UBC Archives Serial

Page Friday

January 25, 2002
Volume 83 Issue 32
Team two-thirds since 1918

Indonesian artist Heri Dono brings traditional art forms into the present-day to address contemporary political issues.

AMS elections coverage littered throughout!

CLASSIFIEDS

Announcement

DYSLEXIA (THE HIDDEN DISABILITY) Please join us in support of children with specific learning disabilities. Kenneth Gordon School - 3rd annual DINNER/DANCE/AUCTION FUNDRAISER. 6:30pm, Mar 9 @ Empire Landmark Hotel. Tix $50. Info: call 604-524-5224.

SPARTACUS YOUTH CLUB CLASS: For Unconditional Military Defense of China Against Imperialism! Wed. Jan 30, 6pm, SUB Rm213. For more info: call 604-687-0353 or email tllt@look.ca

ENGLISH STUDENTS' SOCIETY'S PRODUCTION OF BAG BABIES: A comedy of bad manners is in need of a lighting designer. Non-Equity. Performances in Mar 19-23. Pager: 667-6222 barnabee@hotmail.com

ENGLISH STUDENTS' SOCIETY IS HAVING A FUNDRAISER @ The Shine Night Club this Sat. Jan. 26. Doors open at 7pm; complimentary drink before 9pm. Tix $7 valid until 11pm. Pager: 667-6222 barnabee@hotmail.com

elements: MAY 31/02. RSVP by Feb 01 @ elements053102@hotmail.com. OBJECTIVE: an innovative project to build self-esteem in East-end youths. NEED EXP. VOLUNTEERS: Hip-hop DJs, breakdancers, & graf. artists.

Volunteer Opportunities

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to work with mildly autistic fun loving boy. Please call Cynthia at 827-0014.

FRONTIER COLLEGE, A LITERACY ORG'N NEEDS VOLUNTEER TUTORS to work with elem. & high school students in East Van. http://sfu.ca/~fcollege 604-873-5767 frontiercollege@hotmail.com

WANT TO VOLUNTEER? MANY DIFFERENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE. trek.leaders@ubc.ca

Employment

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: The Coastal Fire Centre has part-time, seasonal Fir Dispatcher positions available. $16.95/hr (20-25 hrs/wk) See our ad at the Campus Worklink website or phone 250-951-4214 for more information

SUMMER CAMP COUNSELORS ON CAMPUS INTERVIEWS FOR PREMIER CAMPS IN MASSACHUSETTS. Positions available for talented, energetic, and fun loving students as counselors in all team sports including Roller Hockey and Lacrosse, all individual sports such as Tennis & Golf, Waterfront and Pool activities, and specialty activities including art, dance, theatre, gymnastics, newspaper, rocketry & radio. GREAT SALARIES, room, board, travel and US summer work visa. June 19th-August 17th. Enjoy a great summer that promises to be unforgettable. For more information and to apply: MAH-KEE-NAC www.campmkn.com (Boys): 1-800-753-9118. DANBEE www.danbee.com (Girls): 1-800-392-3752. Interviewer will be on campus Wednesday, March 6th - 10am to 4pm in the Student Union Building (SUB) - Rooms 214 & 216

Academic Services

ENGLISH TUTOR AVAILABLE. Get a great grade this semester. University graduate specializing in essay proofreading, grammar & ESL. Call Anita 988-6097 or 719-4129.

SPANISH TUTORING! Experience in teaching languages in Mexico. If you have any problems with classes, assignments, call Alexa 225-0634. $10-20/hr. Mondays. tisa81@yahoo.com

Extra Curricular

UBC STUDENTS WITH CHILDREN - meet & connect with other parents who are also students, living on or off campus. http://communities.msn.com/ubcparents or email ubcparents@hotmail.com

INTERESTED IN GAINING PUBLIC SPEAKING EXPERIENCE? Come join the Youth Millennium Project. Contact Stephanie or Refqa at 822-5028, or email ympunorg@interchange.ubc.ca

FREE CLASSIFIEDS FOR STUDENTS!

Looking for a roommate?

Got something to sell?

Or just have an announcement to make?

If you are a student, you can place classifieds for FREE!

For more information, visit Room 23 in the SUB (basement) or call 822-1654.

Voter turnout "good"

by Sarah MacNeill Morrison

Despite the dismal attendance at all five all-candidates' forums, voter turnout for this year's Alma Mater Society (AMS) elections has been "good," according to Elections Administrator Deanna Metcalfe.

Today is the final day to vote for candidates to fill the AMS's five executive positions, as well as for student representatives to UBC's Board of Governors and Senate. So far, Metcalfe has been happy with voter turnout.

"It's looking good right now," she said yesterday morning. "I'm hoping it'll be better than last year. It's looking good, but you can never tell."

By yesterday afternoon, the elections committee had to print more ballots—the 4000 they originally printed ran out. Last year's AMS election drew only 3122 voters.

The scene at the final AMS all-candidates' forum in the SUB Conversation Pit on Wednesday was very much like the forums held last week—student apathy was clear and lunchtime conversations made it difficult to hear the candidates debate.

The ongoing slate debate was vehemently addressed in the presidential candidates' opening statements.

"We are fundamentally against slates and we will work to change the system so we will not have slates in future elections," said candidate Paul Dhillon of the slate, UBC for U.

Harvey did not address the issue in her speech, but both she and Students Voice candidate, Rob Nagai, referred to their slates as "teams" during their addresses.

Aidan Forth, UBC for U's vice-president, academic candidate, slammed the current Students for Students executives and criticised their effectiveness in office.

Criticism also came from students, as fourth-year psychology student Henry Yao wondered if candidates were considering other issues such as student welfare after graduation, instead of solely focusing on lobbying the government for increased funding and low tuition fees.

"I want someone who won't just bitch about things. I want a more solid answer," he said. "We can pay as little as possible, but if we get out and can't find a job, that's a problem for us."

Yao wanted to hear about leadership from the presidential candidates, but when the candidates focused on lobby tactics, Yao questioned the role of AMS president.

"Are you saying we're electing a speaker, not a leader?" he asked, and re-directed the question was asked again, to vice-president, external candidates.

Students Voice candidate Megan Cassidy still opposed a tuition-fee thaw, and said she would work towards maintaining low tuition in BC.

"Right now we've had a tuition freeze for a number of years and I think that has meant that students are able to come to school," she said. "I don't think that it's fair to make it so that if you can't afford to go to school, that you might not have an education or an opportunity. And that's why I'm here fighting it."

But independent candidate Dan Grice, who has said in previous forums that students need to "compromise," said that lobbying would not work with BC's current government, and added that students need a provincial student advisory council to respond to government decisions.

To ensure attention is paid to education, said Grice, it's important for government leaders to realise its importance to the province's economy.

But Yao did not leave the forum satisfied. Cuts are needed to balance the province's budget, he said. Yao claimed that by saying that they will keep lobbying for more funding, candidates showed that they just didn't understand the issues.

"If the government does not have the money, and we keep on asking them, the government will never be able to give us a financial future," he said. "By just satisfying students now, I feel like they are not demonstrating a sense of leadership." ❖

New digs for Senate

by Sarah MacNeill Morrison

Student senators were pleasantly surprised at Wednesday's Alma Mater Society (AMS) all-candidates' forum, when a question regarding work-space for senators led to the discovery of a new office.

Posing a question to vice-president, academic candidates. Senator Chris Ste-Croix complained about the lack of resources allocated to representatives who work towards academic policy.

"Student senators represent students in all manner of academics," he said. "We were relegated to an office in the middle of nowhere...and we were given a budget that is less than the cellphone bills of some previous councillors.

"And yet we are here to address your student needs."

Currently, Senate representatives share office space with Board of Governor representatives and members of the External Commission.

In response to the question posed, UBC for U candidate Aidan Forth stated it was important that academic issues were thought about first.

"Education is why we're here," he said.

But senators were surprised when Students for Students candidate Chris Lythgo said that with renovations to the AMS's student service centre, student senators would receive new office space by September.

Neither Ste-Croix, nor Students Voice vice-president, academic candidate Brian McLean—also a senator-at-large—were aware of the new office, but both were quite pleased.

Chris Eaton, a senator running for re-election, who also attended the forum, approached the mic to express his delight at the surprise.

"Hi, I'm the Senate caucus chair and thanks for the office, I had no idea," he said.

But the current vice-president, administration, Mark Fraser—currently running as a student representative to the BoG—says he doesn't understand why senators were surprised.

"I'm not sure why they didn't know that because I told them that when they moved to the SUB basement," he said. "So I think it's more of just an election thing to kind of bring up. I told them they were going to get space as soon as that was done."

