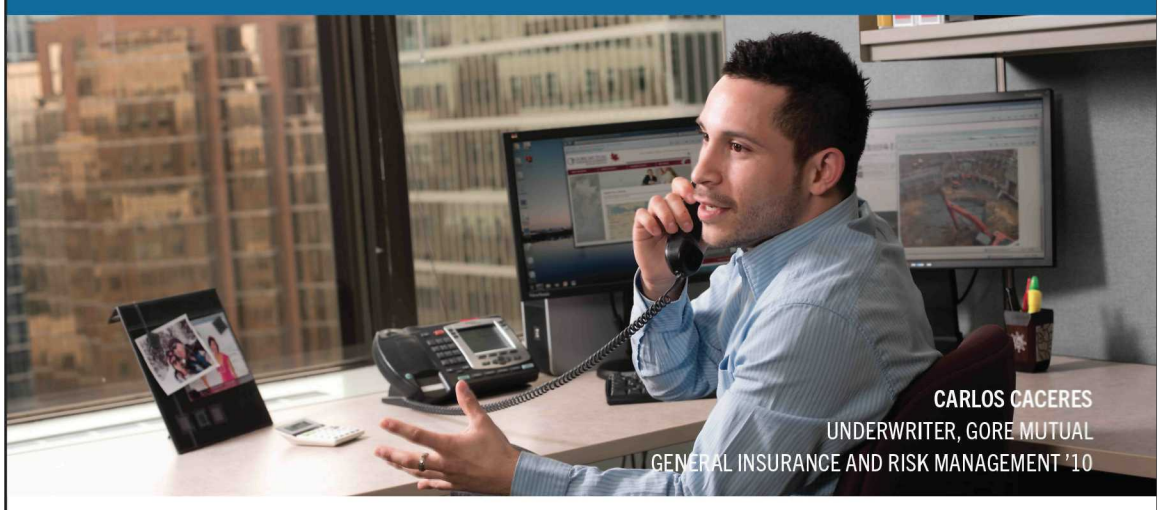

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ASIAN STUDIES »

FILE PHOTO STEVEN RICHARDS/THE UBYSSEY

The Asian-Canadian and migrations patterns minor will include courses on the history of people of Asian descent in Canada.

UBC adds new minor to honour interned Japanese-Canadians

Veronika Bondarenko
Senior News Writer

As part of an ongoing effort to honour and recognize the Japanese-Canadian students who were not able to complete their degrees as a result of being sent to internment camps during World War II, UBC is adding an Asian-Canadian and migration patterns minor to the Faculty of Arts.

The multidisciplinary program will allow students to focus on the history of Asians in Canada as well as the various cultural, political and socioeconomic issues affecting Asian-Canadians today.

Henry Yu, a history professor who helped push for the program, said the minor will bring together existing courses that are spread across departments such as English, film studies and history. Yu said that as the program expands and student interest grows, new courses will also be added to the mix.

Yu hopes the new program will allow more students to learn about the stories often left out of Candian history classes.

"The minor is a way of bringing in a broader sense of the history of Canada, in particular of a place like Vancouver, that reach beyond what we traditionally learn about the country as a place that was founded by the French and English," said Yu.

The minor is expected to begin in September 2014, but since all of the courses are currently available through other programs, some students will be able to graduate with the minor as early as November 2014, Yu said.

Ross King, head of the Asian studies department, also believes the minor is important for understanding and embracing the various communities that make up Vancouver, and Canada more broadly.

King believes the minor, which will allow students to learn more about the history of not only Japanese, but also Chinese, Punjabi, Persian and Filipino communities in Canada, will give students a chance to focus on topics that reflect their personal history or interests.

"There is a whole lot of different parameters or backgrounds that students bring to the class and this program is unusual in being able to program for some of that," said King.

Alden Habacon, UBC's director of intercultural understanding strategy development, hopes the new minor will not only allow students to walk out of the university with a deeper understanding of their personal history, but also make them more aware of some of the injustices Asian communities have faced in the past.

Along with a ceremony that granted honorary degrees to Japanese-Canadian students who couldn't finish their education during World War II and the preservation of internment camp records through the UBC library, the minor is one of three steps taken by the university recognize this period of history.

Habacon said the minor will help ensure that students remain aware of some of the issues that various Asian communities have faced throughout their time in Canada.

"It's more than just knowing the history. It's about making sure that the stories of those communities are recorded, documented and made a part of people's education," said Habacon.

CONSTRUCTION »

MacInnes Field may be open for Block Party

FILE PHOTO CARTER BRUNDAGE/THE UBYSSEY

Block Party has traditionally been held on MacInnes Field, located between the SUB and the bus loop.

Jovana Vranic
Staff Writer

The AMS may have been able to host Block Party on MacInnes Field this year after all.

For years, MacInnes Field, located just east of the SUB, has been the home of the Welcome Back BBQ and Block Party, two of the biggest annual AMS events. Due to plans to build a new Aquatic Centre on MacInnes Field, the AMS will be holding Block Party on Matthews Field this year instead. However, because of construction delays, MacInnes Field may be empty during the event.

Kavie Toor, director of facilities and business development for UBC Athletics, said the construction of the new aquatic centre was originally planned to begin in early January 2014. According to Toor, construction will been delayed until roughly the end of the 2014 spring term due to revisions to the project to keep it on budget.

"We're still in the latter sides of the planning phases," said Toor. "Even when you're in the last 10 to 15 per cent of planning, there's still all these things that could happen, so we have to be prepared to be nimble in making adjustments if we need to."

For the past two years, UBC and the AMS have been in contact regarding the new aquatic centre's construction. The project has been postponed multiple times, but Toor said the project is well planned and construction should begin in late March or early April.

The AMS was informed about a year ago that MacInnes Field would no longer be available for Block Party due to construction on the new aquatic centre. The AMS officially changed the event's venue in December 2013. Anna Hillar, AMS programming and events manager, said Block Party will still be held on Matthews Field this year, whether MacInnes Field is available or not.

"We're really hoping to make that side of campus our home for the Welcome Back BBQ and Block Party until the new MacInnes is ready," Hillar said. "I'm really hoping that everybody respects the neighbourhood. Otherwise, that would impact whether we can continue these events."

NEWS BRIEFS

Mining company donates $500,000 to support women in engineering

A mining company has donated $500,000 to UBC to create a new professorship in women in engineering at UBC.

Goldcorp, a gold producer based in Vancouver, donated the money last week shortly before International Women's Day.

The gift aims to address the historical shortage of women in engineering.

"Goldcorp has a history of promoting female leadership, diversity and inclusion, and we are confident that with this partnership, we can make great strides forward," said Applied Science dean Mark Parlange.

UBC researchers develop artifical muscles

A team of researchers have created artificial muscles using fishing lines and thread.

The team included a UBC professor and PhD candidate.

"In terms of the strength and power of the artificial muscle, we found that it can quickly lift weights 100 times heavier than a same-sized human muscle can, in a single contraction," said UBC professor John Madden. "It also has a higher power output for its weight than that of an automobile combustion engine."

Potential applications for the artificial muscles include prosthetic limbs and medical devices.

REPUTATION »

UBC falls two spots in Times rankings

Andrew Liang
Conributor

UBC has slipped two positions, from 31st to 33rd place, in the 2014 Times Higher Education rankings.

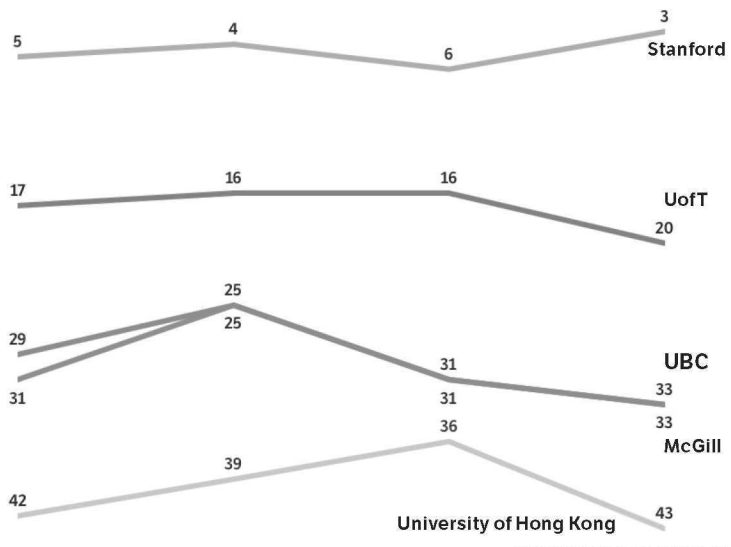
Graeme Menzies, UBC's director of prospective student marketing, communications and social media, said that while UBC does take note of the rankings when they are released, they generally don't give preference to the rankings from any specific firm.

"In terms of overall concern, what we do, because perhaps we are closer to it than the layperson maybe, we're a little bit more aware of the discrepancies or other issues that come in to play with the rankings, so we take them with a grain of salt."

Menzies said UBC is cautious about university rankings due to the discrepancies in metrics between various ranking firms, including the Shanghai index, Webonomics index and QS ratings.

"They all look at it differently and they come out with different results ... [and] even though they don't agree on where, they all agree that we're in the top 40."

Menzies said that while it is important to pay attention to the year-to-year ranking changes, it is the long-term performance and direction the university really cares about.



GRAPHIC GEOFF LISTER/THE UBYSSEY

UBC's reputatation has been neck and neck with McGill for the past three years.

"You need to look at the longer term and you need to look at the trajectory ... and also consider the age of [UBC], compared to the other major institutions ... most [of which] have been around quite a bit longer than we have, so I think it is a huge accomplishment to be [in the top 40] in a shorter period of time."

While university rankings may matter less for domestic students who have local word of mouth and reputation to go on, they can still greatly influence the decision for international students who may have little information about other universities besides the rankings provide

"It helps to be able to point to rankings," Menzies said. "Pretty much with whatever one you go with, the top 40 will work."

Connor Nechelput, a first-year Arts student from Singapore, echoed Menzies thoughts on the rankings.

"UBC looked really attractive because of its pretty high rankings. Although I wouldn't say it was the most important aspect of my decision to come here, there were loads of variables that came together," said Nechelput. "This slip seems pretty negligible to me. Universities are always moving up and down according to different rankings. So as long as I feel the school is continuing to provide for me and move in the right way it doesn't particularly concern me."

IMMIGRATION »

Immigration changes make off-campus work easier

Sarah Bigam
News Editor

A series of changes to Canada's immigration laws announced in February will make it easier for international students at UBC to work off-campus and travel in and out of Canada.

On Feb. 12, the government of Canada announced a series of changes which aim to "improve services to genuine students, while protecting Canada's international reputation for high-quality education and reducing the potential for fraud and misuse of the program," according to a press release.

As of June 1, study permits will automatically authorize the holder to work off-campus for up to 20 hours per week during the school year and full time during breaks without having to apply and wait six months for a work permit.

"I'd say it's one of the biggest changes, and it's one that we've heard students in the past tell us that they're quite excited about," said Michelle Suderman, associate director of international student development at UBC.

