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APEC FALLOUT

Cops off hook, students in hole

by Sarah Galashan

Students who lodged complaints against RCMP officers for their actions during last year's APEC conference were dealt a couple of blows this week.

On Wednesday, Crown counsel concluded that an internal RCMP investigation had failed to gather sufficient evidence to lay charges against RCMP officers. This came on the heels of the federal government's decision not to provide legal funding to complainants involved in RCMP Public Complaints Commission hearings.

Students called both inquiries "a white-wash". "It's a bit ridiculous to compile your own evidence to prove you're guilty," said Annette Muttray, a UBC student complainant, of the RCMP's internal investigation.

"Now going to the [Public Complaints Commission] hearing will be our only chance

to try to get these officers disciplined," said Muttray.

But even if officers are found by the Commission to have used excessive force, it is not mandatory that the RCMP act on its recommendations.

And ever since Solicitor General Andy Scott's funding decision on Monday, some complainants wonder whether they want to go through with the proceedings at all.

Muttray, for one, said she's considering boycotting the hearings. She wonders how effective a case complainants can make without any legal expertise or advice.

The Commission hearings, scheduled for mid-September, will look into more than 30 allegations that RCMP officers violated the rights of students and protesters during last November's meeting of Asia-Pacific leaders.

One lawyer for the complainants, Cameron Ward, who, until now, has been paid by donations from both UBC's adminis-

tration and student council, says the hearings should be called off.

"[Chretien's] government doesn't want to face the heat that lawyers for these students would bring against [them]."

In his decision, Scott defended the need to provide RCMP officers with several lawyers while supplying complainants with none. "These [RCMP] members may be subject to disciplinary measures as a result of the proceedings—complainants do not face similar potential consequences."

Chris Considine, legal counsel for the Commission, agreed. But he said that the Commission may agree to postpone the hearings to give complainants more time to prepare.

Complainants waited almost three months for this week's funding decision. And they say they are only getting access to crucial documents now—two weeks before hearings are set to begin.

Craig Jones, another student complainant, says he has seen documents that reveal Prime Minister Chretien was intimately involved in decisions to limit the level of protests during the APEC summit.

Jones claims the documents also show the federal government made assurances to former Indonesian president Suharto that he would not be embarrassed by protests over his country's human rights record during his visit.

The Ubyyssey reported last October that Suharto had threatened not to attend APEC in Vancouver unless those assurances could be made.

The government shouldn't have any role in deciding the funding question, Jones said. "The idea that the federal government can pull the purse strings on the one hand and then be everything but a named defendant on the other hand is probably the most disturbing aspect of all this." ♦

Law students divided over equity issue, survey shows

by Douglas Quan

The majority of UBC law students say they have not personally experienced conduct that is inequitable within the faculty, according to the results of a student survey obtained by *the Ubyyssey*.

But just over half said they knew of other students who had.

The survey was administered last March by members of the Faculty Council Student Caucus and student members of the Student-Faculty Liaison Committee to 600 first, second and third year law students. It asked students to respond to a series of statements regarding their law school experience.

On the issue of equity, 66 per cent of the 201 respondents said they at least "disagreed somewhat" with the statement, "I have personally experienced conduct that [is inequitable]."

Fifty-one per cent, however, said they at least "agreed somewhat" with the statement, "I am aware of others who have personally experienced conduct that [is inequitable]."

The division among law students over the equity issue was even more evident in their anonymous written replies.

"The entire UBC law faculty should feel shame," wrote one student. "They are unaware about the inequities that exist and they are part of the problem not part of the solution."

"The environment of law school is degrading, impersonal and an antithesis to what

Oh yeah, Sarah!

Sarah McLachlan and Co. had good reason to be celebrating last Monday. This year's Lillith Fair was even more successful than last's. Enthusiastic crowds at Thunderbird Stadium eagerly greeted McLachlan upon her return to Vancouver, the last stop on the tour. However, the crowds weren't as enthused about earlier performers, such as Lisa Loeb and Angelique Kidjo. Missed were the more exotic headliners from earlier dates in the tour, women like Missy Elliot, Liz Phair and Fiona Apple. Still, McLachlan and Paula Cole managed to put on an impressive show for the tired, jaded and soggy audience. But critics are already beginning to question what's next for Lillith Fair.