Eaton, the Senate's caucus chair, said that in discussions at the senate caucus, no one was aware of the new space. He added that he finds it odd that a Students for Students candidate would know about the renovations before senators. ❖

UBYSSEY PICKS weekend

FILM *Radiohead vs. the Matrix* **at the Blinding Light!! Cinema, Friday and Saturday at 8:30pm.**

It seems to be a perfect fit. The paranoid, alternate-reality vision of *The Matrix* and the musings of Radiohead. If you've never seen a Deep Blue Funk production, be prepared for a strange time. The group synchronises works of music, in this case, Radiohead, to seminal films, like *The Matrix*. The last time this show was at the Blinding Light!!, it was standing room only and dozens were disappointed, so show up early. Tickets are $5 plus a $3 membership fee.

MUSIC *UBC Symphony Orchestra* **at the Chan Centre, Friday at 8pm**

They're not the VSO, but sometimes they're just as good. At tonight's concert the orchestra will be playing Schubert's "Unfinished" Eighth Symphony. The TB-stricken Schubert died before he completed this work, but strangely enough he did finish a ninth symphony. Bartok's concerto for viola and orchestra and Beethoven's seventh symphony finish off the evening. If you need another reason to go see your fellow students play, the concert is also free.

***Vancouver International Children's Festival 25th Anniversary Concert* at the Orpheum Theatre, Sunday at 2pm**

Feel like you're six again. The Vancouver International Children's Festival is celebrating its 25th year, so why don't you go to Sunday's concert and get rid of that cynicical and jaded outlook. If Fred Penner, circus acrobats and face painting don't do the trick then maybe you're just a little too grown-up. Tickets for students start at $12.

SPORTS *Basketball vs. Trinity Western* **War Memorial Gym, Friday and Saturday at 6:15 pm (women) and 8pm (men)**

Both men's and women's basketball teams are on a roll: of their last ten games, the women won nine and the men won eight. Up against the mediocre 2-12 Spartans, the men should clean up, though one of Trinity's only two wins came from the Birds in November. The women also split Trinity 6-8 in November, so expect a contest. $2 and your student card gets you into both games. ❖

news it or lose it

news meets 12:30 Tuesdays
sub 24. no cops. no goons. no exceptions.

Slates hot topic in AMS elections

by Ted Chen

Students for Students has a website, UBC for U has a policy booklet and Students Voice passes out 'rave cards' displaying photos of their candidates. In this year's Alma Mater Society (AMS) elections the slate system is serious, much to the frustration of many candidates.

In the AMS's electoral process, students typically join political 'slates' in order to pool resources and get broader publicity. Teams often field candidates in every position.

Chris Eaton and Ryan Morasiewicz are current UBC senators running for re-election. Both running as 'incumbents,' they are campaigning together and their posters advise people to avoid the slate system.

Eaton calls the slate system "undemocratic," accusing it of promoting an unfair advantage when financing and promoting campaigns, and preventing students not heavily involved in the AMS from participating.

"Right now, our slate system makes it prohibitively difficult for anyone who's not in the know, for anyone who's not friends with someone who is currently here to get involved in the AMS," he said.

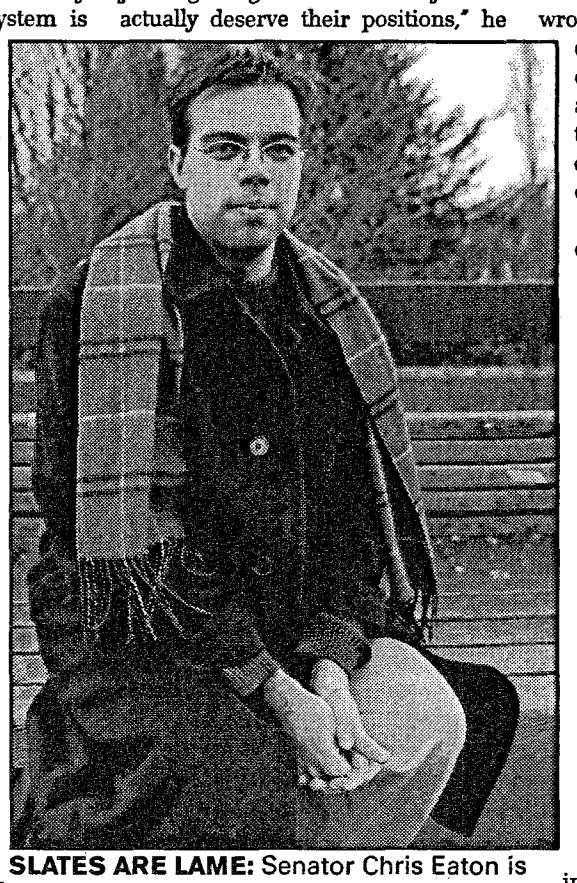
The student society always talks about getting students more involved in the AMS, said Eaton, but when students do try to get involved by running for positions, they end up having to run for a slate, and if they are unfamiliar with the system, they usually lose.

Eaton, who has written two letters to *the Ubyssey* criticising the slate system during this election, said slates makes elections so difficult for independent candidates that "there's basically no point in them running."

Dan Grice, the only independent candidate running in this year's executive election, is critical of slates and the candidates who join them.

Slates allow inferior candidates to get elected on the backs of candidates who actually deserve their positions said Grice, who is running for vice-president, external affairs.

"There's a lot of people who are just tag-alongs on slates. They don't actually deserve their positions," he said. "It's just the only position on the slate that was available."



SLATES ARE LAME: Senator Chris Eaton is fighting the slate system. NIC FENSOM PHOTO

Grice attributes voter apathy as a cause of students' confusion regarding slates.

But presidential candidate Kristen Harvey disagrees.

Harvey was elected vice-president, external last year with Students for Students, the slate that swept all AMS executive positions for the past two years. She said she believes that by allowing candidates to pool their energy and resources, the slate system encourages voter turnout on a very large campus.

"UBC has grown over the last ten years," she said. "There are now very close to 40,000 students and I think that teams and slates offer a sense of teamwork and a sense of co-operation and they offer, logistically, the best way possible to cover all of campus to encourage voter turnout."

"I believe that there is nothing wrong with teams working together to cover campus, either to speak with classes, to poster, to get together and have a common vision and I think that ultimately, it's the students who decide the issues democratically by voting," she said.

Other presidential candidates disagree.

Paul Dhillon is running for AMS president for the second year in a row—last year his newly-formed slate, UBC for U, did not elect anyone. Dhillon thinks the slate system "fundamentally [stifles] the innovation and efforts" of individuals and should be abolished.

"The AMS is excluding people who may want to get involved in the AMS but can't due to the fact that they can't get on a slate," he said. "I think individual people should run on their own merits and not on the merits of other candidates."

Arts councillor Rob Nagai is also re-running for president for the Students Voice slate. Last year, his team elected two senators and was defeated by Students for Students in every other category, often very narrowly. Nagai lost to Erfan Kazemi, current AMS president, by 47 votes.

Nagai has been actively promoting his slate this year—at forums, he uses the words "we" and "the Students Voice team" repeatedly. But he still sees problems with the system and thinks it needs more regulation.

"The system as a whole is flawed and we need to make it more democratic, more accountable and provide rules around slates," he said. "We can either abolish slates or we can at least recognise them in [AMS] Code, because at this point, we don't recognise them and yet we know how beneficial they could be to students who are running." ❖

Former UBC student keeps his eye on Vancouver's Olympic bid

by Dennis Wang

As the final bid for the Vancouver-Whistler 2010 Winter Olympics is put into place, a former UBC student is ensuring the city's bid views the community perspective when considering environmental, transportation and civil issues.

Chairing the Impact of the Olympics on Community coalition (IOC), Am Johal hopes that his group will set a precedent for raising community expectations surrounding the Olympic bid.

"Based on previous hallmark events like Expos and other Olympic Games, our objective is to set the bar higher in terms of what communities should expect when hosting these kinds of events," he said.

Johal added that a successful Olympic bid could result in violations to civil rights and liberties.

"Looking at the lesson of Expo '86, we found that a thousand people were evicted, and rent prices increased dramatically. Even in Salt Lake City, the bid process promised 2500 units of social housing for low-income earners, and ended up with only 150 for them," he said. "What we want to do is to make sure we secure those kinds of benefits for the community."

But Michele Penz, manager of communications and media relations for the Vancouver Whistler 2010 Bid Corporation, said the Olympic committee is taking measures to address many of the issues, including civil rights and liberties.

"There are certainly issues in the Downtown Eastside that we need to address. We are striking a workgroup with community stakeholders; we have meetings commencing in February to ensure opportunities are maximised for the Downtown Eastside, and to ensure we can mitigate any negative social impacts that can arise from hosting the games," she said.

Penz added that past Games have proven to be mainly positive for hosting cities. She pointed to the Sydney 2000 Olympics, where an investment in capital works improvements improved sidewalks, streetlights and city roads in the downtown core.

"One of the key goals in [the Vancouver-Whistler] bid is to ensure that everything is sustainable," she said, adding that a recent economic study by the provincial government does a good job of outlining the benefits of hosting the Games.

"It predicts a substantial increase in economic activity, jobs and the creation of permanent community and sport legacies that may benefit all BC citizens," she said.