Co-op and on-campus work permits will not change.

Study permits will only be issued to people applying to "designated" institutions. According to Karen McKellin, executive director of the International Student Initiative, UBC will be one of those institutions. UBC is currently part of Education Quality Assurance, which identifies post-secondary institutions that meet or exceed B.C. provincial government standards.

"It's more for institutions that are private institutions that may not be currently recognized through the EQA mechanism," McKellin said. "Institutions like UBC that are public institutions that are funded by the provincial government and have to meet requirements through the University Act are not going to be affected by this."

PHOTO CARTER BRUNDAGE/THE UBYSSEY

Michelle Suderman says UBC is training its advisers to become certified by the new standards.

Starting June 1, students will no longer be able to remain in Canada until their permit expires if they complete their studies early. Study permits will become invalid 90 days after the completion of study unless the student has other authorization to stay in Canada.

UBC will also be required to report to Citizenship and Immigration Canada on international student enrolment twice a year.

"That's something that a number of institutions across Canada certainly raised concerns about," said Suderman. "We certainly don't want schools to be enforcers of immigration regulations. We want to make sure we have a great relationship with international students and can fully support them in being successful. Reporting on our students is not something that we asked the government to do."

Suderman was chair of a committee that represented several Canadian educational institutions to immigration Canada as this legislation was drafted over the past three years.

Additional changes regarding visas went into effect on Feb. 6. Now, visitors to Canada are automatically considered for multiple-entry visas. The application fee for this is now $100; previously, multiple-entry visa applications cost $150 and single-entry visa applications cost $75.

As well, the cost of study permits and renewals increased by $25 and work permits and renewals by $5.

"I kind of have two reactions to that," said Catherine Dauvergne, a UBC professor who specializes in immigration law. "One is, if you're an international student and you can afford to pay $15,000 in tuition then ... probably you have to have good financial resources already, so this kind of a change is not going to be significant. On the other hand, most people living on a student budget really don't have a lot of extra cash and every five or 10 dollars makes a difference."

Suderman said Canada's fees are modest compared to other countries such as the U.S., U.K. and Australia, with which Canada competes for the same international students.

The changes will also make it illegal for "unauthorized individuals" to advise a person on citizenship issues for a fee under the Strengthening Canadian Citizenship Act.

Suderman said that in May 2013, immigration Canada notified educational institutions across Canada that their current advisers were unauthorized. UBC has now hired several regulated Canadian immigration consultants to give advice to international students, and is also training current international advisers to become authorized.

"They've made some ... low-level changes that will make things easier and less bureaucratic, so that's good for students. But it's also important to remember that it's also good for the government and saves the government money," Dauvergne said.

Dauvergne said the largest concerns for international students, which are wait times for visas and separation from their families, remain unaddressed.

"That is a very difficult argument to overcome because students are poor, for the most part. And so when the Canadian government says, 'Oh my goodness, your scholarship's only $20,000 a year, you couldn't possibly support a kid on that,' it's really hard to argue against that because it's true, right?" said Dauvergne.

Wait times for a study permit can range from one week to 10 months.

"Every year we have students who are not able to start their program on time and have to start a whole semester later because the Canadian government just doesn't process their application on time," said Dauvergne.

"I don't think the changes are fixing the problems that are the really big problems. I think the changes are fixing the really little problems ... [but] it's good to fix something."

MINING »

Panel debates ethics, responsibilities of Canadian miners

Edmund Henry
Contributor

A three-person panel discussed the practices and responsibilities of Canadian mining companies in underdeveloped countries on Thursday night.

Panellists Marcello Veiga, a mining engineering professor, Philippe LeBillon, a professor with the Liu Institute for Global Issues, and third-year political science student Simon Child, who filled in for law professor James Stewart, were asked to discuss how large mining companies can navigate through local political and social climates effectively and ethically, while being environmentally sustainable.

According to Veiga, a major part of the problem is the lack of pressure from society to involve mining companies in improving conditions for workers and communities. Veiga said there is a lack of enforcement in environmental regulation and that companies like Exxon are "washing their hands" of the repercussions of that.

"[Local communities] don't care about the pollution," said Veiga. "They care about having something they can do; something the Canadians cannot do... it's employment. It's poverty."

Veiga said that, rather than alleviating the poverty of local communities, mining would "alleviate the poverty of mayors and politicians."

PHOTO CARTER BRUNDAGE/THE UBYSSEY

Marcello Veiga, Philippe LeBillon and Simon Child discussed the practices of Canadian mining companies on Thursday evening.

While Veiga remained skeptical on the effects of regulation by the large mining companies and government, LeBillon was hopeful for a stronger, more effective relationship between mining companies and local communities in the future.

When asked whether a trade off between economic development and ethical responsibility was necessary, LeBillon said "Yes, there are trade-offs but those trade-offs can be managed on both sides."

"What we're selling is fast growth, not sustainability. That's where the trade-off is," said LeBillon.

Child, originally from Colombia, raised concerns over the exploitation of local communities by the Canadian government.

"Yes, in Colombia and in the Congo there are local elites that are corrupt, but you have to ask what are the historical, structural reasons of why these countries are very corrupt.... This is something that's much more involved and is much more of what happens in Ottawa than what happens in the Eastern Congo," Child said.

He mentioned Plan Colombia, a US-backed aid package, as one example. "That's to protect pipelines," Child said.

The discussion was prompted by the announcement last October of a $25 million grant from the Canadian International Development Agency to fund the creation of the Canadian International Institute for Extractive Industries and Development, which will be operated by UBC and SFU. It was the fifth annual panel discussion hosted by STAND UBC, an organization that aims to end genocide and war crimes against humanity through advocacy.

"It was fantastic, turnout was bigger than we expected," said Courtney Loftus, STAND university chapter director, about the panel.

Cristina Oliveira, a third-year civil engineering major involved in Engineers Without Borders, said, "I think one of the last remarks by Marcello was a very critical point, that engineers are not isolated and what our work does is really to serve society. So we need to know the context of our projects and what impacts it has on our people and our community and the environment."

TRIATHLON »

UBC Tri-Du continues to attract professional triathletes

Reyhana Heatherington
Senior Lifestyle Writer

"Time to break away the cobwebs and head into the pain cave."

So read Nathan Killam's pre-race Twitter message as he geared up for his first triathlon of the 2014 season. Killam was one of 562 athletes who took on the cool Vancouver weather at the UBC Triathlon on Sunday morning.

Killam, a local professional triathlete, completed the Olympic-distance race, which included a 1,500-metre swim, a 40-kilometre cycle and a 10-kilometre run. Other events at the UBC Triathlon included the sprint and short triathlons, the duathlon (run-bike-run) and the swim-and-run aquathlon for kids.

The UBC event was Killam's first Olympic-distance race in his first racing season several years ago. Though the field of competitors is much smaller than other races Killam competes in — the Wildflower Triathlon in California draws 8,500 racers over three days — he appreciates the local element. The UBC event, a mere eight-minute drive from his Dunbar home, is a far cry from his experience racing in Abu Dabi where he only knew several fellow athletes and media personnel.

"It's always fun when I get to go and race at a community race that's local to where I live," he said. "All the people that I know in the area, they're all going to be there. Whether they're racing or spectating, they really bring up the level of excitement and enjoyment I can get out of a race."

But Killam wasn't always an elite athlete. A former fast food junkie, he made a lifestyle shift at age 18.

"One day I remember stepping on the scale and I saw 210 pounds and I was like, 'Whoa. I think it's time to make a change.' And then I started going to the gym and changed my diet completely."

After a snowboarding accident left Killam with a broken tailbone, he taught himself to swim as an alternative to running. Soon after, a friend suggested he try a triathlon. Now 60 pounds lighter, Killam suited up for his fourth season as a professional triathlete.

"Ever since that first triathlon about seven and a half years ago, I've been completely hooked," Killam said.

This year, the outdoor pool closure forced organizers to move the swim portion inside the UBC Aquatic Centre, which limited the capacity of participants. While the torrential rain from Saturday night let up for race morning, the Vancouver weather sets the UBC Tri/Du apart from most races, which take place in spring and summer and usually include open-water swims.

"It's a big difference when you're down in, say, Texas and it's 25, 30 degrees out and dry," Killam said. "[In Vancouver there is] a lot of layering up — jacket, gloves, stuff like that, just to make sure you don't lose any digits out there because it's so cold."

Killam trains 20 to 30 hours per week, including several sessions at the UBC Aquatic Centre with the Vancouver Masters Swim Club, run by renowned triathlon coach Bjoern Ossenbrink. One of the club's coaches is fifth-year UBC varsity swimmer Laura Thompson.

"I love swimming under Coach Laura. It's a lot of fun. She's really smart and she's really helped me and a lot of my teammates with our swimming," Killam said.

Thompson, a political science and economics student, competed in triathlons from age eight to 15 before focusing on swimming. Now, "Coach Laura" facilitates intense hour-long swimming sessions for local athletes.

"Normally, if someone were to go swim for an hour, they'd maybe get two [kilometres], three [kilometres] in, but sometimes we can get up to four kilometres and it's always high-intensity, high heart-rate sets," Thompson said.

Though a high-pressure environment comes with the territory of being an elite athlete, she appreciates the "unique" energy Killam brings to training sessions.

"Even on the days that it's really hard, he can still make it fun," Thompson said. "You don't find that a lot in intense sports, because when you're grinding day in and day out, often it's not easy to put a smile on."

PHOTO CARTER BRUNDAGE/THE UBYSSEY
Nathan Killam, a professional triathlete and firefighter, finished third at the 2014 UBC Triathlon.

But Killam thrives under pressure. He describes himself as "the smiley guy" and backs up his moniker with his race suit, which is adorned with a smiley face.

The pressure of racing is minimal compared to the stress of Killam's day job. As a full-time firefighter with the Delta fire department, Killam enjoys the camaraderie inherent in the job.

"It's really that team atmosphere that my sport was kind of lacking," he said. "It doesn't really seem like a job. It just seems [like] that other place I go. It feels like a win-win."

For Killam, the merits of doing triathlons include the unique community of competitors.

"I've done cycling and running races, but at a triathlon, those kind of people, they always seem to be friendly and they just want to have a chat and say 'hi.' It's a different breed of people, I think."

Killam finished in third place on Sunday with a time of 2:01:36, six minutes behind winner Jeffrey Symonds, a fellow pro and UBC grad. The women's Olympic distance champion was Jen Annett, who completed the course in 2:24:41.

FRISBEE »

The spirit of ultimate soars in Vancouver

Jaime Hills
Staff Writer

A rainy Saturday in March is nothing Vancouverites aren't used to, but most of us take comfort in the fact that we have nowhere to be but warm inside, and nothing to do but catch up on our sleep, our Netflix and possibly our readings.

On our very own UBC campus, however, a number of university athletes are doing what they love in the very weather that most of us hide from: playing ultimate. Players, coaches and fans alike line the field with umbrellas and soaked-through jackets. This in itself is the very essence of ultimate, playing for what Eliot Escalona calls the spirit of the game.