See full review page 16



RICHARD LAM PHOTO

See "Law students" page 4

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Refer to the website for details on these and hundreds of other jobs available to eligible students.*

www.awards.ubc.ca

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WHISTLER U: Strangway to make one last pitch

by Douglas Quan

Whistler mayor Hugh O'Reilly says he likes David Strangway's proposal to build a \$100 million private university in his community, but not enough to bring it to council for approval. And he says after several months of discussions, he's given the former UBC president one last chance to come up with a workable plan.

"I've said to them [Strangway and business partner, Peter Ufford] that it's time that they bring their very, very best effort to us," said O'Reilly. "We've been talking for close to

a year, and they now understand what it is that they have to deliver."

O'Reilly said Strangway needs to be explicit in his proposal about the kind of impact this university would have on the resort community of about 8,000 residents.

"Unlike most communities, which would bend over backwards to make this work, we can't bend very far because we're pushing a very sensitive issue and that's the growth of the community."

The head of a Whistler environmental group says he, too, is concerned about the pace of growth in the area.

"Land is becoming a rare commodity in this resort," said Stephane Perron, a Whistler resident for the past 12 years. "We're all wanting the dust to settle a bit to see where this is taking us."

In an interview with *the Ubyssy*, Strangway said he understands concerns that the community will become too congested.

"In a place like that, you want to be extremely sensitive about doing something that is as environmentally sensitive as you can possibly manage it, and you want it to fit within the ambience of the community.

That's very much part of our thinking.

"In the end, if it [the location] is Whistler, we want it to be a university of Whistler, not just a university at Whistler."

According to the draft proposal submitted to Whistler municipal officials on May 22, the ideal location for Whistler University would be on Crown land north of Alpine Meadows at Green Lake, land which has been designated by the city as a potential site for educational, cultural and recreational use. About 100 acres would be required to build the university.

The project would be financed in part from the selling of market housing (about 2,000 bed units) on university property, a strategy of Strangway's during his time at UBC. That money would cover the costs of constructing academic facilities.

Student residences would be self-financing, and operating costs would be covered by tuition.

While Strangway wouldn't say exactly how much tuition students would have to pay, he said it would cost more than going to a public institution. "It doesn't take a lot of genius to look south of the border and realise that it won't be cheap," he said.

But he added that he hoped to offset the high tuition by raising scholarship money for students.

Still, some residents in the community question how accessible the university will be.

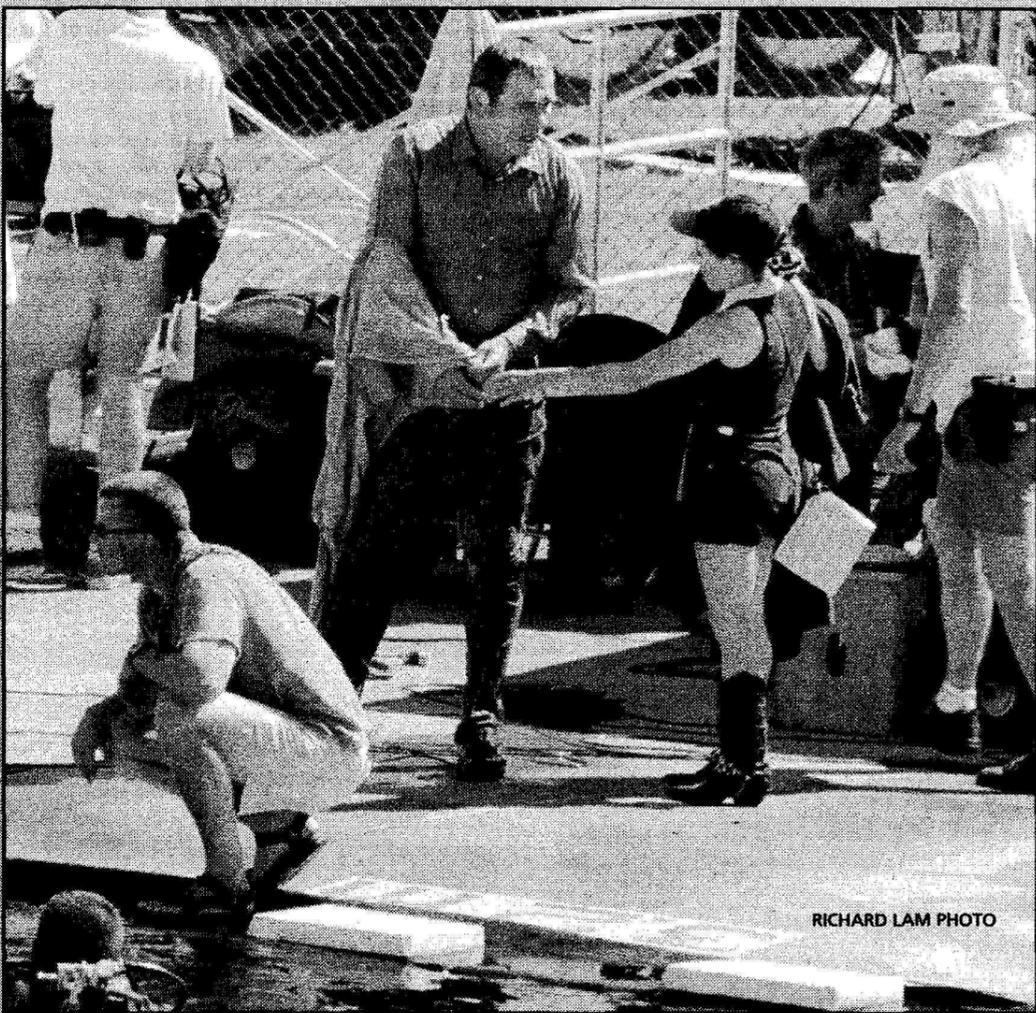
"Are they moving the way of the United States where you have to be rich to go to school?" asked Keenan Moses, general manager of Whistler Outdoor Experience at Green Lake. "It should be accessible to everyone."