But Johal said the IOC coalition is developing an alternative bid book to address his organisation's concerns, and expects to complete it by January 2003. Then, the IOC will announce whether it supports a Games held in Vancouver, and send copies of the book to the bid corporation, municipal, provincial, and federal governments, and all members of the International Olympic Committee.

"If what we're pushing for isn't incorporated by that time, we will have to evaluate whether we're going to be in favour of, neutral to, or against the games. But up to and before that point, we're going to try and make this the best bid possible."

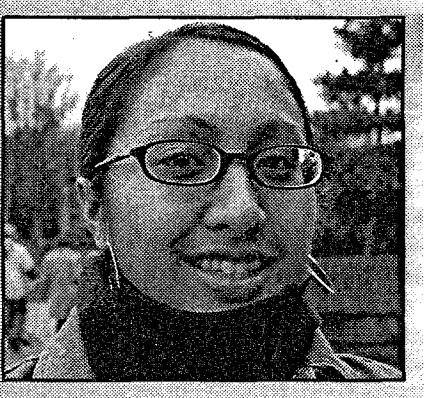
But Johal stresses the potential of a Games that takes into consideration the IOC's concerns.

"Rather than simply accepting the norm of hosting an Olympic event, we could raise the bar by ensuring the money is held accountable, and the benefits are extended to a broad group of people," he said.

On February 5, the IOC will be holding a public forum at 7pm, at the Sunrise Hotel on East Hastings. ❖

Streeters

HOW DID YOU DECIDE WHO TO VOTE FOR?



"Just by looking at the posters and listening to the people who came into my class."
-Sandra Garcia, Arts 2

"Attitudes toward the transportation issues."
-Graeme Brown, Arts 4

"I voted for my friends."
-Jon Robinson, Arts 4

"I read the posters, and I know one of the candidates, so I voted for him. I guess I voted for [one presidential candidate] because he seemed to have more innovative goals...and for the other candidates I just voted at random."
-Tilman Roschinski, Sciences 2

"If I had the willpower and time I would attend all the debates and stuff, but unfortunately I'm a lazy person. I did vote for one person because she's my friend and I know she'd be good at that stuff."
-Greg Wiens, Pharmacy 3

"Well, I looked at what the position was, and what was required, and just little things that they wrote that caught my eye, like reducing styrofoam in the SUB building."
-Lauren Levy, Arts 1

FILMSOC

All films $3.00
in the NORM (SUB theatre)

Film Hotline: 822-3697 OR check out www.ams.ubc.ca/clubs/Filmsoc

FRI JAN 25 - SUN JAN 27
7:00 Hearts in Atlantis
9:30 Training Day
WED JAN 30 - THURS JAN 31
7:00 Himalaya
9:30 Time Regained

Are you Buggy yet?!

International Bug Zoos Inc. is looking for a business partner to help open and manage:

Vancouver Bug Zoo

It will be modeled after the very successful Victoria Bug Zoo, home to some of the world's most amazing LIVE insects, spiders, centipedes and millipedes from around the world. The Bug Zoo concept is dedicated to providing fun and educational experiences to school groups, tourists and area residents. Along with the exhibit area, there is a retail component for gift and souvenir sales. It is a fast paced, customer-oriented business for someone with lots of positive energy. Must love "bugs" and people.

Additional requirements include:

- Minimum $30,000 (to 50,000) investment
- Post secondary education in entomology/biology
- Knowledge of tourism, business and familiarity with Vancouver and Greater Vancouver

Remuneration includes a salary ($30,000 to $40,000 per annum) and a share of profits based on initial investment.

Send letter of interest, with resume, references and any additional relevant credentials to:
Carol Maier @ Victoria Bug Zoo
1107 Wharf Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1T7

Live Music Nightly!

You'll have a good time at the infamous King's Head!

The King's Head

Our Famous
'Beggar's Breakfast'
only $3.99
served everyday until 3pm

Get 1 Jug Lager & 12 Buffalo Wings for $13.99

The King's Head Pub & Restaurant
1618 Yew Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6K 3E2
Ph: 738-6966
VALID SUN-THURS ONLY

Attention Comrades!

Following the triumph of the People's Revolutionary Journalistic Collective, the Chairman has decreed the following:

1. You will volunteer for *the Ubyssey*.
2. You will do so more than once.
3. No, that doesn't just mean turning up on production nights for free food.
4. But we can always use people to proof, research, and do layout on production nights, so turn up anyway.
5. Production nights occur on Monday and Thursday nights in SUB room 24.
6. Department meetings will occur at the following times: News at 12:30 on Tuesdays and Culture at 11:30 on Tuesdays.
7. Failure to attend will constitute an act of treason against the People and will result in summary execution.

That is all.

THE UBYSSEY

Interrogating the audience

by Ron Nurwisah

Indonesian artist Heri Dono has had his award-winning work shown in New York and Tokyo. But it's clear that reaching out to the public is central to his artistic mission.

The scene is disturbing. Four TV screens: a disembodied head fills each one and in the background there are the fuzzy outlines of what look like riots, demonstrations, fires and even images of police brutality. Finally there's a wooden rifle pointing at the screen, a permanent and foreboding threat of violence hangs over the entire work.

This kind of constant violence is not unknown to Heri Dono. In fact, the violent scenes displayed on the TV screens are all too familiar to the Indonesian artist—the threat of violence has hung over his head throughout most his life. Born in Jakarta in 1960 of Javanese parents, he remembers the bloody 1965 coup that thrust General Suharto into power. Memories of waiting in the dark with his mother, wondering where his father was, or going to the market and feeling the fear in the air—all through the eyes of a five-year old—are still clear in his mind.

With this context in mind, is it any wonder that when Dono began to seriously engage himself as an artist in high school, he chose not to shy away from the social and political problems that plagued his country?

Are we surprised to hear that Dono, the rebel, was once jailed and interrogated by the police for taking part in a protest? Fortunately, he was one of the lucky ones, making it out relatively unscathed, while some of his friends met a much worse fate—torture.

Perhaps, it was that same determination to fight for justice that led him to drop out of art school three months before graduating over an argument concerning his thesis.

Dono would never go on to complete his degree, but in the end it didn't matter. Today, Dono is one of the most esteemed artists in South East Asia and his works have been shown many times throughout Japan, Europe and North America.

Now living in the Javanese city of Yogyakarta, the 40-year old Dono is happy with his life. He is doing what he loves.

"Being an artist, I have a feeling of freedom. I can criticise things that are social, political, or even me," he says.

Dono is a strong believer that artists can, and should, try to engage the world around them, challenging it, encouraging change and reaching out to people. Art is not something that should remain within the clear boundaries of gallery walls, but rather something that should interact with people, allowing people to interact with it. Moreover, art is something Dono feels should *belong* to people.

"I would like to bring back art that belongs to society as a part of culture. Most of my activities in Indonesia, I am working with people," he said.

Dono's happiness doesn't just stem from his freedom to create the kind of art he wants to. His works allow him the opportunity to connect with people on a regular, real basis, something that is deeply important to him. At his opening, the artist is exuberant—he shakes hands and engages strangers in conversation. He seems to radiate a welcoming glow the more he interacts with new people. I'm not at all surprised when he tells me that back home in Indonesia, he is often working and talking to grave diggers, electricians and becak (rickshaw) drivers.

"Most of my work has a connection with the political. I think the creation of work has to do with the political, even for people who don't like politics," Dono says. And his geographical context made it impossible for him to ignore the connections between his art and the politics of life around him.

In fact, Dono feels compelled to make his art speak to audiences who view it. "Because I live in Indonesia, a lot has happened around my life—sometimes I feel scared if my work is exclusive and doesn't have a connection with the people," he says.

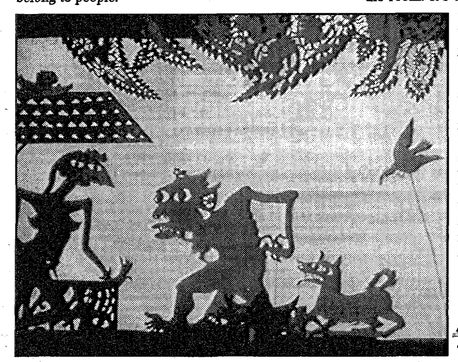
The politicisation of his art and his desire to stay rooted in the Indonesian public consciousness both play a fundamental role in the inspiration and creation of his artistic works. For example, the installation of TVs currently being shown at Vancouver's Centre A gallery is a strong critique of the violence that accompanied the last gasp of Suharto's New Order in 1998. The work is, unarguably, the largest and most symbolically loaded piece in *Interrogation,* Dono's current Vancouver show.