Escalona, a UBC student and media liaison for the Vancouver Nighthawks ultimate team, provided an abundance of information on a growing sporting community that is not as well known as the likes of football or soccer.

People might not have even heard of the Nighthawks or of the professional league they play in called Major League Ultimate (MLU). They might not know that Vancouver hosted the World Championships in 2008, right here at UBC, or that Canada has won eight world titles.

"There was an explosion in the sport community after Vancouver held the 2008 World Championships here at UBC," said Escalona.

Even those who are somewhat familiar with ultimate might not know that at higher levels, four field officials, called observers, are present, calling offsides, out of bounds and, in some cases, fouls. At some levels, fouls are only called when the officials' opinions are asked for, something a lot of athletes in other sports might be happy to see implemented in their own games.

Most UBC students also probably don't know that the second annual Douglas Bowl took place on Saturday at University Hill Secondary. With admission by donation, the showcase tournament featured the UBC Thunderbirds and two teams from the University of Victoria, UVictim and UVixens.

As any athlete at UBC knows, the rivalry with UVic is one that no one wants to lose. However, even though the Douglas Bowl was highly competitive, with players flying in every direction, the spirit of the game that Escalona spoke of was unmistakable. "At the end of the day, you acknowledge that you are playing the game because it is your passion and not because you wanted to crush the other team to the ground," he said.

This does not mean there's a lack of physicality or competitiveness during games. Every minute, players can be seen soaring through the air, diving on the turf and tumbling through the rain. But during and after games, the sportsmanship ultimate is known for is evident.

The spirit at the Douglas Bowl was incredible, with both teams shouting an assortment of chants, including a booming "Thunderbird, HOORA!" from the UBC squad.

The energy coming off the crowd matched that of the players, with every spectator shouting words of encouragement toward their team. Words specific to the sport were flying through the air with the disc, completele nonsense to an outsider listening in.

But the truest moment that showed the honest spirit of these players was when a Thunderbird man went down, and stayed down. His coach went onto the field and simply sheltered him with an umbrella. His teammates huddled around to check if he was OK. A UVic player took a knee beside him. When he got up, the UVic players were the first to clap for him as he walked off the field.

After the final whistle, both teams went to their respective sides and huddled up to talk post-game. They didn't rush off the field to get into the warmth, UVic didn't run around gloating and UBC didn't hang their heads from the loss. They both simply huddled, talked about the game, and let the rain fall around them.

With a professional league and a biennial world cup featuring four divisions and a junior world cup, ultimate is on the rise. It would be easy for it to slip into the attitude of many sports today: brutally competitive, with athletes stopping at nothing to come out on top.

But that simply is not the way ultimate works. Respect and sportsmanship are key and it is this spirit that separates ultimate and gives it the potential to bring together a bigger community all its own.

PHOTO KOSTA PRODANOVIC/THE UBYSSEY
The rain didn't stop the UVic and UBC ultimate teams from a spirited competition on Saturday at the second annual Douglas Bowl showcase tournament.

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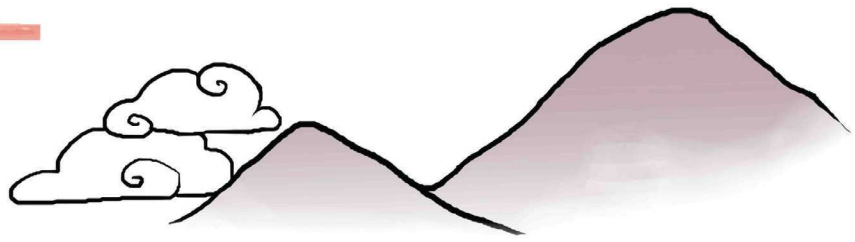
GOING HOME

Apathy, hostility, inability and fear: Why Chinese international students aren't bringing western politics back home



By Arno Rosenfeld

On Feb. 26, UBC very gently poked China in the eye, highlighting the increasingly complex relationship between western universities and the rising Asian power.

The poke came in the form of a talk given by Lobsang Sangay to at UBC's Institute for Asian Research. Sangay is the elected leader of Tibet's government-in-exile, which is more famously represented by the Dalai Lama and strongly opposed by the Chinese government.

Sangay's visit was mentioned in an email to the IAR mailing list and was listed publicly on a few websites, but was conspicuously missing from IAR's own online event calendar. The media were ordered to stay away.

As western universities have started establishing closer ties with China in recent years, they have tiptoed around the political issue of Tibet, a mountainous region in southwestern China. Sangay, the Dalai Lama and many others argue that Tibet deserves more autonomy or full independence; most academics outside of China accept Tibet as distinct and separate from the rest of China. But the government of the People's Republic of China considers Tibet an integral part of the Chinese nation and does not take kindly to governments and institutions that give a platform to Tibetan activists.

"The Chinese government firmly opposes activities by Lobsang Sangay in any country in whatever capacity aiming at splitting China ... and firmly opposes any organization or institute providing facilitation and platform for Lobsang Sangay," the Chinese embassy in Ottawa wrote in a statement to *The Ubyssey*.

This is the standard line taken by the Chinese government, as UBC is no doubt fully aware. Still, the university — which opened the UBC China Council this year, boasts over 50 agreements of various sorts with Chinese institutions and heavily recruits students from mainland China — said their decision to muffle the visit by Sangay, who the embassy statement referred to as "the so-called leader of [an] illegal organization," was strictly academic.

"We didn't want it swamped by the vast public interest," explained Tsering Shakya, a professor at IAR and a world renowned Tibet scholar. "Tibetan community members and activists ... and their questions and interests are so diverged from the academic interest."

But it was Lucie McNeill, director of UBC Public Affairs, who ultimately made the decision to block media from the event. In an interview, McNeill repeatedly cited the desire to create a "safe haven" for those in attendance to speak without worrying about whether their comments would turn up in a media report. But she hinted at another motive: creating parity between the treatment of Sangay and that of a group of Chinese politicians and intellectuals who visited the university in January.

That delegation, which included the deputy mayor of Tibet's administrative capital and the minister in charge of the Dalai Lama's former palace, was on a government-funded tour of North America and asked if UBC would be interested in hosting them. But they were also travelling with their own media delegation, and McNeill said she wanted to ensure the university wasn't used to promote China's political stance on Tibet.

"When Chinese officials travel, often they are accompanied by Chinese state media," McNeill said. "We thought that it would be preferable if UBC was not used as a backdrop for that kind of thing.

"We dealt with the situation with Dr. Sangay in exactly the same way that we dealt with the visit from the honoured guests from the People's Republic of China."

But while the university draws a clear parallel between the Chinese delegation and Sangay and other visitors from the Tibetan government-in-exile, only one of their causes is widely accepted and seen as humanitarian by the academic community outside of China.

"The position that most all outside take ... is that the policies of the Chinese government toward the Tibetan people are repressive and unwarranted," said Brian Job, a UBC political science professor who was involved in organizing Sangay's visit.

Job added that while there was good reason to listen to the Chinese delegation, their arguments were not accepted with the same legitimacy.

"The rationale for the Chinese position is ... clearly not necessarily to be sympathized with, but in order to understand the one, you have to presumably attempt to understand the logic of the other."

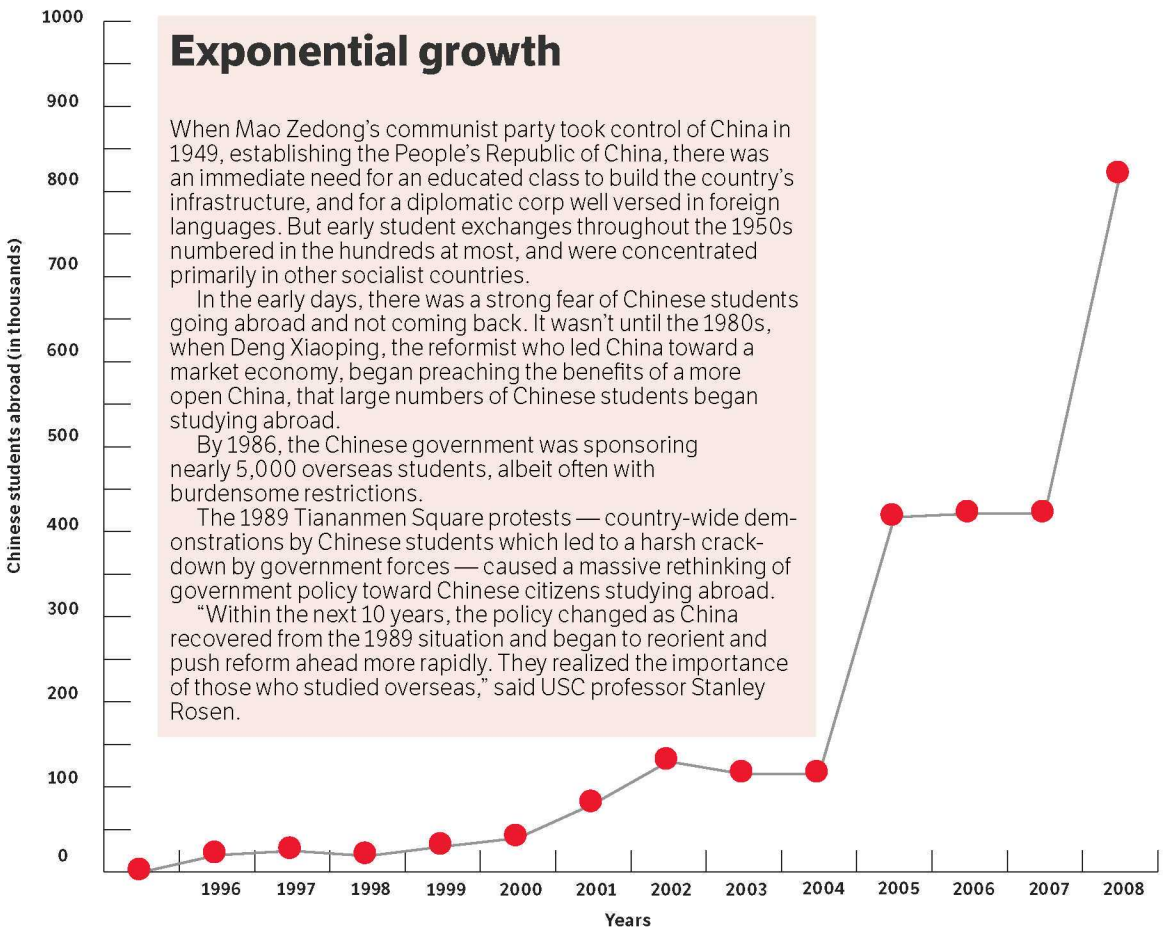
On balance, the treatment of the Sangay talk seems to have simply been an attempt by the university to avoid a political circus over what can be a hot-button issue for many. The university has previously given the Dalai Lama an honorary degree and hosted a major Tibetan studies conference in 2010, and UBC professors freely voice criticism of the Chinese government.