Whistler University students would be offered a broad range of undergraduate Arts and Science courses, but there would be a special focus on international issues. Half the students would be from overseas. Students would be required to study other languages and cultures, and exchanges to other universities around the world would be encouraged.

In addition, students would only take one course at a time, in three to four week blocks. School would also be year round, allowing students to complete their degrees in as little as two years.

Strangway didn't want to say how close he was to completing a final proposal. But Mayor O'Reilly said meetings are scheduled over the next couple of weeks. ♦

Students left high and dry by movie shoot



RICHARD LAM PHOTO

Uber-tough guy and movie star Tommy Lee Jones could be found in and around the UBC Aquatic Centre outdoor pool last week, filming the Paramount production *Double Jeopardy* with Ashley Judd. The pool was tied up from Monday to Friday, forcing the cancellation of several university student and staff swims. The popular 4:30 to 5:30 pm swim was wiped out, so some UBC students were forced to show up at the ungodly hour of 6 am to get their free pool time. The crew spent five days amid gawking crowds setting up the scenes—the setup alone included multiple frogmen, stunt doubles, a crane, and the sinking of a vintage car into the pool. All for what will amount to under two minutes of actual screen time. Don't bother looking for familiar landmarks when the film comes out—the pool is doubling for the Pacific Ocean. *Double Jeopardy* is scheduled to be released sometime in summer 1999. ♦

Progress slow on the way to Millennium Fund

by Cynthia Lee

Post-secondary students in need of financial aid may not be the first priority to receive money from the \$2.5 billion Canada Millennium Fund Scholarship.

According to Brian Milton, interim executive director of the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation, five per cent of the funds that will be distributed in the year 2000 will go to students of outstanding merit, and it will likely go to them in January. The remainder of the funds for that year would be handed out in September.

Under Bill C-36, the legislation that governs the Millennium Fund, the Foundation may grant up to five per cent of the funds of a given year to students "who demonstrate exceptional merit even if those persons are not in financial need."

Milton says there's nothing in the legislation that says the money has

to go to those in need first. But he added, "I'm not ruling it out entirely, it's just that it hasn't come forward."

One of the reasons things have been moving so slowly is because the foundation hasn't established a board of directors yet. Only Jean Monty, president and CEO of BCE Inc, has been appointed to chair the 15-member board. But Milton says a board—with two students—should be in place by the end of the year.

"Once that's in place, we can get on with the real business of formally negotiating with the provinces, designing the scholarship program, reaching agreement on the delivery systems."

Bill C-36 requires scholarships be handed out beginning in the year 2000, and provide about 100,000 Canadian students an average of \$3000 towards their post-secondary education annually.

Milton says he's optimistic the

foundation will come through, but he says the legislation left a lot of issues unresolved including scholarship eligibility criteria, regional representation and how long a scholarship can be held. These will be up to the board of governors to decide.