"Sometimes I feel scared if my work is exclusive and doesn't have a connection with the people,"

—Heri Dono
Artist

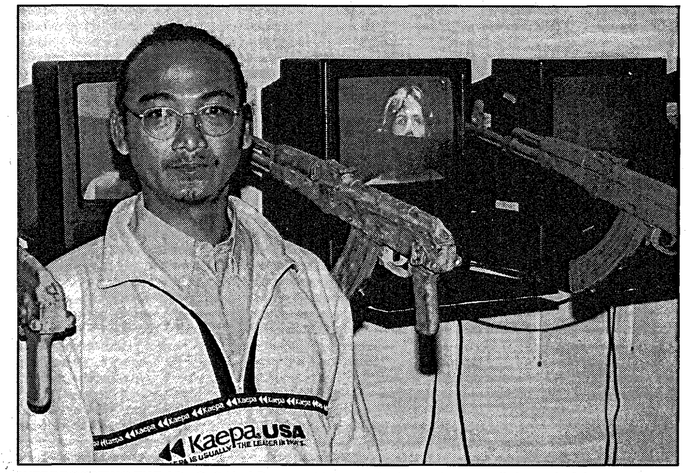
Dono explained to me that the footage shown was actually shot by protesters and that, although owning the videotapes was illegal, they were quickly passed around throughout the student activist community in Indonesia.

His other works also examine the theme of interrogation, but use different, less confrontational media to address the same issues. One work that made me uncomfortable was an installation of a rotating, disembodied mannequin head. Its eyes have been replaced by orange light bulbs that pulsate as the head spins around the room. It's the physical realisation of the gaze concept. Here, the gaze is clearly a hostile one; its "rays" scan you, the viewer, reminding you that you are always being watched.



While the message is equally as profound, the head doesn't have quite the same shock value as the TV installation, nor the same sinister effect. It appears, at first, humorous and low-tech, giving it noticeably less power and authority then the dramatic use of the TV screens. While the video work definitely blurred the boundary between art gallery and real world with its use of TV, the mannequin head seemed more exclusively at home in the gallery.

Another important aspect of Dono's work is the Javanese artistic tradition known as wayang kulit, or shadow-puppet theatre. The art-form is incredibly important and central to the history and culture of Java. To perfect his own abilities, Dono trained with a wayang kulit master.



INTERROGATING THE ARTIST? Heri Dono will be an artist-in-residence until the end of the month at the Western Front. RON NURWISAH PHOTO

It might seem strange for a contemporary artist like Dono to be so engrossed in a traditional art form like wayang, but to him it is an important way to stay connected with the people, places and past of his family's heritage. Not only that, but the interactive nature of presenting puppet work made sense to Dono, who thrives on that interaction—through art.

"To me, when I exhibit my paintings, I don't feel close with people. I think puppet performance is very interactive. There's dialogue in puppet performance and I can bring up a lot of issues."

According to Dono, wayang shares many similarities with contemporary entertainment forms and this attracted him even more to the puppet-making tradition.

"When I make puppets, they use the screen. Even now, people use screens for videos, for the television, they still use the screen. The screen is the medium that people need for expression. It's something old, but they still use it now," he says. This underlying theme of old-meets-new is something that has greatly influenced Dono's artistic thought.

Dono's work is informed by many Javanese traditions, like the animism that is still widely practiced despite the country's official Muslim status. Dono feels that old ideas are crucial, particularly for Indonesians, a people moving rapidly into the modern world.

"When people talk about the Javanese kris [a type of traditional dagger] there are connections with architecture, connections with dance, with literature, with gamelan and puppets and wayang. Everything is connected with each other," he says.

"I can use the old concepts to [engage] in the contemporary life."

But Dono also feels that there are many people in Indonesia's cultural elite who try to pigeonhole traditions, and, in effect, allow them to fossilise.

"Many people have museum-ised tradition...They think it's static but there's a dynamicity [sic]," he says.

The art of wayang, he continues, helps to further prove the point: "Tradition is always moving, a long time ago the shadow puppet arms cannot move, but now they can."

It's this conservatism and unwillingness to engage tradition that Dono feels is at the root of the problem in Indonesia's culture.

"In the [art] schools everything is too sterile. There's no connection with people's lives, it's just about theory and the theories aren't based on Indonesian problems," complains Dono.

"As an artist, I can give an opinion; a consciousness to the people through the art [and] share the knowledge about the wrongs of the system."

So even though Dono's work is heavily steeped in Indonesian tradition and myth, it has an impact when shown outside of Indonesia. At its core, his work questions assumptions about certain things we take for granted and it engages us politically.

The theme of *Interrogation* might not be something many of us are familiar with. It is safe to assume that relatively few of us in Vancouver have ever been arrested and tortured, or forced to give up information. But interrogation touches us in indirect ways: in the arrest of innocent protesters, in new legislation that allows for "preventive arrests."

Dono explains it best. "After [September 11], people question the feeling of freedom. People with an Arabic name are interrogated on airplanes."

"[The works], they're Indonesian icons, but the subject matter is everywhere." ❖

Heri Dono's* Interrogation *is showing at the Centre A gallery until Feb. 9. The gallery is located at 849 Homer St. and open Tue-Sat 11-6. Admission is free. Dono will also be holding a wayang performance at the Western Front, 303 East 8th on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. Tickets are $8, students get in for $2 on Jan. 31.

The "angels" on the cover and in this article are from Heri Dono's installation piece "Inner City." The graphic on the left is an example of Dono's wayang work.

Chouinard's Angel tells moving story

by Yu Gu

(L'ANGE DE GOUDRON) TAR ANGEL
at Tinseltown
Now Playing

Canada—the true north, strong and free. Liberty and equality are etched in our Charter of Rights. And unlike our neighbours to the south, we are not as militant in their defence. Canadians are different. Instead of travelling around the globe to see ourselves reflected in impoverished mirrors, we prefer quiet reflection at home. It is this silent satisfaction of our way of life, of our righteousness, that we revel in.

Quebec director Denis Chouinard's Genie-nominated film, *L'Ange de Goudron* (*Tar Angel*), questions those beliefs and more. In *L'Ange,* a Muslim family immigrates to Montréal from Algeria. The father, Ahmed (Zinedine Soualem), works as a roof repairman while the pregnant mother stays home. They have two grown children: a young daughter and a 19-year old boy named Hafid. Religious and familial serenity abounds until Ahmed recognises his son as one of the perpetrators of a break and enter into Immigration Canada's offices.

The rest of the movie chronicles Ahmed's disillusionment with the ruins of his former reality. Bewildered by his son's disappearance, he enters into the hidden world of struggle for social justice in the heart of Montréal. He befriends his son's girlfriend, Huguette, a tattoo artist, a slightly stereotypical rebellious-rude-white girl. Together they go in search of Hafid in a borrowed truck. The pair's chemistry is at times awkward, but the relationship serves its purpose.

Images of Huguette's back covered in flowing Arabic script dissolve into the snow-stained landscape of Quebec. Such instances of sensuality are grounded by comedic examples of culture shock. The director's attempts to balance two cultures is also evident in the soundtrack, which flows from beautiful religious laments to classical violins and cellos.

The film is an exploration of the immigrant experience, something central in the lives of many Canadians. In this case, the main narrative is one of alienation between immigrant generations. Ahmed wonders whether his sacrifices and suffering to bring his family in Canada were in vain, while his son feels that he must fight for what is right by protesting Canada's immigration policy.

Chouinard builds on these themes so effectively that when the film's emotionally charged ending does come, it is extremely effective. In the wrong hands it would have been cheesy, but here the effect is moving and it's easy to see why Zinedine Soualem's portrayal of Ahmed earned him a Genie nomination.

This film takes on many complex issues: youth entering the realm of adulthood in a symbolic violent act, a father's acceptance of change and, most importantly, the questioning of accepted superficial beliefs.

Our country is a multi-cultural mosaic and here, in our country, everyone is free and equal in the eyes of the law. Chouinard's *Tar Angel* goes a long way in questioning and looking at some of these assumptions. ❖

THE UBYSSEY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2002
VOLUME 83 ISSUE 32

EDITORIAL BOARD

COORDINATING EDITOR
Duncan M. McHugh

NEWS EDITORS
Ai Lin Choo
Sarah MacNeill Morrison

CULTURE EDITOR
Ron Nurwisah

SPORTS EDITOR
Scott Bardsley

FEATURES EDITOR
Julia Christensen

COPY EDITOR
Laura Blue

PHOTO EDITOR
Nic Fensom

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Hywel Tuscano

COORDINATORS

VOLUNTEERS
Graeme Worthy

LETTERS/RESEARCH
Alicia Miller

The Ubyssey is the official student newspaper of the University of British Columbia. It is published every Tuesday and Friday by The Ubyssey Publications Society. We are an autonomous, democratically run student organisation, and all students are encouraged to participate.
Editorials are chosen and written by *the Ubyssey* staff. They are the expressed opinion of the staff, and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Ubyssey Publications Society or the University of British Columbia.
The Ubyssey is a founding member of Canadian University Press (CUP) and adheres to CUP's guiding principles.
All editorial content appearing in *The Ubyssey* is the property of The Ubyssey Publications Society. Stories, opinions, photographs and artwork contained herein cannot be reproduced without the expressed, written permission of The Ubyssey Publications Society.
Letters to the editor must be under 300 words. Please include your phone number, student number and signature (not for publication) as well as your year and faculty with all submissions. ID will be checked when submissions are dropped off at the editorial office of *The Ubyssey*, otherwise verification will be done by phone.
"Perspectives" are opinion pieces over 300 words but under 750 words and are run according to space.
"Freestyles" are opinion pieces written by Ubyssey staff members. Priority will be given to letters and perspectives over freestyles unless the latter is time sensitive. Opinion pieces will not be run until the identity of the writer has been verified.
It is agreed by all persons placing display or classified advertising that if the Ubyssey Publications Society fails to publish an advertisement or if an error in the ad occurs the liability of the UPS will not be greater than the price paid for the ad. The UPS shall not be responsible for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value or the impact of the ad.