But the event serves to highlight a larger issue. As hundreds of thousands of Chinese students travel abroad to attend university in western democracies, will they start to embrace more liberal values and perhaps even causes like Tibetan autonomy? And just what does the authoritarian Chinese government think about so many of their citizens spending many of their formative years in countries where they are exposed to information and ideas censored or suppressed within China?

A DELICATE BALANCE

There seems to be an inherent contradiction in a country that shuns liberal democracy encouraging its young to go learn in western democracies. On top of the possibility of Chinese students studying at UBC and other universities in North America or Europe adopting political beliefs that clash with China's government policies,

> "The position that most all outside China take is that the policies of the Chinese government toward the Tibetan people are repressive, and unwarranted.
>
> **BRIAN JOB**
> Professor
> Institute for Asian Research, UBC



Exponential growth

When Mao Zedong's communist party took control of China in 1949, establishing the People's Republic of China, there was an immediate need for an educated class to build the country's infrastructure, and for a diplomatic corp well versed in foreign languages. But early student exchanges throughout the 1950s numbered in the hundreds at most, and were concentrated primarily in other socialist countries.

In the early days, there was a strong fear of Chinese students going abroad and not coming back. It wasn't until the 1980s, when Deng Xiaoping, the reformist who led China toward a market economy, began preaching the benefits of a more open China, that large numbers of Chinese students began studying abroad.

By 1986, the Chinese government was sponsoring nearly 5,000 overseas students, albeit often with burdensome restrictions.

The 1989 Tiananmen Square protests — country-wide demonstrations by Chinese students which led to a harsh crackdown by government forces — caused a massive rethinking of government policy toward Chinese citizens studying abroad.

"Within the next 10 years, the policy changed as China recovered from the 1989 situation and began to reorient and push reform ahead more rapidly. They realized the importance of those who studied overseas," said USC professor Stanley Rosen.

What's behind the growth?

In the years following Tiananmen, the Chinese government announced new policies encouraging students to study abroad and guaranteeing that those who left and came back to China would be allowed to leave the country freely. Where they had previously feared a "brain drain" as Chinese students left the country and didn't return, the government began to see they could still benefit from such students, Stanley Rosen, a USC political science professor who has served as co-editor of *Chinese Education and Society*, explained.

"Even if you get a job in an American or Canadian university, for example, you can still do joint research projects — in fact, even bring back new technologies," Rosen said. "So they had a much more farsighted policy toward what it means to study abroad."

The policy change, combined with increasing globalization and a growing number of high school graduates that exceeded the capacity of Chinese universities, meant that by the new millennium massive numbers of students were traveling to foreign countries for their education.

By 2001, over 120,000 Chinese students were studying in foreign universities, up from around 20,000 in 1996. In 2008, 820,000 Chinese international students were studying abroad, according to the China Scholarship Council.

Will Wang, president of UBC's Chinese Students and Scholars Association, said 90 per cent of the group's members were born in mainland China. Wang said the club has produced around 1,500 alumni in the Vancouver area as a result of its more than 30 years of existence. Yet the CSSA's current active membership is nearly 1,000 students strong.

"Before, it was just a very small club. I think there were only so many Chinese students," Wang said. "Now, we have new members who just came from mainland China — we have around 500 new members every year."

China is the foreign country that sends by far the most students to Canada, according to the Canadian Bureau for International Education. Increasing 296 per cent since 2001, China sent 80,627 students to Canada in 2011.

In 2013, the 2,523 Chinese students at UBC accounted for 27 per cent of international students, up nearly 1,000 students since 2011.

Higher education outside of China has become to go-to option for those with the means, especially now that official policies are supportive of such travel.

"The government encourages them to go, and in particular government officials all want their kids to be educated abroad, particularly in western countries," said Suisheng Zhao, a professor at Denver University and director of the Center for China-U.S. Cooperation. "They all agree the Chinese education is not as good," he added with a laugh.

> They come into my office almost every week saying, "I didn't know any of this," —about their own country! What does that mean for when they go back?

THOMAS B. GOLD
Professor of Sociology
UC Berkeley

there's also the possibility they simply won't return to China.

Still, for a variety of reasons, the government continues to encourage the temporary exodus of its best and brightest.

"They certainly would like more people to go back directly, but I think they take a long-term perspective on this and see it as a net positive," said David Bachman, a University of Washington professor who chaired the school's China Studies program for many years.

Those who don't immediately return, or never return permanently, can still build economic links between China and the West and facilitate more opportunities for Chinese students and scholars abroad, Bachman said.

Of course, the many who do return are also critical in developing China's economy.

"In terms of upgrading China's science and technology — of helping transfer research techniques and state of the art technology, or at least state-of-the-art knowledge — that's obviously a major impetus for the whole program," said Bachman.

China is also trying to cope not only with the masses of high school graduates fighting for limited space at the country's top universities, but also with the unemployed graduates of those universities who fight for increasingly precious job openings. With restive youth serving as the core of many Middle Eastern uprisings that overthrew authoritarian regimes in 2011, the Chinese government is loath to allow this problem to fester.

"Students going abroad releases some build up of potential pressure," said Thomas B. Gold, a sociologist at the University of California Berkeley specializing in Pacific Rim societies.

NON-POLITICAL CONCERNS

Despite the benefits, encouraging Chinese students to study abroad creates all sorts of problems for China — though perhaps not the ones westerners imagine. For the most part, they aren't bringing liberal values back to China.

"We tend to overplay the political agenda of kids who go abroad," Gold said. "The United States, some 30 years ago, had this hope that when they come up to the United States they would be entranced by our system. That they would immediately go home and want to change things, which didn't happen, and isn't going to happen."

Those international students who do stay abroad after graduating tend to do so not out of a love for western politics, but out of worry over things like finding good work and pollution and food safety concerns back in China.

"If there's a pretty good job opening, there'll be thousands of people trying to apply," said Will Wang, president of UBC's Chinese Students and Scholars Club, who came to Canada for school and is now staying to work at a Vancouver law firm.

Spending a few years in western countries post-university can boost job prospects for Chinese students when they return home, Wang said.

"They think it will be beneficial for them to work first, for a while, and learn something. Then they can go back to China with a higher starting point or more experience," he said.

Some who decide to stay seem to prefer something about life in the West, even if they can't articulate what that is.

"I hear, and many of my friends think, living in North America is somehow more comfortable than living in China," Wang said. "Either the environment, or the nature of their work — I don't really know."

Similarly, the problems for those who do return are, if somewhat ideological, rarely explicitly political in nature.

"You do have a certain amount of resentment and lack of trust," Gold explained. "'Well, that person has lived abroad too long — they're not going to fit into our organization.'

"Especially if it's a state-owned enterprise, highly politicized, and the Communist Party's hold is still pretty great, if these kids have gone to Berkeley or UBC, then they don't 'listen,'" Gold said. "They approach things from a technical standpoint as opposed to a political standpoint."

Chinese citizens who return after a foreign education can cause jealously if they jump ahead of others simply due to their superior credentials. This also slows the impact of students who do return with changed ideologies, as their rise in government may be stunted.

"Clearly the Chinese scientists and scholars and engineers who don't go abroad feel a certain amount of jealously of these people who've gone abroad — particularly if the Chinese government moves them into positions of authority right away," Bachman, the Washington professor, said.

The western-educated Chinese have equal resentment over the fact that opportunities often come about not based solely on merit but because of networks of political contacts, which those who studied abroad haven't had as much time to construct, Bachman said.

'THE SYSTEM' IS STRONG

Of course, some students do return home to China with a new perspective on the Chinese political system.

Gold is currently teaching a course on Chinese society and says the class has many students from China who are shocked to learn information that was never taught in China.

"They come into my office almost every week and say, 'I didn't know any of this, I didn't know any of this' — about their own country!" Gold said. "But then, what's that going to mean when they go back?"

The students now back in China that Gold has kept in touch with describe an internal struggle between continuing to think critically about their government's actions and perhaps trying to instigate change and just going with the flow, setting aside what they learned abroad. But even those who would like to create substantial change have few opportunities, giving the government little reason to worry.

"The Chinese government assumes when they come back that 'the system' is still strong enough to keep them in line," Gold said. "If they want to get ahead then they're going to have to buckle down and play by the rules."

As for the change that may take place over time as hundreds of thousands, eventually millions, of Chinese students return home with western educations, the government may simply not mind. The Chinese elite expect, and in fact often want, the political system to gradually become more open and democratic, said Suisheng Zhao, head of the U.S.-China Cooperation Council and professor at the University of Denver.

"They all understand China has to be changed," Zhao said. "They just don't want the change to come overnight."

According to Zhao, nothing more than gradual change is even conceivable, given that it has only been in the last three to four years that significant numbers of Chinese have been returning home from study abroad. It will take time for them to readjust to Chinese society, and for enough international students to come back to the villages and non-cosmopolitan parts of China. Zhao placed the timeline for the study abroad students' impact to be seen in Chinese government at 10 to 30 years.

It is also not as if the Chinese government gives up control over their citizens when they go to Canada or elsewhere for university. Those who spend their years abroad involved in activism viewed unfavourably by Chinese authorities have difficulty finding work back home, and for those who don't return, their families may be hassled, Rosen, the USC professor, said his research has found.

Being well connected in the Chinese political system is essential, even for work at multinational corporations without a political ideology of their own.

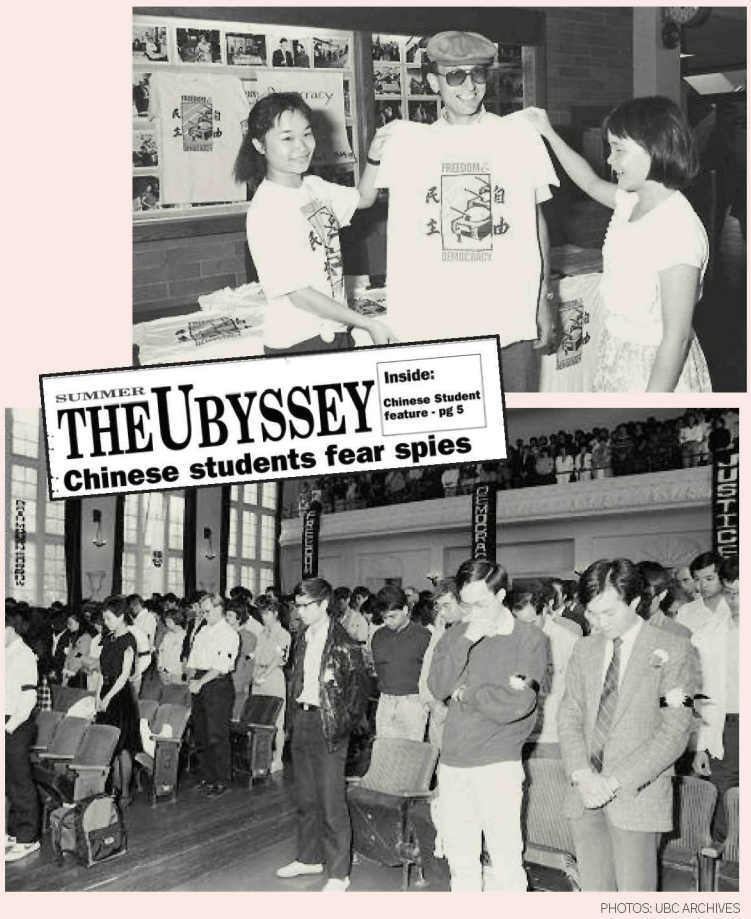
"They like to hire people who are members of the Chinese Communist Party because they're more obedient," Rosen said of such companies. "In addition to following chains of command and hierarchies, they tend to be fairly well connected."