Hoops Harrison, national director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) worries about any delay in allocating funds to students. "Students are in dire need of this money as soon as possible," he said.

Harrison also said it will be important to have student representation on the board. He said the challenge now will be getting cooperation from other student associations to select these student representatives. "It's going to be longer for students in the end if we can't work together on this."

But Elizabeth Carlyle, national chair of the Canadian Federation c

Students (CFS), says it's not necessary for the student organisations to get together on the decision. Over the past year, the CFS has strongly criticised the Canada Millennium scholarship.

"Although we would like to have a student who has the interest of students at heart...the fact is that unless the Millennium scholarship Fund is changed radically, it won't make a difference which students are on it."

Carlyle says the CFS is concerned with the "corporate heading" of the foundation and feels there should be a publicly accountable board to make decisions.

The CFS also regards the Millennium scholarship as a duplication of existing systems.

"How more inefficient can you be to create a body that is sort of doing the same thing as Canada Student Loans does in terms of evaluating need?" Carlyle asked.

Tara Wilson, a spokesperson for the ministry of advanced education in B.C., agreed that the Millennium fund should have been integrated into existing programs.

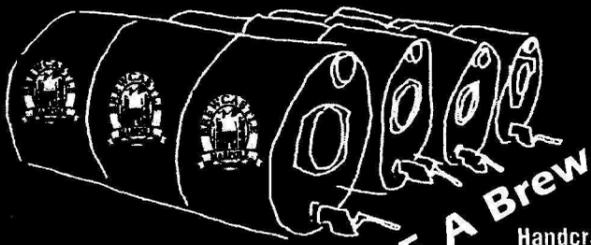
But Milton insists there is no duplication going on. "These are not repayable whereas the Canada Student Loan Program is repayable...In fact one of our goals is to help reduce the debt providing grants or scholarships which the students don't have to repay."

But Milton also says the foundation will try to avoid expenses by "piggy backing" existing systems. He says there is a possibility that the foundation could just add money to federal or provincial loan programs.

"We would rely on the provincial systems to select candidates and presumably to select more of them because there would be more resources available...That way we could avoid building our own system." ♦

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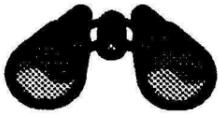
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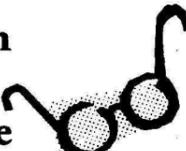
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UBC Equity misses its targets

by Federico Barahona

UBC failed to meet most of its employment equity targets last year, according to the 1997 annual report of the Equity Office.

In one instance, UBC had hoped to hire 75 additional female professors in 1996. In spite of that target, the overall number of female professors fell by two compared to 1995. According to the report, the university made progress in 3 out of 13 hiring targets which were set in 1996 to help the university build a more representative workforce.

Although 51 per cent of UBC's workforce is made up of women, only 25 per cent of all professors are female.

"We have a large number of women in the workforce at UBC," said Margaret Sarkissian, an advi-

sor with the Equity Office, "but they're not fully represented throughout all the hierarchy."

Almost half of all female employees at UBC are clustered in service and clerical positions, according to the report.

"If you have 35 women in tenure positions, I couldn't care less if all of the women are going to be white women. Then we're fighting the same battle"

—Benita Bunjun
A Family Studies grad student and part-time employee of the Equity Office

Other designated equity groups fared even worse. Out of 2,124 professors at UBC, only twenty (about one per cent) are First Nations, and 190 (about 11 per cent) are visible minorities.

The university didn't meet its targets, in part, due to a lack of employment opportunities in 1996, said Sarkissian. In spite of this, she added that UBC is taking other measures to ensure employment equity and reduce bias among the university's managers.

"Even if we're not hiring right now, we're continually doing education about issues of diversity,"

she said. "When managers are hiring they will be hiring with equity in mind."

But Benita Bunjun, a Family Studies grad student and part-time employee with the Equity Office, indicated that the disparities are greater than what the numbers suggest. She said she would like to see the different equity categories broken down further to see how women from different backgrounds fared under the gender category; of the 542 female university professors, Bunjun wants to know how many are aboriginal or visible minority women.

"There's a need to ask how equity has addressed women of colour, and indigenous women within the [Women] equity category," she said. "If you have 35 women in tenure positions, I couldn't care less if all of the women are going to be white women. Then we're fighting the same battle."

The report's categories ignore the connection between race and gender, she said.