EDITORIAL OFFICE
Room 24, Student Union Building,
6138 Student Union Boulevard,
Vancouver, BC. V6T 1Z1
tel: (604) 822-2301
fax: (604) 822-9279
web: www.ubyssey.bc.ca
email: feedback@ubyssey.bc.ca

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

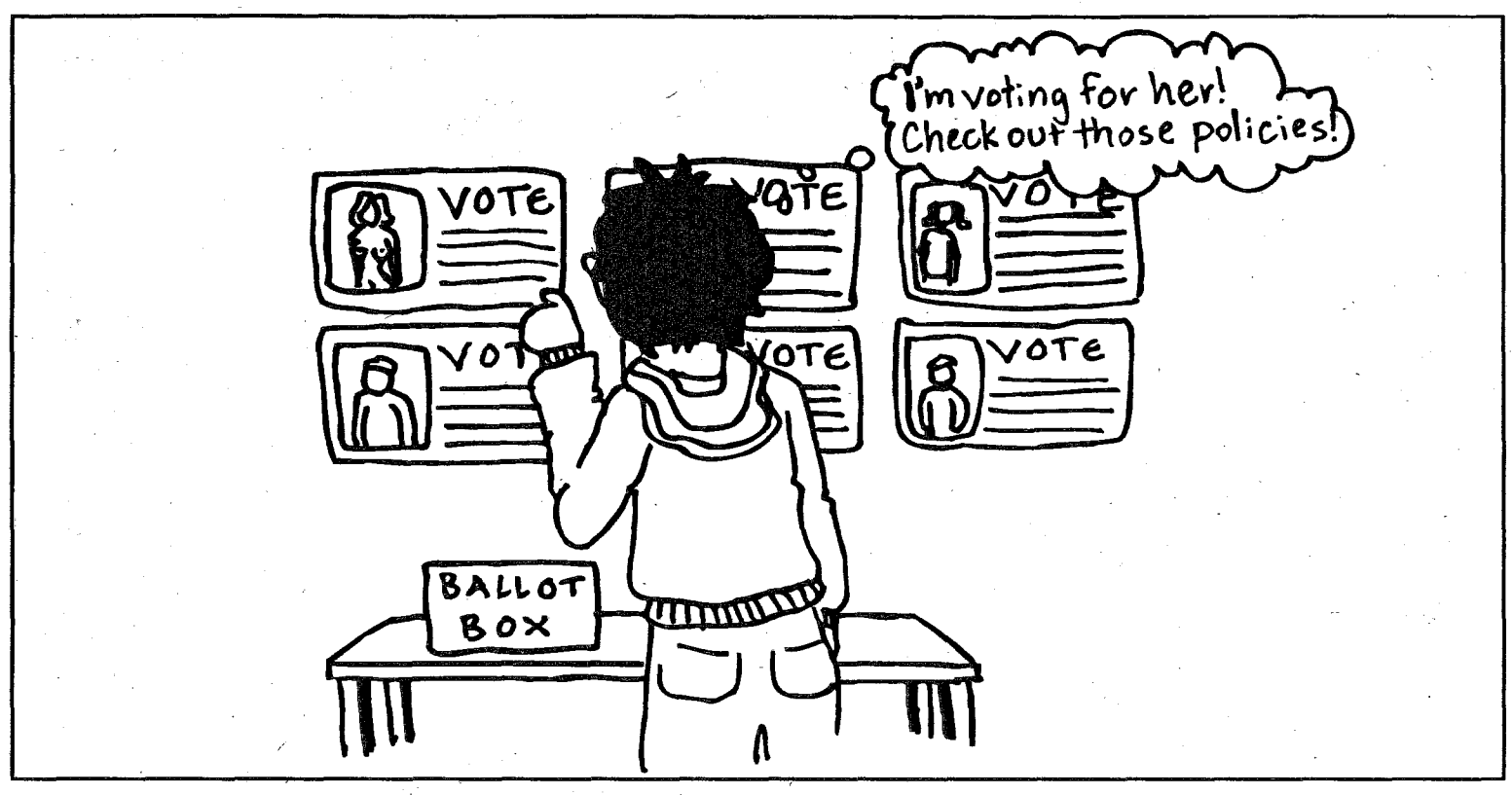
BUSINESS MANAGER
Fernie Pereira

AD SALES
Karen Leung

AD DESIGN
Shalene Takara

The torches burned ominously as Graeme Worthy cleared his throat and addressed the gathered host. "It is done." He intoned, as Anna King, Daniel Silverman and Ayako Kobayashi were dragged through the mob and hurled to the ravenous wolves. Sarah MacNeill Morrison, Sarah Conchie and Sara Young were the next to perish, accused of caucus conspiracy by Graeme's devoted gremlins, Ai Lin Choo and Ted Chen. Nic Fensom waved an image of the venerable Julia Christensen, inciting the eager minions to war, and dispatched Scott Bardsley and Tara Westover to ferret out coffeepot resistance fighters John Moon and Dennis Wang. Ron Nurwisah confessed his heinous crimes to Yu Gu's great delight, and she swiftly executed him along with fellow traitors Todd Silver and Alicia Miller. By dawn, the office was red with blood, and the *New Ubyssey Power* had purged the realm of its enemies. Only Hywel Tuscano, Duncan McHugh and Laura Blue remained in hiding, avoiding ice pick wielding henchmen and Donald Prime. *The Underground* was annihilated by the machinations of Helen Eady, prompting the Worthy to commission a portrait of himself, posing with a pipe.

Canadian University Press
Canada Post Sales Agreement Number 0732141



The one with the tightest ass?

Another AMS election, another voting dilemma. Deciding who deserves your vote is difficult, we admit, especially if you haven't attended any of the all-candidates forums, or done any research ahead of time. Judging by the turnout at this year's elections forums, it's pretty safe to say the most of the students who bother showing up at the polls this year won't have a clue who they're voting for. If that's you, keep the following pointers in mind:

Bad selection criteria:
-You think the candidate is cute.
-The candidate slept with you.
-The candidate you are not voting for wouldn't sleep with you.
-The candidate checked out your ass at a bzzr garden.
-You checked out the candidate's ass at a bzzr garden.
-The candidate has a colour poster.
-The candidate has a name tag.
-The candidate has a name.
-The candidate gave you candy
-Okay, maybe if they gave you candy. Or a beer.

Two years ago, Students for Students swept every seat on the executive by a large margin. That was all well and good. But then they did it again last year. That was kind of flukey. They managed to sneak their way into every position they ran for—the race for presidential candidate came down to 47 votes, and the difference between successful and unsuccessful Board of Governors candidates was a mere seven.

Seven—that could fill a table at the Gallery. Think about it—get a few of your friends and you can rock the vote.

How did that happen? Doesn't anyone else find that really, really weird? We do. Especially because there is no discernable difference between most candidates and many students—check out today's Streeters—admit to voting for their friends or even random names. And we *know* there are people voting for the people they find most attractive. Represent *me*, baby!

So are the AMS elections just a crapshoot? Perhaps. Well, okay, probably. Did the Students for Students candidates just have like 47 more friends and/or associates and/or cronies?

Year after year, it is painstakingly obvious that the real dilemma is not who to vote for, but whether or not to bother voting at all.

But AMS elections are one of the few places you can make a difference in something that—believe it or not—actually concerns you. Yeah, this is getting kind of preachy. We hate preachy editorials, too. But while your voice can make a difference—eight of you can elect someone—democracy is much more convoluted when electing.

For those of you who have managed to make it to your third or fourth year without voting—there's no better time than now to start working that voting muscle. Making a choice, not to mention an X with your writing hand, isn't too difficult. And for those of you in your first year, as hard as it may be to believe amidst tens of thousands of students, your voice does matter. And regardless, you might as well be up-to-date on the issues. Things like tuition costs affect each individual student directly.

Okay, so this is getting really preachy. But come on. We constitute a population of almost 40,000 students. Our campus houses the largest concentration of students in one place in BC, and UBC is one of the largest schools in the country. And we are represented by someone who only 1000 students bothered to vote for? Pretty pathetic.