"Anybody who seems to have 'aberrant values,' in terms of western democratic values which they're pushing, they won't get hired," he said. "Most people don't realize what the limits are, what the constraints are in China."

(continued on pg. 8)

> Anybody who promotes western, democratic values, they won't get hired. Most people don't realize what the constraints are in China.

STANLEY ROSEN
Former editor of *Chinese Education and Politics* and USC professor



PHOTOS: UBC ARCHIVES

In the summer of 1989, following the Chinese government's crackdown on the Tiananmen Square protests, Chinese international students studying at UBC claimed they were being monitored by their own government, with threats of jail or sanctions for their family back home. Above: at the time, UBC students made pro-democracy T-shirts. Below: community members attended a memorial at UBC for student activists killed in the Chinese government's crackdown on the student activists in China.

'We're fearful of going'

For students who think they can cover up their activist work, there is good reason to suspect the Chinese government is actively monitoring what their students do abroad.

Following the crackdown on Tiananmen Square protesters, Chinese students at UBC reported being intimidated by their government: "Chinese students fear spies," read a front-page headline in a July 1989 edition of *The Ubyssey*.

Students described being intimidated by China's education consul in Vancouver, who would create blacklists of Chinese students and phone them with angry messages regarding their political activity and implicitly sentence them with jail upon their return to China. While the Canadian government agreed to extend the visas of Chinese students studying in the country and afraid to return home, one student told *The Ubyssey* that accepting Canadian refuge would have had dire consequences.

"If the Chinese government finds out, that person is considered a traitor. In Chinese law, treason is the number one crime and consequences are unpredictable," a student going by the pseudonym Li Cheng told the newspaper. "In the past, the families of traitors have been sent to the countryside."

Despite the serious reforms made by the Chinese government in the years since 1989, students say they are still monitored and pressured by the Chinese authorities.

When the Dalai Lama spoke in Berkeley recently, Gold said several of his Chinese students emailed him with a hyperlink to a live stream for the event, saying he should distribute it to the class so people could watch online instead of attending the speech.

"They didn't say by who, but they said, 'We were told people would be there noting who was there, who shows up; and so we're fearful of going,'" Gold recalled. "I think word comes out from the Chinese consulate or Chinese embassy, either directly or indirectly, like, 'You shouldn't show up, you shouldn't go to this. Or, 'Don't forget the Dalai Lama is a separatist and harms our nation.'"

"There's an assumption that some [students] are keeping tabs on the others and writing memos... which is probably true," Gold added.

Wang, the CSSA president, said Chinese students in Vancouver weren't exempt from such pressure.

"There are certain things that all international Chinese students won't do, I think primarily because they think, well, it might have some negative impact when they're going back to China," Wang said. "I think the experience in Berkeley could be similar compared with here."

(story continued from pg. 7)

SELF-CENSORSHIP AT UNIVERSITIES

As China's economy and global influence has grown, North American universities have begun opening campuses in the country and partnering with the Chinese government.

Chongqing is a major city in south-central China located on the Yangtze River and home to over 30 million people. In August, UBC President Stephen Toope travelled to the city to sign the UBC-Chongqing Strategic Cooperation Agreement, a five-year deal meant to increase collaboration between UBC and major Chongqing universities.

As a university statement at the time read, "It is the first time UBC has entered in such a wide-ranging agreement with this level of government in China — the city has provincial government status."

Such agreements inevitably put pressure on universities not to offend their new partners, Rosen said.

"You don't do things you know will upset the Chinese, especially if there's no real benefit," Rosen said. "Universities, no matter what they say, inevitably will be concerned with the Chinese reaction."

Still, even as they try to promote things like their Tibet policy abroad and perhaps shield their own citizens from what they consider subversive anti-China sentiment, the Chinese government recognizes that it can only go so far in pressuring foreign universities.

Shakay, the Tibet expert at UBC, said when the Chinese government protests visits by leaders like Sangay and the Dalai Lama, they are doing more than paying lip service to official policy. In 2010, the University of Calgary was removed from the Chinese government's list of accredited schools after the Dalai Lama was awarded an honorary degree by the university.

But the Chinese government did not take a similar action after UBC awarded the Dalai Lama a honorary doctor of laws in 2004, suggesting more prestigious universities are given deference.

"It's not just lip service," Shakay said, "But I mean, Harvard University hosts the Dalai Lama almost every year, and so are they going to say, 'We're not going to recognize degrees issued from Harvard?'"

Rosen agreed that some universities feel pressure more than others. When it comes to hosting the Dalai Lama, some universities could care less what the Chinese government stance is, he added.

"They say, 'You know, screw you. This is our country and if we invite him as a religious figure or as a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize we're going to do it. You don't interfere in our internal affairs.'"

SHRUGGING AT THE WEST

But all this comes with an enormous caveat, one that may come as a surprise to Canadians and Americans: many of the returning students don't really want China to change.

With the exception of a handful of dissidents, students who return to China are unlikely to agitate for a society more like Canada's. Much of the reason for this comes from simple apathy paired with inertia; while students may find liberal values somewhat appealing, they lack a strong political agenda and don't want to invest energy battling the Chinese political establishment.

"Most people who study abroad who do go back understand very well the nature of the political system," Rosen, the USC professor, said. "They don't try to make any waves politically, but simply try to build a good life for their families."

Wang said while after living in Canada for several years he has some appreciation for the political system in Canada, he is not compelled to draw direct links back to China. He thinks this view is representative of many of his fellow Chinese international students at UBC.

"I realized that probably the system here has its advantages, but when I'm going back home to China I don't necessarily search for that," he said.

Rosen said studies have shown that young people returning to China do describe modest changes in their political activity.

"They participate politically just by going on the Internet, the microblogging services like Weibo, or by talking to their families — nothing beyond that," he said. "They know they can't really make a big impact."

STRENGTHENED NATIONALISM

Even those modest activities, and Wang's tepid endorsement of some aspects of Canadian democracy, assume Chinese students find the political systems abroad at least somewhat favourable to what exists at home. But experts say the bulk of Chinese students studying in North America either never take the time to understand the new system of governance, or they are actively opposed to it for one reason or another.

Bachman said that due to language barriers and other factors, students from China often keep to themselves and, despite studying in the United States or Canada for four years or more, don't become integrated into the local culture, political or otherwise.

"I don't know that they're getting a full exposure to American life or American values," Bachman said of the international student population from China at the University of Washington. "Often they room with each other, they hang out with each other; my sense is that some, particularly those who are not confident about their English, don't mingle that much with American students."

Wang said a similar phenomenon occurs at UBC and that despite efforts on the part of his club, and to some extent the university, many Chinese international students fail to branch out.

"When they are hanging out with the Canadian students, they talk about something like hockey or movie stars or celebrities that the Chinese students don't necessarily know, so it's very difficult for them to build up their friendships to a higher level," he said.

He added that in addition to language and cultural barriers, in leaving their families in China many students become overwhelmed by studies and errands in their first few weeks and months in Canada.

"During this time, they're already not fitting in, so they won't necessarily try harder to when they've already gotten used to a certain way of living — which is hanging out primarily with Chinese students who speak the same language and have the same social background," Wang said.

Zhao said this insularity includes the information they consume, even when they have access to news sources and political ideas that were censored back home.

"They mostly read Chinese language newspapers and have kind of patriotic feelings," Zhao said, mentioning another factor. The children of Chinese elite studying abroad may have no incentive to change the system at home which so greatly benefits them as is.

"A lot of them are from privileged families," he said, laughing. "[They] drive Mercedes, BMW."

While this no doubt leaves many international students from China unmoved when it comes to "Canadian values" and western democracy, it actually has the effect of turning them even more toward Chinese nationalism than if they had stayed at home.

"It was suggested to me by one of my Chinese students that in fact they were radicalized, or made more anti-American, by their experience; that they didn't feel a part of American society, that they felt excluded and that much of what they saw they weren't sure they liked," Bachman said. "When they did have American roommates, they tended not to work as hard, they tended to party more; the degrees of personal freedom that they had, or exhibited, were ones beyond the bounds for many Chinese students."

"American culture is seen as attractive, and, 'Gee ... don't the Chinese want to be like us?' and in a lot of cases the Chinese say, 'We'd like to be rich, we'd like to be prosperous like the United States or Canada — but we don't want to be like you.'"

Gold said that as much as perceived discrimination might breed hostility toward western society, being abroad can also just simply make one appreciate their home country.

"If I live abroad, on the hand I see the flaws back at home, but on the other hand, I see some strengths of the United States," Gold said. "I think a lot of the Chinese feel like, 'Well, this is still my home.'"

Further, Rosen argues that so-called western values can actually compel a nationalism in Chinese students who get a taste of the political ideologies of North America or Europe.

"The concept of national interest has really become more important, that every state, whether it's Canada, the U.S., European countries — they're all pursuing their national interests, so why not support China's national interest?" he said.

CHINA IS NOT ALONE

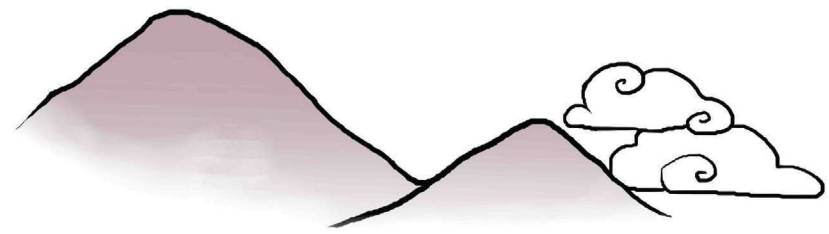
That the West does not have magical powers when it comes to indoctrinating international students makes sense when one considers that many other undemocratic countries also let their youth study in the West.

Saudi Arabia, a country even more authoritarian than China, accounted for 5.4 per cent of international students in Canada in 2012. While the Saudi government has long helped its citizens study abroad, it has increase those efforts since the Arab uprisings of 2011, said Hani Faris, a UBC professor specializing in the Middle East.

In fact, Faris said the Saudi government spends billions of dollars annually funding the full costs of tuition and living expenses for citizens and their families studying abroad.

"There's a feeling that you really need to show largess to maintain the loyalty of these youth," Faris said. "You show them largess, you show them that they owe their government loyalty."

Faris said that whether or not students came back favouring democratic values, the government expected that they would still respect Saudi laws and customs. He added an intriguing point: while the political systems in Canada and the United States, for example, are in many respects the polar opposite of the Saudi system, it is unlikely young Saudis will be radicalized in the West as opposed to elsewhere.