"There are hidden statistics. Purposefully, things could be hidden, really hiding behind gender," Bunjun said. ♦

Law students continued from page 1

education is all about," wrote another student. "However, at law school it is considered an accepted 'norm' in the name of 'competition' and that is what the profession expects."

Another student wrote: "I very strongly believe that political correctness and the fear of many professors to say what they actually think, because of complaining students, is a detriment to my legal education... This atmosphere stifles freedom of expression and useful dialogue on many topics."

Yet another wrote: "I have been well treated, or shall I say, equitably treated at law school. While I understand that some of my classmates feel differently, I ask them to compare their experiences within and outside of law school and ask 'where is my treatment better?' The law school does much much better than society in general and I commend the profs, but we cannot expect to be perfect."

UBC's dean of law, Joost Blom, told *the Ubyyssey* that he isn't surprised at the wide difference of opinion.

"One of the reasons people come to law school is that they love to work out problems or issues of fairness and justice like that. You have to expect you're going to have a healthy discussion going on all the time."

"It's not to say you can dismiss these comments [of sexism and racism], but you can't just single

"I very strongly believe that political correctness and the fear of many professors to say what they actually think...is a detriment to my legal education..."

—A Law student



JOOST BLOM The Dean of Law says all equity issues are treated seriously. DALE LUM PHOTO

out some comments and ignore the others either," he added.

The debate over equity flared up last February when a professor gave an assignment containing a 17th century obscenity. The professor said he had made up the word and consulted more than one dictionary to make sure it wasn't real before putting it in the assignment. He later apologised to his class and changed the offending word.

Dean Blom issued a statement saying he regretted the incident had happened, and said that he took UBC's discrimination and harassment policy seriously.

Blom also said that the faculty's Equity Committee is writing a report with recommendations about how the faculty can create a more discrimination-free environment. But Professor Bill Black, who co-chairs that committee, would not elaborate on those recommendations.

Wes Crealock, co-president of the Law Students Association, said he didn't want to comment on the survey until the rest of the executive had a chance to look at the results. ♦

Join **us**

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UBC schools journalists

by Sarah Galashan

For years, students wanting a graduate-level journalism education in Canada have gone to Carleton or the University of Western Ontario. Now, UBC is set to open the doors to its own journalism school, and the school's director is confident that it will be able to compete with traditional schools of the east.

"The first graduating class will be in the new millennium and I want them to be prepared," said Donna Logan.

Logan, a former CBC executive and editor at the now-defunct Montreal Star, says the school's 17 students will be offered a broad range of courses including investigative journalism and media ethics. "It's a very, very interesting time in journalism because of new media, because of a new national paper starting and because of ethical issues."

The Sing Tao school itself has been dogged by controversy because of concerns of corporate influence. The school would never have been started had it not been for a generous donation from Asian media giant Sing Tao. But Logan dismisses the concerns as a non-issue, and says that there will always be an "arms-length" relationship between the corporation and the school.

Canadian Press regional bureau chief Stephen Ward and Logan comprise the school's two full time instructors. Three other professional journalists, including the *Vancouver Sun's* managing editor, Vivian Sosnowski, will also teach classes throughout the year.

Students will take one third of their courses outside of the journalism school so that they can specialise in a specific area of reporting.

"I had become convinced from watching my own career and the careers of others who had worked with me and for me that this was probably the best route in terms of entering the field [of journalism]," said Logan.

Unlike other journalism schools, however, UBC's will not have a broadcasting component. But Logan says print journalism is the basis for all journalism and remains crucial to the field.

"Newspapers are going to be more vital than ever and the reason is because they are the data providers."

Students will gain practical experience publishing an on-line magazine called *The Thunderbird*.

But one of the key draws of journalism school for budding reporters is a better chance of landing a job after graduation—a reputation that UBC will need a few years to build.

In Ontario, both major journalism schools claim high job placement rates after graduation, and both schools dedicate one faculty member to helping students find apprenticeships and jobs.

If there is anything in common between both new and old journalism schools it's that they're having to find alternative sources of funding.

Logan says UBC shouldn't have a problem keeping the school up and running for years with the Sing Tao money, which has since been reinvested.

And both Chris Doran, head of Carleton's masters program and Manjunath Pendakur, dean of Western Ontario's master's program in journalism, say that corporate fundraising is unavoidable these days.