So you hate the candidates. Well what are *you* doing? Run next year, or encourage someone you find competent to do so. Or elect a pylon—it would make *our* jobs more interesting. "Safety cone wins AMS election"—ah, we can see the headlines now. ❖

letters

A request to the incoming AMS Executive

As a candidate in the AMS election last year and the Science Senate election this year, I know the effort that goes into a campaign. This year I am also the Science Week Coordinator and as a result I have not had a chance to help with the UBC for U campaign. Science Week is next week, and I am trying to advertise, but I find it difficult with the combined efforts of all the election candidates to contend with. One might use the word "overkill."

What I noticed last year was that after the last polling booth closed and the results were made official, the new executive breathed a sigh of relief and relaxed. (A usual thing to do after a huge exertion of time and energy.) Sadly, I never witnessed the same effort put into any project all year by the executive as a whole. I am just using the current executive as an example, but I am sure this is what has happened every year since student apathy became an issue at UBC.

Regardless of the 2002 election results, I am asking that the incoming executive not look to fill their résumé with great job titles and references. I believe people with these motives only lead to further student apathy. I am asking that the new executive put as much (and ideally more) effort into their new job as they did campaigning for it. After campaigning on the pretext that they are the best people suited for their respective postions, would they not want to prove it to their employer, the student body?

—Michael Groves
Science 3

Ubyssey profane, comment for Mr. Eaton

If *the Ubyssey* expects to be taken seriously, its editors should follow both common decency and conventions followed by those in the profession; the use of profane language in journalism is not necessary unless one is quoting another's exact words. I was disgusted to read headlines such as "Prepare to be fucked over" and "Swimmers kick ass" in your January 22 edition. I pay my yearly *Ubyssey* fee expecting to read literate and researched articles and opinion pieces. If I wanted to be insulted by vulgar headlines, I would read *the Underground* and *the 432*.

As for Mr. Eaton's comments, one cannot be "forced to compromise [one's] ideals." Mr. Eaton chose to disregard his beliefs because he saw the choice as personally advantageous. If he is so disgusted by the system, one wonders why he continues to try to be a part of it

—Stephen LaRoy
Engineering 2

Liberals' budget cuts should be no surprise

We all knew it was going to happen...Gordon Campbell campaigned on a platform that made it very clear that public policy in this province would be taking a hard turn to the right. But everytime I open a copy of *the Ubyssey* or even flick on the local news, everybody acts like they've been caught completely offguard. I can almost hear the stupid cries right now, "You mean, they're actually going to do what they said they were going to do...well they should have told us." Guess what...they did. Now, I'm not going to defend all of the things that have happened since the Liberals were elected, but I for one, am getting so fucking tired of everybody acting surprised every time the BC government does exactly what they said they were going to do during their campaign.

The airwaves are rife with a never-ending parade of students set to complain about anything and everything under the sun. "Tuition will be going up, oh no, what will I do? I work so hard at my two courses per year in my sixth year of a four-year degree...I'll barely be able to afford skiing and putting gas in the Benz." Blah, blah, blah. Students here should take a look around them and see what their measly $2100 a year nets: fourth-year classes with hundreds of people, a neverending string of cutbacks to labs and course materials, buildings that haven't been repaired since the 1960s and a group of students who are so oblivious to the decay around them that they'll stand back and watch the university erode right off the cliffs and into the Pacific before they'll admit that they're paying way too little to maintain a first-rate institution. Have a nice day.

—Joseph McPhee
Graduate student

Peter, you are sadly missed already

by Emily Chan

Dr Peter Loeffler, who recently retired from the theatre department, died suddenly on Friday, January 18, 2002.

He was a wonderful man and the best of men—generous, caring, passionate, humble, respected by all who got to know him. Anyone who's ever taken the introduction Theatre 120 course in the theatre department doesn't forget Professor Peter Loeffler. Sometimes in the hall, you hear older theatre students say they wish he'll never retire.

I will miss my talks with him—philosophising about the world; talking about art, photography and possible artistic projects to do using film, dance, photography; capturing this or that image and not being totally absorbed in the negative of the world, but rather as one who is grateful for being introduced to his friend, Rose Ann Janzen and her paintings. To be reminded about warmth and colour, something that breathes life and the human spirit in this post-modern, destructive, chaotic and war-hungry world.

I realised how great a teacher you are and how much I missed being in your classes when I was able to stay awake in one of my classes last term when you guest-lectured. You weren't soft spoken but gentle and you made us, your audience, feel comforted by your presence and generosity. Time did not seem to lag behind nor was my brain turned off during your lectures. When I took your course the first year that I was at UBC, I was inspired to become like you. You made the ordinary seem so interesting and enjoyable. I remember thinking, 'Loeffler can make the most boring subject seem extraordinary and worthwhile to listen to.' But more importantly, I learned to live life to the fullest from you and to not be scared to take risks.

Classes were at 9:30am and for my friends, it would have seemed like the skippable morning course, but they didn't want to skip his class. Word got around to others about this amazing prof and sometimes we would see a friend who wasn't registered in our class until he or she was a regular. Even those who might have disagreed with him at times still came back to talk to him and see how he was doing.

I think for some of us, Peter left too soon. And yet, maybe we knew deep down that his time was coming. Back in November, I remember seeing him and was too embarrassed or scared to ask him, as my prof, if he was okay. He was quite slim. One day I saw him and thought that maybe he had stuffed his shirt underneath to make himself look pregnant for some reason. But after seeing him with the same bulge at the stomach and the rest of his body thin the following week, I knew something was wrong. I thought maybe it was stomach cancer, but I pushed that out of my mind and was then absorbed with preparing for December finals, until the news. He didn't die of stomach cancer but of liver cancer. I had an uncle who died of liver cancer, too, and it's sudden. The prognosis ranges from one month to six months sometimes.

Near the beginning of the term in Theatre 120 when Loeffler was telling us about Frederic Wood, I think he used a quote from Walt Whitman to describe Mr Wood. I think it describes Peter Loeffler better: "If I give, I give myself."

Rest in peace, Peter, and drop in some time to let us know how great paradise is.

PERSPECTIVE
opinion

—Emily Chan is a second-year Arts student.

What lies beneath

by Rob Stotesbury-Leeson

One of the things I remember learning in small-town Ontario is that things are rarely what they appear to be. I never forgot that throughout the intervening years. What amazes me is the fact that very few people have learned and applied this piece of wisdom to everyday life.

With the aftermath of September 11, I had hoped that more people would catch onto this idea. Just because the terrorists were Muslim doesn't mean that all followers of Islam are terrorists. In spite of a few incidents reported in the news, it seemed that the majority of people, on some level, realised that things are rarely what they appear to be.

Unfortunately this useful piece of insight seems to have failed to reach our campus. Safely sheltered away from the real world, some people at UBC, a place of higher learning, insist on being lazy and judging things by their surface appearances.

I own a trenchcoat. Worse yet, it is a black trenchcoat. It is a little piece of home for someone who is far away from home. It has been with me through my years of wandering.

For a change, I decided to eat in the Pit Pub. As I looked for a place to eat dinner, I received several unfriendly glares from complete strangers. Later that evening, I was heading out of the SUB to catch a bus back to where I live. Not two steps outside of the building, another stranger gave me a Nazi salute. He also said something in German. (What, I'm not sure. My German is limited to 'Thank you' and 'You are welcome.')

It is my hope that he was drunk. If he wasn't drunk, I think it is a sad statement about the degree of tolerance at UBC. But he was kind enough to share his wit with me on my birthday. So from my gift I shall take this chance to spread the message of tolerance.

Unlike cliché cartoons, good guys don't always wear white and bad guys don't always wear black. Judge a person on their words and deeds, not their appearances. Things are rarely what they seem to be.

PERSPECTIVE
opinion

—Robert Stotesbury-Leeson is a first-year Arts student.