> They mostly read Chinese news and have kind of a patriotic feelings. A lot of them come from privileged families.

SUISEHNG ZHAO
Professor
University of Denver and head of U.S.-China Cooperation Council

"It'd be much more dangerous were they [to] be sent to places like Russia or China or India or Brazil, because there they could take on radical notions, so the policy is to send them to western countries which are the political and economic allies of the Saudi government," Faris said.

Faris added that Saudi government officials overtly and perhaps covertly monitor their citizens abroad, similar to the whispers of Chinese government pressure on their international students.

"They have governmental offices to look after these students," Faris said. "Now, whether they use other elements, other mechanisms, I don't know. Do they send their own people to monitor the activities of these students? I have no idea. I wouldn't be surprised if they do."

CHANGE ON THE HORIZON?

While there is wide agreement that few international students are returning to China ready to launch massive demonstrations demanding an end to one-party rule, there is a sense that as the number of Chinese studying abroad increases, the government back home will eventually start to open up.

"They want Chinese politics to be more participatory for sure, because these people have very good education from the West and they experience the West as an open and participatory political environment," said Zhao, the University of Denver prof. "But that will take a while."

Wang, the CSSA president, said his club encourages its members to take part in Canadian democracy.

"We try to encourage them to vote and just adopt the western political culture," Wang said. "It's just difficult because the majority of our members are coming from mainland China and when they come to Canada ... their way of thinking is already built up, so it's difficult to change."

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Fast food lifestyle, slow food culture

Why UBC restaurants are adopting a hybrid service model for newer generations of students

PHOTO STEPHANIE XU/THE UBYSSEY

In 2011, UBC's White Spot rebranded itself as a Triple O's in order to accommodate massive student numbers.

Angela Tien
Staff Writer

Fifty per cent: that's the failure rate of most restaurants in the first three years.

However, a spate of new or rebranded restaurants which have all opened on or around the UBC campus in recent years have managed to defy this pattern, and they share one thing in common: a service model based off of lounge-style seating paired with fast food.

The list includes the old White Spot at the corner of Main Mall and Agricultural Road, which was rebranded as a Triple O's in 2011; the Pendulum Restaurant, which combined with the Gallery Lounge in the current SUB until the New SUB opens; Mercante in Ponderosa Commons; and also the new non-UBC affiliated 5 Tastes Chinese Bistro in the centre of the Village.

Sauder's assistant professor of marketing and behavioural science division, JoAndrea Hoegg, believes that a restaurant's success at UBC depends on the ability to balance the efficiency students want and the numbers that companies want to see.

"The system they have now, students that want [can just] come in, get their food, and just go ... and then for those that want to stay and spend their time, they can; they're not using up all the chairs and all the places," said Hoegg, referencing the Gallery and Triple O's business model.

"Students like to have places they could talk and hang out and study, but the restaurant success is about getting enough turnover, particularly for a lunch crowd with the turnover, and [at] UBC we're really only talking about lunch. Having them move quickly is very important for the restaurant, but students that want to sit, generally want to stay."

Hoegg believes a campus restaurant is successful when it upholds that cross-purpose, like the Gallery and Triple O's.

"I think it's a way of achieving both those services."

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

The Ubyssey spoke with Nancy Toogood, the AMS food and beverage manager, about high customer turnover at the Gallery.

Toogood said the Gallery usually has around 374 people going through on quiet days. On average, 50 per cent of those people stay in the restaurant during lunchtime simply because there's seating available. In the afternoon, the average goes up to 70 per cent of people staying in the restaurant. She believes these numbers show that UBC students want to have a space where they can eat, study or socialize.

"The nicer seating you have — the minute it's a comfortable place to relax and lounge — you automatically start to encourage students to come hang out," Toogood said. "It should feel welcoming, but [not] expensive. They'll come in with two or three friends for two or three hours and the atmosphere is more conducive to that."

When students think about food, they think about just that — food. Unlike other customer demographics, they don't necessarily have the feelings associated with the experience of food on their proverbial plate. However, they are still discerning enough to demand a comfortable eating environment.

> Students like to have places they could talk and hang out and study, but the restaurant success is about getting enough turnover.
>
> **JoAndrea Hoegg**
> Sauder assistant professor of marketing

"There's something about atmosphere that is an incredibly important part of any restaurant. When you go out for dinner [in] Yaletown, atmosphere is critical," Hoegg said.

Hoegg used Starbucks as an example. Although most people get their coffee to go, Hoegg explained how there's notion of what businesses call the "third place."

"It's not home, its not work, it's this place you can hang out."

If a place is comfortable and inviting, there's a sense of welcoming and comfort, which are all classic Starbucks characteristics.

"Most times, I do grab my food and go, but if [it] was just the counter, the more McDonald's kind of seating, it wouldn't have that luxurious feeling," Hoegg said. "Again, you have those two purposes: the notion of quick food, but also this is a nicer restaurant experience you're paying for. Even for the people that are going, they are still buying into that experience."

When asked if UBC were to apply this business model all other quick-food restaurants in the SUB and on campus, however, Hoegg at first remained skeptical. Consumers are familiar with a particular system and food associated with the establishment, and categorize it as such. Therefore, it may feel strange when deliberate change contrasts with that already understood association.

Hoegg cited Subway as an example: "If it was Subway, it probably wouldn't work. I think it depends a lot on what the restaurant is and how they're perceived in the minds of the consumer."

Moreover, Hoegg said a change of business model to a nicer option depends on the financial situation of the owners — and switching can prove difficult. Owners need pretty good evidence that a switch would financially feasible. But it can be done with a lot of effort, especially through effective marketing. If a company chooses to do so, it can rebrand, just as White Spot did.

But this rebranding is a little trickier.

"Companies brand restaurants. They spend a lot of time and effort to create a position in the mind of the consumers."

But Hoegg does believe that implementing the particular business model to other restaurants could be done, given the right guidance.

"I'm not saying if someone new came in, it's not possible, but I think it would really depend on whichever establishment you're talking about and how people perceive it. If we see it as a little more upscale, you could do that."

UBC students are a widely diverse group of people, with different preferences of atmosphere, and the administration recognizes that.

Toogood explained how certain types of people prefer the dimmer lighting and more subdued atmosphere of the Gallery, while others prefer bright, frantic and distinctive seating geared towards visibility by peers.

At the same time, the AMS is also focused on quickening the process of the lunchtime rush in order to maintain the balance of their business model: to serve food quickly and have a friendly environment simultaneously. According to Toogood, there has been an increase of people during rush hour due to the increase in fast food-oriented services.

"We're trying to expedite the service," Toogood said, speaking about plans for the New SUB. "We are working hard on the online ordering now. [There's] more cash registers, better lineups and better flow. It will be a much quicker process. It will be a one-stop shop."

Success comes from a restaurant's ability to maintain that balance.

Toogood recalls a time when the Gallery was failing. The TVs were loud, the music distracting, and the lights as bright as those found in an operating room.

However, when the manager repainted the walls to a warmer colour, rearranged the seating and sped up food preparation, the restaurant's turnover started picking up in numbers.

"We didn't change the furniture [or] the setting, but it has been doing a lot better in the last three months. You can create an atmosphere though lighting and through music, and attention to small details."

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE CUSTOMER

Triple O's operations supervisor Josie Midha agrees that atmosphere is a major component of success.

"The setting is a complete fluke because this was a White Spot full-service restaurant. Somebody who is going to be running a quick service model would never have seats like that," Midha said of the Triple O's physical setting.

"We're very lucky to have comfortable booths and seating. This is [all] for a sit-down restaurant. Anyone that is designing a new concept, they're going to make sure that the seating is more than what we have," Midha said, referencing the business model currently used by the Triple O's on campus.

"What you're seeing is really unique."

The previous model — a full-service, sit-down restaurant — was altered due to the sheer volume of students that filled the restaurant during lunch hours. Midha recalls how, at 12:30 p.m., the restaurant would be completely full, and they would have to turn people away.

PHOTO CARTER BRUNDAGE/THE UBYSSEY

Above: Mercante prepares fast food while maintaining a cosmopolitan ambiance.
Below: The Gallery Lounge serves ready-made salads and has a grill serving quesadillas and sandwiches.

PHOTO STEPHANIE XU/THE UBYSSEY

Despite the presence of its flat screens, bar, full patio and numerous large window panes, Midha maintains that the restaurant never oriented its service strictly to the physical limitations of the space. Rather, it's the engagement and communal atmosphere that has made Triple O's such a success on campus.

Midha believes it's the customer service which is conducive to the overall atmosphere that students get when entering the restaurant.

"It's a good feeling in the restaurant and I get people [telling] me that," Midha said. "You cannot buy that feeling. It's the feeling of the people around you. It's like an orchestra, like a symphony.

"You could really feel the atmosphere of engaging with the staff. It's customer service, big time."

Another new UBC Food Services venue, Mercante, has been credited with this same atmosphere. Mercante offers a comfortable ambiance and communal seating below modern high ceilings along with quick service and food, which is made in front of the customer.

"That feel [of Mercante] is a perfect example of why we [UBC Food Services] do it," said Midha. "We want to make sure that people have good feelings about it."

What UBC students want, it seems, is that sense of community in whichever restaurant they choose to eat in. It is an amalgamation of community and customer engagement; the ambiance and atmosphere of the restaurant contributes to its success. It is dependent on small things like lighting, and whether a restaurant cares enough to fix a small scratch on the wall. Yet the student lifestyle also demands budget pricing and efficiency.