"Canadian universities can't survive without money from outside sources," said Pendakur. "As long as the tail is not wagging the dog, you're okay." ♦

WAITING: Donna Logan waits for students to fill her "state of the art newsroom." DALE LUM PHOTO



Carleton

- Total tuition—\$6250.80
- Application cost—\$35
- Program—two years, except in cases where students can prove sufficient professional experience.
- First year spent learning basics of reporting
- Second year students specialise in one of three mediums
 - Number of students—20
- Practical experience—community newspaper *Capital News* and an on-line publication
- Four month internship required before graduation

Western

- Total tuition—\$6155.28
- Application cost—\$50
- Program—12 months, one full year starting early May
- First semester dedicated to broad exploration of TV, radio and print
- Winter semesters focus on chosen field of media specialisation
- Number of students—40
- Practical experience—a twice-daily radio broadcast aired by a local station
 - A web radio station
 - On-line publication

UBC

- Total tuition—\$8100
- Application cost—\$65
- Program—two year focus on print journalism
- 12 credits taken in courses in a field outside of journalism for the purpose of specialisation
- Number of students—17
- Practical experience—an on-line publication: *the Thunderbird*

Figures based on fees for Canadian residents. ♦

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Great Treks

fall semester '98 **UBC'S COMMUTING NEWSLETTER** vol. 1, no. 1
 COMMITTED TO PROVIDING REASONABLE COMMUTING ALTERNATIVES TO THE SINGLE OCCUPANT VEHICLE



Note from the Director of Transportation Planning Welcome back! How'd you get here?

The TREK Program Centre is here to help make your commute safer, healthier, less costly, more relaxing and less polluting. Under its Official Community Plan approved in 1997, UBC has committed to reduce everyone's reliance on driving alone to/from/across the campus by 20% through improved alternatives - transit, car/van pooling, bicycles, walking, telecommuting, on-campus housing. If driving alone five days per week, this might involve switching one day per week to a "greener" mode of travel. UBC TREK surveys have confirmed that transportation (and parking!) is a major issue at UBC. There is a great latent demand at UBC to do the right (i.e. green) thing. It's no longer a matter of why should we, it's how - what are the reasonable alternatives. Check out the articles on how much money you can save on alternate forms of transportation. If you are fed up with the commute and want to cut down on vehicle intrusion at UBC- get involved. If driving alone five days a week, switch one day per week to a "greener" mode of travel. If we all do our part we'll hit the 20% target and benefit from a cleaner, greener campus! Contact us anytime. Good luck with your studies and/or work at UBC.



Gordon Lovegrove
 UBC's Director of Transportation Planning

Lack of Bike Facilities BUG You?

Standing Room Only Busses TUG You The Wrong Way?

Rigid Nature Of Van/Carpooling ever PUG You?

Get involved in our Bicycle (BUG), Pool (PUG), or Transit (TUG) User Groups. As we implement UBC's Strategic Transportation Plan, we'll need quick input and feedback on planning and operational matters related to continued improvement of SOV alternatives. These User Groups will be structured to reflect UBC gender, geographic, and student/staff/faculty classifications. To volunteer, send us your name, work and home address, classification and usual commute mode.



Big Huge Contest

THE TREK CENTRE NEEDS A NEW LOGO!

Got an eye for design?
 We would like your help in designing a logo for our program. The logo will need to incorporate all types of alternative transportation from Vanpooling to Telecommuting. If the fame of creating the face of the Trek Centre isn't enough to get you motivated, we should tell you that there will also be prizes!

Send entries to the UBC Trek Centre at #207 2210 West Mall V6T 1Z4

New Vanpool Setup 'Looking Good'

If you've spent any time at UBC, you've probably seen these vans buzzing to and from campus. This seven year old program, which got its start at UBC, is about to get a face lift.



SHARE-A-RIDE



Aran would prefer to be run over by a Vanpool than by any other mode of Alternative Transportation.