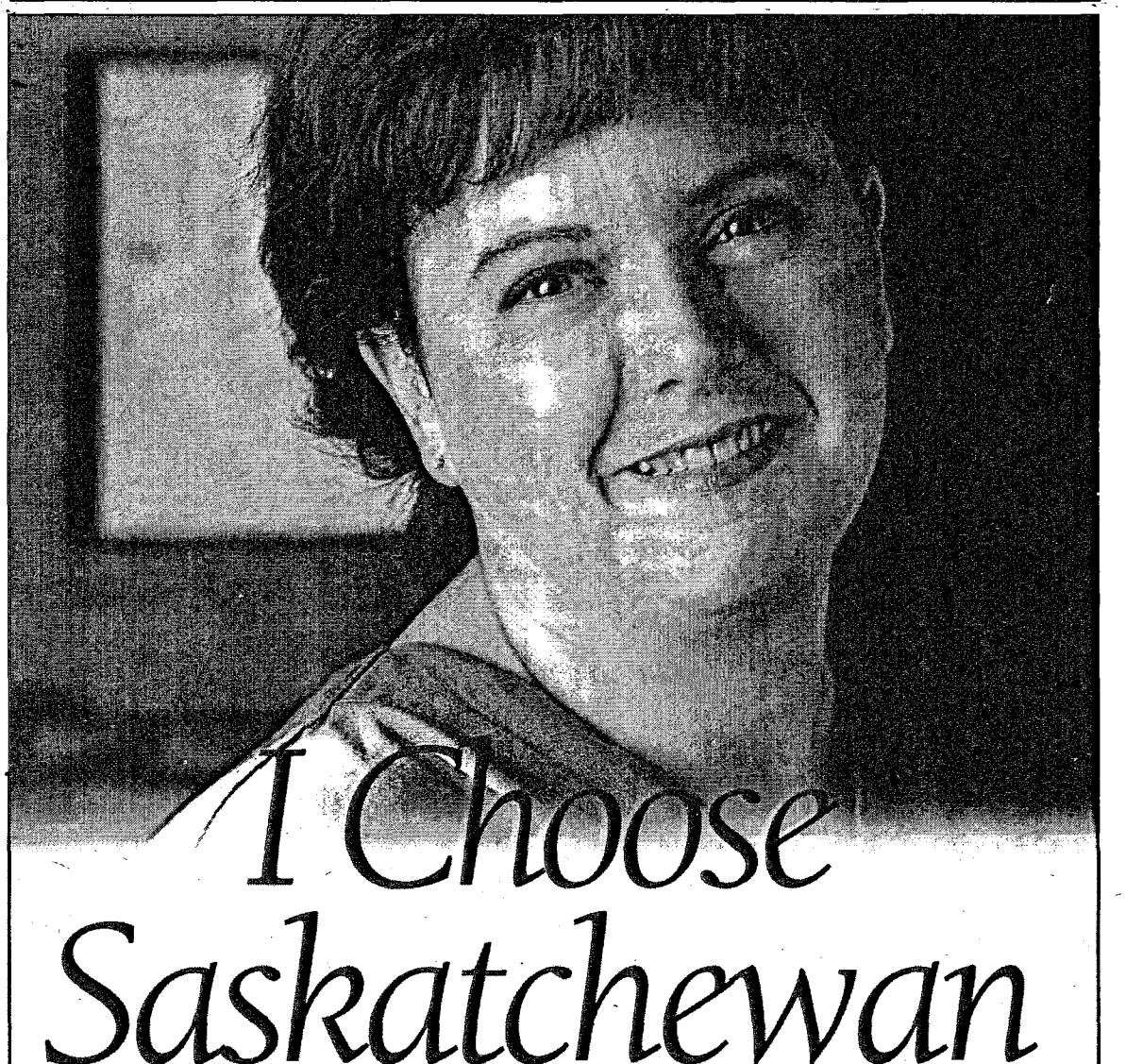
want to help with *the ubyssey* women's issue?

bring your ideas to our story meeting: wednesday, january 30th @ 4pm.

sub, room 24 (behind the arcade).

no experience needed! come write stories, learn production, take photos, and more.

THE UBYSSEY



I chose the health care field because I like people and I'm determined to make a difference, any way I can.

I know all about the pace, the shift work and the occasional heartache because people are fragile and sometimes don't recover. It's not glamorous – but I know my skills are needed and my efforts are appreciated, so I'm prepared to give it all I've got.

When the work is done, I go home to a place that is mine. It's just a short drive away. I know my neighbours.

I feel safe here. There's plenty of space and clean air – and my kids go to a great school. Everything I want and need – theatres, good restaurants, clubs, parks, plenty of shopping – is within easy reach. I am part of a community.

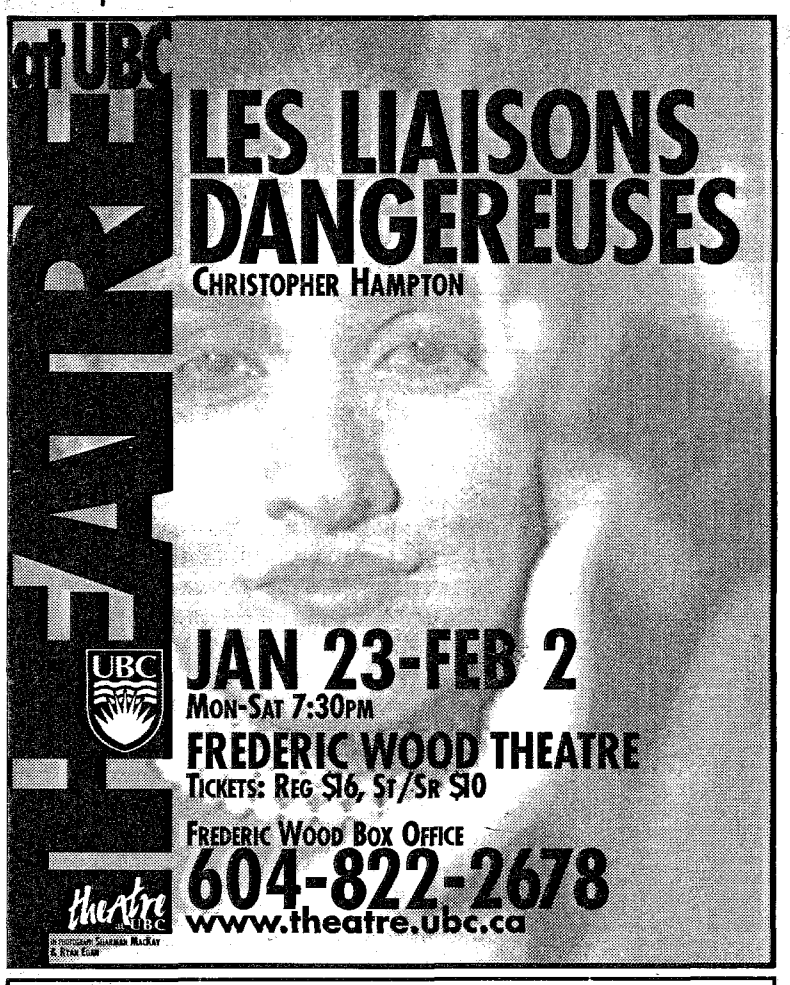
I can afford my own home. My kids can take music lessons, skating lessons and learn how to play hockey and baseball. I have time for myself too, and once in a while, I indulge in something really special.

I am valued as a health care provider and as a human being. In Saskatchewan, my life is in balance.

Saskatchewan's health care system offers rewarding careers where your education, experience and efforts are appreciated. For further information on opportunities in our province, visit www.skhealthjobs.org or call 1-888-242-4844.

Saskatchewan Health

Saskatchewan. Keep life in balance.



UBC TREK Program Centre

improving your transportation CHOICES

www.trek.ubc.ca

Win Great Prizes:
Take the Transportation Survey!

Help Solve UBC's Transportation Problems
With partners like the GVRD, the AMS, Translink and others, we have developed proposals for new programs to improve your transportation choices.

Before we implement them, we need to know what YOU think. Help us develop "made in UBC" solutions by taking the Transportation survey. It only takes 5 Minutes.

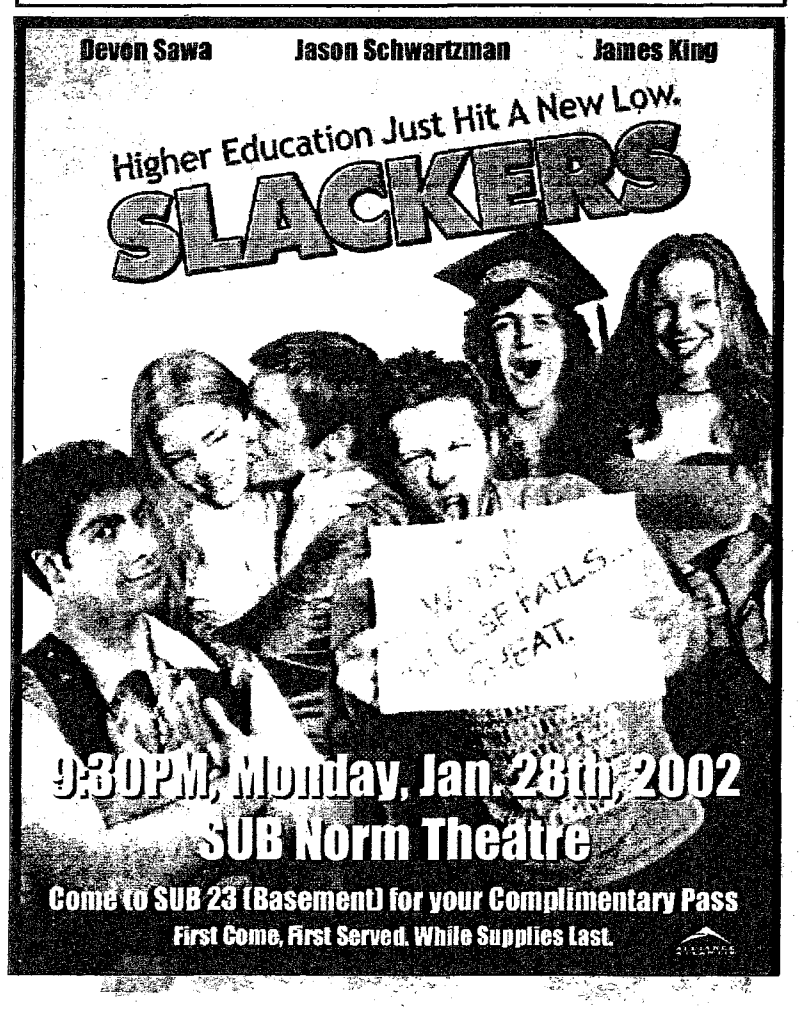
Did we mention the 101 prizes?
Think Cash prizes of $250, Tune Ups, Oil Changes, Mountain Bikes and $200 Gift Certificates to the Restaurant of your Choice... to mention a few!!