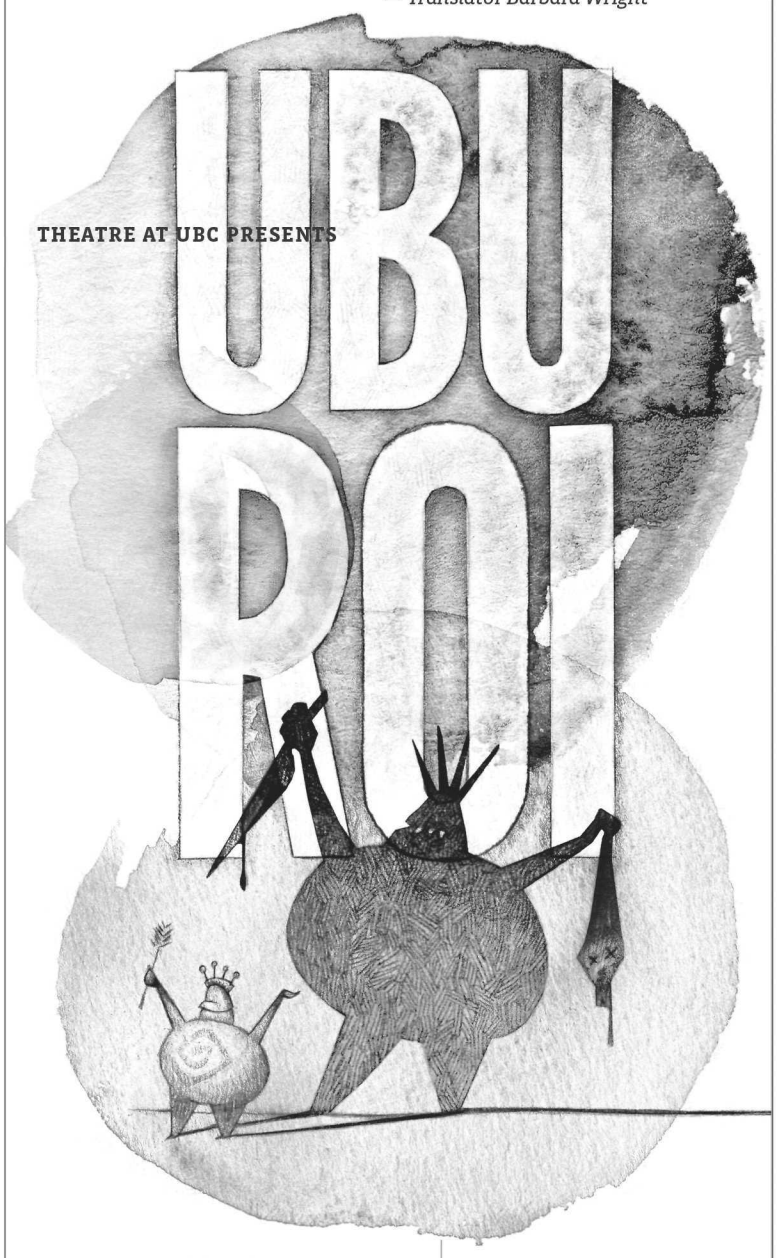
In this sense, UBC could benefit from a adapting their largely fast food-oriented model towards one that caters towards quick food and a great atmosphere. And, on the part of the administration, there have been initiatives made to implement it.

Toogood has shown *The Ubyssey* several plans for the New SUB, and the future looks bright. Many restaurants are being rebranded already, and some will even have their own booth-style seating.

All students can do now is wait for it to finish being built.

"Ubu Roi is timeless, placeless, it shamelessly displays what civilization tries hard to hide."

— *Translator Barbara Wright*



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BOOKS »

Reading out loud

Thousands of texts recorded by volunteers at Crane Library

Jenica Montgomery
Staff Writer

One of UBC's least known libraries has one of the richest and deepest histories on campus.

Since its conception in 1968, the Crane Library, located in Brock Hall, has been providing students with visual and learning disabilities with the resources they need to study. The library has grown both in volume and technology, expanding on Charles Crane's personal collection to include 7,000 book recordings (audio and cassette), 350 e-text titles and 2,301 Braille titles.

The personal Braille collection, housed in the library, belonged to Charles Crane, who was a deaf and blind UBC student. The collection is home to various titles, from *The Life of Charles Dickens* to *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* by Edward Gibbon. Crane's lifelong dedication to literature shows itself in the history of the Crane Library, and the enthusiasm of its staff and volunteers.

"There's something about being able to be around somebody's personal collection, and somebody who just valued learning," said Laurie Dawson, alternate format production assistant with the Crane Library. "He was a lifelong learner no matter what obstacles — he was insistent on learning. So hopefully some of that energy can rub off on the poor students who are studying like 12 hours a day for finals.

"He was a renaissance man," she added. "We have Braille books from his personal collection, over 10,000 volumes, from everything from how to make lentil soup to the collection of Shakespeare, to Jungian analysis, to an arbourist encyclopedia.... He just gave us a wealth of things to build on. It's really a jewel in the crown, I think, of Access and Diversity to have this Braille collection."

The services the Crane library offers were already happening unofficially amongst visually impaired students and volunteer guides and tutors. Upon the acquisition of Crane's personal collection, the program was able to solidify into something more akin to the Crane Library's current form.

"The program was already sort of happening informally, and then once the collection came, things sort of coalesced into getting a space," said Heidi Nygard, alternate format collections coordinator with the Crane Library.

Within the first year of operation, the library had extended past Braille collections into audio, and as the years continue to go by, the technology continues to transform and change to accommodate the needs and wants of students.

"The technology has completely changed. When I came here we were recording on reel-to-reel tapes," said Anne Cameron, a dedicated Crane Library volunteer. "It just gets better."

The recording studio for the Crane Library is located in the basement of Brock Hall, and while it may seem stuffy and dungeon-like to some, the staff make the atmosphere warm and inviting.

"Down here I feel like we [have] a very hip '70s student newspaper-type vibe," Dawson said. Indeed, the recording studio is in fact located in *The Ubyssey*'s old office from the 1950s. The inviting atmosphere makes up for the isolating experience of sitting in a soundproof booth with only yourself and a book to keep you company.

"It's a lonely volunteer gig," Dawson said. "They get sort of holed up in a booth for two hours, and we say 'hi' and 'bye' to them, but that's pretty much it."

The volunteers don't necessarily feel alone in their booth. For some, they are so deeply focused that it would be impossible to feel lonely.

"It's the same reading a book at home, with a newspaper, or doing a crossword puzzle. You know, focused on what you're doing. So I don't feel like that at all. The booths are quite comfortable," Cameron said.

With 110 active volunteers, the Crane library is never short on hands, or rather, voices; at the time of writing, they can't accept anymore. Surprisingly, only 30 of the volunteers are students. Like many others, long-time volunteer Anne Cameron has been with the Crane Library for about 20 years.

PHOTO JOSH LEE/THE UBYSSEY

The Crane collection includes thousands of Braille titles, such as this *Playboy* magazine.

"I was driving home from work one night in the early '80s when I heard on the CBC about Crane Library and that they needed readers, and because I've also worked in the theatre and I've had voice training, I thought, 'Hey, that's a good thing for me to do,' so I started then," said Cameron. "I enjoy it. I volunteered because I guess I had been thinking about giving back to your community."

All of the volunteers for the Crane Library are put through an audition process to weed out anyone who don't fit with the specific criteria required for recording books. Volunteers need to have a certain tone and pace when recording. The library strives for a natural and consistent-sounding read, with little to no overacting. It's a difficult task that few are able to master.

"It's kind of a unique skill to be able to read academic texts right off the bat," said Nygard.

The circumstances and history surrounding the Crane Library make it a one-of-a-kind program. The dedicated staff and volunteers continue to add to the rich legacy Crane left behind.

"I just think it's an incredible institution. It allows people to follow their careers up to this level, the university level," said Cameron. "I think it's just an amazing thing, really."

Notes of bullshit: the reasoning behind wine jargon

JOSHUA DECOLONGON
Wine

Sometimes, wine descriptors are such bullshit. I admit it.

But some people also take it too seriously.

We don't rake on storytellers for using flirty and fancy language to describe the hundreds of ways that women succumb to the sexual advances of handcuff-wielding businessmen — to take a recent popular literary example — so I don't understand why similar language can't be used to describe wine. It's fun because it becomes both hilariously difficult and gruelling to describe taste through words, since it's so subjective, and then you don't know if half of the people talking to you are bullshitting. Alas. There's a reason why the *Harry Potter* series wasn't written as a list of things the main characters did each day.

Let's poke at an example of one of my own tasting notes: "The wine's stone fruit, tropical fruit and ginger suggestions evoked the image of a tropical surf wave, with an equivalently heavy texture and the relaxed precision of a ginger surfer. Off-dryness was well-balanced with acid."

> Learning wine jargon for the average person is like catching up with #swag and #yolo for the middle-aged dad, so just keep practicing.

It's almost like opening an oven at 230 degrees Celsius and getting an instant heat wave of pretentious asshole. (And some wine people are!) But let's pick this apart.

First off: synonyms and wine jargon galore. Sometimes we refer to the aromas of wine as "the nose" in the same way that we describe the flavours in the mouth as "the palate." "Notes," "hints" and "suggestions" all really mean the same thing — I'm sure some people would disagree, but that's just another case for the whole subjectivity card. The list goes on.

ILLUSTRATION LUELLA SUN/THE UBYSSEY

Certain phrases in wine tasting terminology might seem obtuse, but there are reasons behind their use.

Every wine will have, or will be born with, some form of fruit aroma. It's relatively easy to describe when you get used to it — it's the non-fruit descriptors that baffle people. Riled-up customers have been confused by descriptions of "crushed rock" and "baked bread," but those are just fancy terms for "smells like rocks" and "yeasty." I've also heard and used "horse blanket" and "hospital corridor," referring to the aromas that the brettanomyces yeast and the Pinotage grape can exude, respectively. Learning wine jargon for the average person is like catching up with #swag and #yolo for the middle-aged dad, so just keep practicing.

There are numerous things to pay attention to on the palate. Sweetness is what most people notice first, the absence of which is referred to as "dryness." Acidity is also key to balance, where such brightness is needed to balance out sweet fruit flavours. Texture is also important; descriptors will often refer to the weight of the wine. In my case, I referred to the typically oily and heavier texture of a wine made from Gewurztraminer. Red wines will have the added component of tannin, which has a mouth-drying sensation and adds to the body.

Finally, pay attention to how long the flavours last in your mouth: a longer length indicates higher quality, sort of like how good sex might leave a longer-lasting impression.

Once you master the basics, have fun with it! Wine is meant to be an item of pleasure, so don't let wine terminology scare you, but also don't be afraid to learn where these terms come from. Drinking is the best way to learn. (Finally.)

ILLUSTRATION CJ PENTLAND/THE UBYSSEY

LAST WORDS // PARTING SHOTS AND SNAP JUDGMENTS FROM THE UBYSSEY EDITORIAL BOARD

SQUIRRELLY SPIRIT

Our Artona "school spirit" photo contest ended Sunday. The photos showed many of the great aspects of our campus. However, the contest also left us wondering what UBC students actually think school spirit is.

Of the 43 photos submitted, 25 were of scenery. Yes, we understand that our campus is picturesque and makes for beautiful photos, but is school spirit lacking so much that people must resort to taking a picture of a sunset, a squirrel or a lonely student walking through the rain? And yes, our beautiful campus is part of why many of us are proud to go here, but the lack of photos showing people having fun on campus is a bit alarming.

Low attendance at varsity games, waning numbers at Pit Night and an increase of people coming to campus just for class all go to show that school spirit at UBC has faded. This contest did little to change that perception.

NEW LEGISLATION HELPS STUDENTS WITHOUT "BEAUTIFUL CARS"

Canadian students often have this preconceived idea that international students are all overseas oil princes and princesses. Many students do come from overseas with cash from mom and dad (see: the University of Beautiful Cars blog). However, many international students are Americans who come up to Canada for lower tuition costs and live on the same shoestring budget as many domestic students.

The new student residency immigration legislation allows those students to finally get that off-campus barista job they've been dreaming of to support their borderline alcoholism.

It's the Canadian student experience they deserve.

APPARENTLY YOU DON'T ACTUALLY WANT A NICE PLACE TO EAT

A long-standing gripe at UBC is that there are relatively few places on campus that offer a classy dining experience; Sage Bistro and the Point Grill are the only offerings.