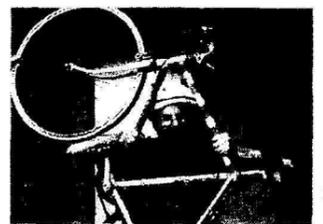
As it is now, a vanpool is a group of 6-8 people who all live in the same area and travel to and from UBC at the same times. Under this system the riders bear the full brunt of the cost of the van. Currently the cost to the riders is about \$100 per month. While the vanpool fares are reasonable, a lower monthly fare would encourage more commuters to join a vanpool. So how can we cut the costs of vanpooling? Aran Cameron, UBC's rideshare specialist, on loan from the Jack Bell Foundation, claims that "one of the problems with Vanpool groups is that they are essentially charged fixed costs such as, insurance and loans even when the van is parked while they are at work." The answer is vehicle sharing. The van, normally idle between 8:00am and 3:00pm, can be put to use during the day. By sharing their vans with UBC's Plant Operations they will be able to cut the fixed costs in half. "This translates into huge savings for the commuter! Also people can now start Vanpools with as few as four, with each additional person bringing the monthly rates down. This gives the Vanpool groups some incentive to keep their Vans fully occupied."

"This translates into huge savings for the commuter!"

While this sounds good, there are some catches. The Vans must be left at the USC building and users will not have access during the day unless they book through the Tool Crib at Plantops. Also, vans with empty seats will be referred riders for occasional rides. While our new option has more restrictions it's nice to see that Vanpooling is evolving and offering more than the one program. Because it is generally staff that uses the Vanpools, Aran is also working with the AMS to get more students involved in Vanpooling.

If you want start your own vanpool, contact Aran Cameron; at 827-RIDE(7433) or 341-RIDE(7433), by email at cameron@cpd.ubc.ca., stop by the office at #207 - 2210 West Mall. Free carpool registration is at www.trek.ubc.ca

AMS Bike Coop Peddles The Way For Green UBC



Ted "wou wou" Buehler's Day Off

UBC could be more bike friendly. There are few bike repair facilities available should you encounter any mechanical problems en route, the University Boulevard bike route is narrow and rough, and other routes are circuitous. But these things will soon change. The forming of the AMS Bike Co-op, earlier this year, will make the campus more bike friendly, and make bikes more campus-friendly. The co-op has four goals:

- Provide public bikes for those who spend time on campus
 - Provide mechanic training and shop facilities co-op members
 - Provide commercial bike repair services for the university community
 - Advocate bicycling issues/safety improvements to campus bike routes
- The Co-op, a product of the Trek Program and the school of Landscape Architecture, will provide better bike access on campus. The Dean of Agricultural Sciences, Moura Quayle and Landscape Architecture students launched the idea. The Co-op is run by Planning Student Ted Buehler and volunteers from various parts of campus.

Co-op members meet every Tuesday evening to work on public bikes, learn new mechanical skills, and tune up their personal bikes. To date they have rebuilt 25 bikes for use by anyone who wants to join the Co-op. Bikes are locked with a same-keyed padlock system, any member can use any bike. The bikes are easily recognized by the purple and yellow paint scheme, applied in a way to make them attractive, yet tacky enough to discourage theft.

Future plans include mechanic training courses, bike safety courses, opening a retail/commercial repair shop in the SUB or other central campus location, and expanding the public bike fleet.

The Co-op is actively seeking new members and donations of bikes, tools, and supplies. See us at our Tuesday night work parties at 2613 West Mall, call us at 82-SPEED (827-7333), email us at bikecoop@interchange.ubc.ca or visit our web page at www.trek.ubc.ca/bikecoop

Ted Buehler wants your old bike!

TREK EVENTS & DATES TO REMEMBER

| Date | Event | Location |
|---------|-------------------|----------------|
| Sept 8 | Imagine '98 | Main Library |
| Sept 17 | GGC Workshop | TBA |
| Sept 18 | Welcome Back B-BQ | MacInnes Field |
| Sept 24 | Trek Public Forum | Bus Loop |
| Sept 30 | Clean Air Day | SUB |

UBC STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION PLAN

There will be a Public Forum on September 24th at the Bus Loop.

The topics are Goals, Issues and Options.

UBC TREK CENTRE
 #201 - 2210 WEST MALL
 827-TREK (8735)

UBC/JBF RIDESHARE OFFICE
 #207 - 2210 WEST MALL
 827-RIDE (7433)

GORDON LOVEGROVE
 DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
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 822-1304

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If you would like a copy of our complete Newsletter there will be copies in the SUB. We will also be delivering copies to each building on Campus. If we missed your building or you need more copies, please call us at 827-7433.

Bio-'geers relieved at program's re-accréditation

by Douglas Quan



BIO-RESOURCE ENGINEERING student Fatima Dharsee won't have to take extra exams to become an engineer. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

UBC's bio-resource engineering program has won back its accreditation to the relief of the many students who feared they would have to take extra exams in order to qualify to become professionals.