Surveys deadline February 14th. Prize Draw March 4th

Together we will make UBC a better place to live, work and learn!

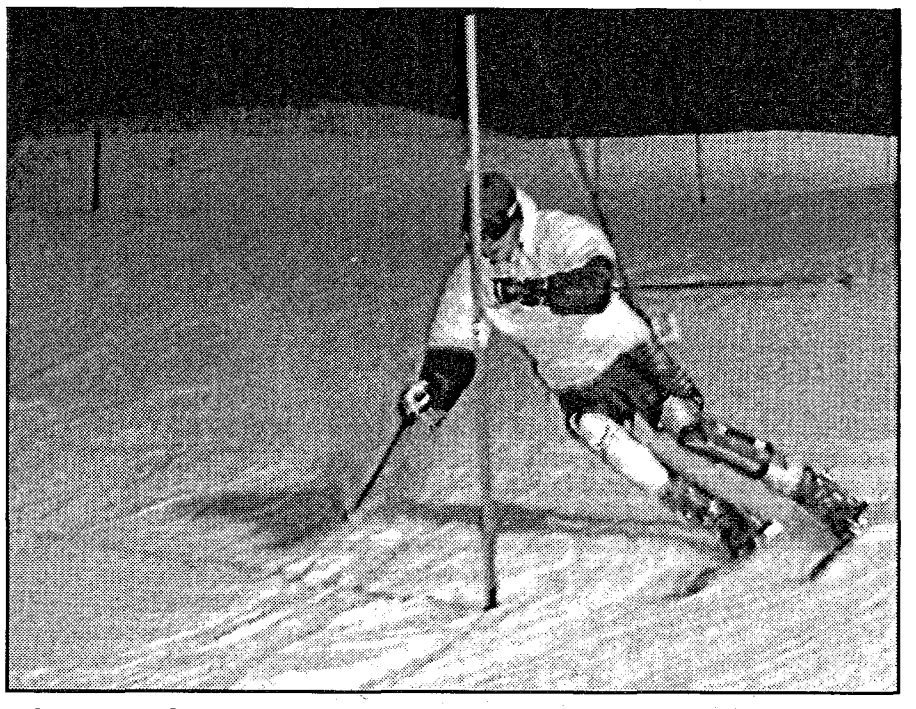
For more information, visit:
http://www.trek.ubc.ca/main2.html

No Internet access? Pick up a copy of the survey weekdays in the SUB room 208 between 11:30 am and 2:30 p.m., or from the TREK OFFICE at 2210 West Mall between 8:30 am and 4:30 p.m. OR Have a Survey form faxed to you by calling 827-TREK.



Skiers hit the slopes

by Scott Bardsley



NOT FALLING DOWN: A UBC ski team member illustrates the fine art of standing up on two thin boards in the snow. SCOTT BARDSLEY PHOTO

As varsity teams go, the UBC alpine ski team is pretty small (five men and four women). Their schedule makes for some pretty long road trips (five US destinations, all by van), and they practice on something virtually unknown in Vancouver: snow (real snow, not that slushy campus stuff).

This year, the ski team is doing some important rebuilding—after a two-year absence, the women's team is back. In recent years, there just hasn't been enough interested women to form a team. But now, with more individual initiative and promotion in the pre-season, the women have returned to the slopes.

"I think pretty much from the start we've always had a ladies' team and that's why it was so disappointing when we couldn't get one together two years ago," said Paul Boskovich, the team's manager and top-seeded racer.

Boskovich took over managing the team this season after their old manager left. He tried to put a bit more effort into promotion, notably creating a website. "Now I probably get more interest in terms of e-mails from girls than I do from guys."

Stephanie Rodenkirchen, one of the team's best female racers, says that simply having a women's team now is an important stepping stone. "It's really good that we do have one because if there's not a women's team the chances of having one next year don't look as good, but there's four keen girls this year so I'm excited."

With Whistler right next door to Vancouver, there's certainly local talent that will want to go to university and want to continue skiing when they do, and that's where the UBC team comes in. Joining the team allows those athletes to compete and go to class at the same time.

With time, as they rebuild the team, the women will have a shot at reaching the same level as the men, who finished seventh in the United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association (USCSSA) nationals last year and were ranked ninth in a pre-season coaches' poll.

So while the men are aiming to finish in the top five at nationals, the goal for the women is more modest.

"On the ladies' side the goal is definitely to make it to nationals—it's a rebuilding year. That's where we're really putting a lot of our focus. A lot of our emphasis is really having the girls step up this year and see where we're at," Boscovich says.

Over 150 schools compete in the USCSSA, but UBC is the only one from Canada. In the league's alpine skiing competitions, schools compete in technical events (slalom and giant slalom).

"It's a competitive circuit that's one step down from NCAA, which is a pretty exclusive circuit. A lot of the guys that are racing and that are winning are a little older because NCAA rules only permit people that are under 25, meaning when people go to school and they're over 21 they usually choose to get a scholarship with the USCSSA," Boskovich says.

Preparation for the season beings with 'dry line' training—strength training—twice a week in the fall.

"[Dry line training lets] you get to know the team before you're on the snow, get to know what's expected, what the races are going to be like, form as a team throughout the fall and hit the slopes at Christmas," Rodenkirchen says.

After tryouts in early January, the team went up to Grouse Mountain twice in the past two weeks to train together, in addition to individual training. Actually being able to go up the mountain and practice on their own course is an important part of training that the team hasn't been able to do for the past few years.

"Until now we haven't had the resources," says Graham McLoire, the team's only third-year racer and assistant manager. "Paul Boskovich, he knows people in the Lower Mainland and Whistler to be able to get us hill space and gates. But gates and drills and everything's so expensive...we don't have any of our own equipment, so to borrow a hill's equipment, their hill space and their time is a big thing."

After qualifying for conference championships in two races, the team will compete in regionals in order to move up to USCSSA nationals.

Getting to these races may not be the most glamorous part of skiing, but McLoire says that it's critical for team spirit. "For the past three years we've been six guys in a minivan, from anywhere till eight to 26 hours and we drive straight, no stopping. Pee breaks every eight hours, so you've got to hold it. And it's fun times. It's a lot of driving, but everyone bonds in the van and you sleep and you get crusty and everyone just becomes friends and it makes skiing at the end of your road trip just that much better."

McLoire says that the ski team's athletes are a bit unusual compared to most other varsity teams because professional competitive skiing can't mix with a university degree.

"For volleyball and stuff, school's a way to improve your skills, to move on, whereas most ski racers, when they've entered school, have quit serious ski racing...It takes up all of your winter so it's not really school conducive. But it's fun, it's a good mix between having fun with friends and serious race competition."

And, of course, being on the ski team lets the athletes see something that you won't see if you stay on camps: real snow. ❖

BIRD droppings

Swimming

Not one, but two Thunderbirds were named CIS athlete of the week. Olympian swimmers Brian Johns and Jessica Deglau received the honour after leading the Birds to their fifth consecutive conference title.

Basketball

The curse has finally been broken. Before last weekend, the women's basketball team had not won any of its past 27 games in UVic's McKinnon Gym. But the women erased any doubts last Friday, defeating UVic 61-42. Annie Krygsveld broke into serious scoring for the first time this season with a team-leading 15 points and seven rebounds. The Birds made it a sweep on Saturday, taking out the Vikes 60-50, with Carrie Rodgers' 13 points leading UBC's scoring.

Things were more mixed for the men's team. With Paul Naka scoring at the buzzer, the Birds took an 81-79 win on Friday. Kyle Russell was Friday's other big hero, making 20 of his game-leading 26 points in the last 20 minutes. But the men couldn't repeat their last-minute dash Saturday, they fell 81-61.

Both the men's and women's squad are squarely second in their division. They will play Trinity Western this Friday in War Memorial Gym.

Ice Hockey

The men's hockey team lost on the road again—no surprises here. They fell 4-2 on Friday and 5-1 on Saturday to the nationally third-ranked Saskatchewan squad. The team is now eight points behind Lethbridge for the last playoff spot in the mountain division. ❖