But according to the sources quoted in this issue's story on campus eateries, this isn't really the fault of UBC Food Services; rather, establishments at UBC are by and large forced to orient their businesses towards fast food models since that's the only way they can remain fiscally feasible in the long term. Students are a capricious bunch — much as we claim we would like to dine in a relaxed, esthetically pleasing environment, the fact is that we need to eat for cheap and quick.

Yet part of the AMS's current budgetary troubles stem from their inability to make enough profit from the variety of businesses they operate — including some of the most rapid food purveyors of all, like Pie R Squared, the Moon or the Burger Bar in the SUB. The fast food just isn't fast enough, it seems; and yet, paradoxically, the AMS's efforts to ameliorate lineups by installing an online advanced food ordering system have somehow evaded the interest of students.

It would seem, then, that businesses like Mercante and the rebranded Triple O's are an effort to escape from this culinary catch-22 — by attempting to offer the best of both worlds, they are setting a model for future restaurants to follow both on campus and elsewhere. Since UBC and the AMS will be doubling down on this model in the New SUB, we can only hope that their bet works out in the long term.

UBC played it safe in sports review

NATALIE SCADDEN
Editor's Notebook

There was certainly no shortage of drama during the university's review of its varsity sports program, but in the end, there was no dramatic overhaul.

This review seemed to cause an awful lot of negative publicity for the university and unnecessary stress on its student-athletes and coaches. While the vast majority are relieved now that it's over, there is still uncertainty ahead for others.

The five teams that got bumped down to competitive club status — men's and women's alpine skiing, men's and women's Nordic skiing and women's softball — are arguably the least controversial teams the university could have demoted. The ski teams already functioned on such a small budget that they'll carry on just fine as clubs. They'll even get to keep the beloved Thunderbird name, so really, not much will change. Unfortunately for the softball team, their size and competition schedule requires a larger travel budget, and it's unlikely they will get enough money to continue in the same capacity.

Still, after months of hearing cries from local media, alumni, donors and athletes who were worried their sports were in danger, the only surprise here is how few teams were downgraded. The university said it needed to address the sustainability — UBC's favourite word — of the athletics department, but it's hard to see how they've done that by taking away the varsity status of just five teams, and relatively inexpensive ones at that.

The review does seem to have forced teams to reengage with their alumni and get donors to open up their wallets. This is important, but let's remember that in order for that to be sustainable, it needs to happen on a consistent year-to-year basis.

For the four varsity teams stuck in the "hybrid funding" tier — men's baseball, men's hockey, men's field hockey and women's rugby — they're going to have to come up with significant funding on their own every year in order to keep their status. It'll be tough to cover with alumni donations alone, so they'll likely need to find additional new sponsors — and this is no easy task.

Hopefully this review has made every team think about how to generate more interest and attract a fan base, because that remains the biggest shortfall for UBC Athletics in terms of revenue building. With a total of 90 CIS national championships and counting, UBC has arguably the best varsity sports program in Canada. It's a shame it took the threat of cutting teams to get people to notice.

'Call Safewalk to escort you to your desintation'

PHOTO CARTER BRUNDAGE/THE UBYSSEY

Emma Flinebit argues UBC's messaging around how to stay safe on campus make students feel unsafe, and that hearing Safewalk adivisories on TransLink don't help.

EMMA FLINEBIT
Op-Ed

I thought it would have stopped by now. Someone would have come to their senses and realized it was a bad idea. It sends the wrong message, in the wrong place, and diverts attention from the reality. It doesn't make any sense and besides, it just sounds creepy. Yet every morning, as buses full of sleepy students sipping their coffees and browsing their smartphones rolls towards Alma, a robotic voice orders me and the 50 other poor souls on the bus to "call Safewalk to escort you to your destination."

No one else bats an eye anymore. We've learned to tune it out.

According to Matthew Duguay, AMS student services manager, the bus messaging was requested by UBC as part of coordinated effort to respond to the series of sexual assaults on campus last year. TransLink's message to call Safewalk supports UBC's broader messaging, which continues to remind everyone on campus — although us women know they're really only talking to us — to "stay safe" and "don't walk alone." Although the recently released report from the campus safety working group mentions receiving feedback about this messaging — specifically its gendered implication and the way that it has instilled fear on campus — there is no mention of any plans to change it.

The "don't walk alone" messaging from TransLink and UBC may be painting an incomplete picture of where we are really "safe."

We've been reminded repeatedly about the six sexual assaults at UBC last year, and I don't intend to minimize the seriousness of those incidents. But according to a *Globe and Mail* article last month, there were 132 reported sexual offences on transit in 2013 (see translinkharassment.wordpress.com for several disturbing accounts). And yet the message TransLink has decided to play four times every morning on my way to school is not "don't assault people on the bus" or "keep your hands to yourself," but "call Safewalk."

Duguay told me they want TransLink to change the timing of the messaging, which plays at all hours despite Safewalk only opening at 7 p.m. But he added that it has had some success in increasing the number of people who call Safewalk to escort them from the bus loops from one or two a night to between five and 10.

I try to imagine what would happen if all 50 passengers who are on the bus with me, along with the hundreds of others arriving in the UBC bus loop at any given time, obediently pulled out their phones as the bus passed Alma and called Safewalk to escort them to their destination. I imagine us forming a queue in the bus loop to wait for the two or three pairs of Safewalkers on duty to come and escort each one of us to our various classes and appointments. I imagine this causing quite the traffic jam in the bus loop, with some of us waiting hours for Safewalk to work through the high volume of calls from students who knew better than to walk alone.

> TransLink's message to call Safewalk supports UBC's broader messaging, which continues to remind everyone on campus not to walk alone — although us women know they're only really talking to us.

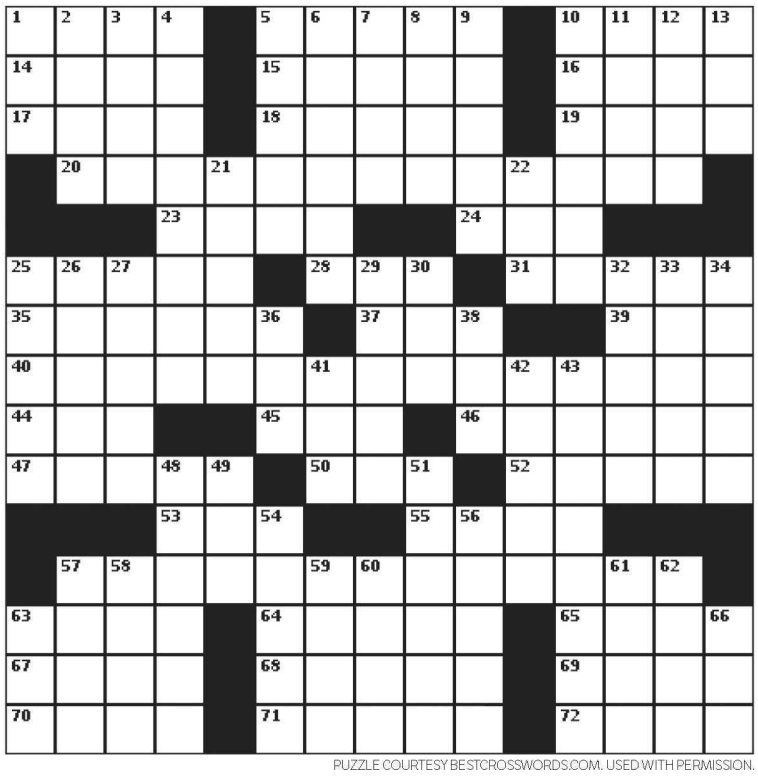
But what would happen after the students reached their destinations? The messaging ignores the much broader and more prevalent reality of sexual assault. While we are worried about a hooded figure lurking in the bushes at UBC, women are much more likely to be assaulted in their homes and by someone they know. According to the *Globe* article, we are also more likely to be assaulted on transit than at the university where we have the option to be escorted by Safewalk.

Unfortunately, it seems the creepy robotic message that haunts me on the bus every morning is, at best, a way for TransLink to say, "See? We're doing our part to stop women from being assaulted at UBC!"

In my experience, it's just one more reminder I face every day telling me I'm not safe on campus, I have no right to walk alone, and if I choose to ignore all the warnings, it's my own fault.

Emma Flinebit is a UBC master's student in planning.

CROSSWORD



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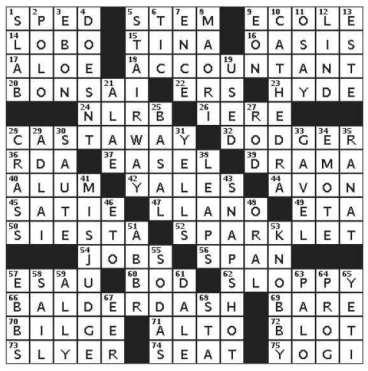
ACROSS

1- Bed support
5- Chipped in
10- Agreement
14- Go it alone
15- Specialty
16- Other, in Oaxaca
17- Linguist Chomsky
18- That is to say...
19- Evens the score
20- Defer action
23- Perlman of *Cheers*
24- Witticism
25- New Zealand aboriginal
28- Mohawk-sporting actor
31- Writers of verse
35- Shoe part
37- Santa ___
39- Wreath of flowers
40- In spite of
44- Keats work
45- Director's cry
46- 1992 Wimbledon champ
47- Open a tennis match
50- Laugh syllable
52- Slippery as ___
53- Always
55- Not base
57- North indicated by a magnetic compass
63- Like some juries
64- Recording of acoustic signals
65- Manipulates
67- Sewing case
68- Summit
69- Grange
70- Dole (out)
71- Govt. security
72- German Mrs

DOWN

1- Common ID
2- Coil
3- Banned apple spray
4- The day following today
5- Blazing
6- Polite refusal
7- Very, in Versailles
8- Coup d'___
9- Strong blue cotton fabric
10- Edible tuber
11- Arguing
12- Manitoba native
13- Univ. aides
21- Hot stuff
22- Queue before Q
25- Legendary ruler of Crete
26- Battery pole
27- Blender brand
29- Dreadlocks wearer
30- Big bang cause
32- Beethoven dedicatee
33- High-strung
34- Seal
36- And so on
38- Penlight battery
41- Come again?
42- Marsh of mystery
43- Scall
48- Vegetable
49- Bard's nightfall
51- Bigot
54- Hit back, perhaps
56- Benjamin
57- Silent
58- Sometimes you feel like ___...
59- Rotate
60- Prefix with logical
61- Nicholas II was the last Russian one
62- Mother of Ares
63- Skirt stitching
66- The Mustangs' sch.

MAR. 6 ANSWERS



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	4	1	2		3			
	6	5		9		7		
7				8		4	3	1
			3				5	9
5	3		8	2	9		7	6
9	7				5			
1	2	3		5				7
		9		3		5	1	
			9		8	3	6	

				3				
					9	7		8
9		8	6		1		2	
		7			4		8	3
				5				
3	1		8			9		
	5		9		3	8		4
6		3	7					
				8				

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