Last June, the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) stripped the program of its accreditation, and threatened to do the same to the chemical and geological engineering programs. Board members would not disclose to *the Ubyssy* their reasons for taking such action.

But Michael Isaacson, dean of the faculty of applied science, says it was due to a combination of inadequate work space, outdated equipment and, in the case of geological engineering, lack of professional engineering instructors.

"We'd been hoping to have a new building for the [chemical and bio-resource] department for a while, and because of that, weren't putting money into the existing facilities," Isaacson admitted. "Ultimately, the [CEAB] said, 'We've waited long enough, [you've] got to do something more significant,' and the [loss of accreditation] was the outcome of that."

The department ended up getting \$900,000 from the provincial government to renovate classrooms and labs, and addi-

tional money from the office of the vice president academic and provost for new equipment. There were changes made to the curriculum to make it more relevant to students.

According to Gillian Pichler, director of registration for the association of professional engineers, students who were enrolled in the bio-resource program during the time it wasn't accredited don't have to worry about not being able to register as engineers.

"Because it was fixed so quickly, it's as if nothing ever happened," she said.

That brings a sigh of relief to fourth year bio-resource student, Fatima Dharsee. "I was mad, angry, worried," she said, adding that the uncertainty over the program's future and the prospect of having to take extra tests to prove academic qualifications drove a couple of students to drop the program.

But Dharsee adds there's been a "definite improvement" to the program's facilities. Fellow student, Kelvin Yip, agrees. "We've got a pretty good computer lab now," he said.

The CEAB re-accredited the bio-resource program until June 30, 2000. In the fall of 1999, all nine engineering programs will undergo a review to have their accreditation extended beyond the year 2000. ♦

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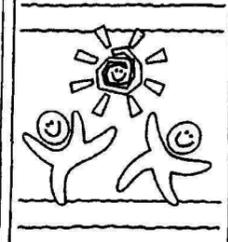
(L) indicates wheelchair accessible service. Customers using accessible buses should call Customer Info for possible changes to lift-equipped/low floor trips.
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VGH-area nursing residence a no go

by Daliah Merzaban

Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) says UBC is not guaranteed management of an empty VGH-area nursing residence because the hospital might use the building itself.

The eight-story former residence has been empty since 1993.

"There are several health-related options that we're looking at," said Murry Martin, president and CEO of the hospital.

"I guess in terms of all of our assets, the principal purpose of them is first to meet health care needs, and if there is not a health care need that relates to the facility then we'd look into other options, and UBC would be at the top of that list."

Last year, Mary Risebrough, UBC's director of housing and conferences, told *the Ubyssy* that VGH had previously offered UBC management of the nursing residence.

"The hospital approached the UBC real estate corporation and asked if UBC would like to take over management of the building—that was in 1995," said Risebrough. She

"There were discussions...but we never actually offered it to them"

—Murray Martin, President and CEO, VGH

added that at the time of the offer, it was at no cost to the university other than renovations.

But Martin denies that any offer was made.

"No, that's not correct," said Martin. "At the time UBC approached us about [the nursing residence], and there were discussions about it, but we never actually offered it to them."

But she said the process is ongoing and a final decision won't be made until mid-November.

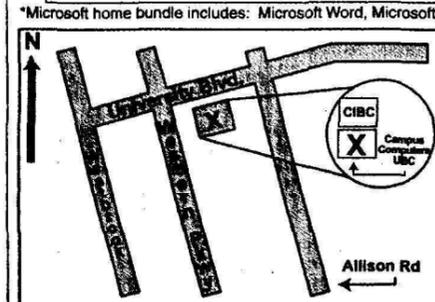
Martin added that any takeover would be subject to a lease agreement.

UBC housing administration say a residence off-campus would give students a balance of an academic environment during the day and a home off campus.

Risebrough predicts that managing the nursing residence will help the undergraduate waiting lists. "If we are able to negotiate something for the future we would recommend it be for first and second year students." ♦

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Summer flashback:

UBC may ditch CIAU

by Bruce Arthur

The Canadian Interuniversity Athletics Union (CIAU) said no to first-year scholarships. And now UBC may say no to the CIAU.

The failure of a UBC-sponsored motion to grant first-year scholarships may send UBC-bound athletes south of the border to compete says Bob Philip, the university's athletic director.

"We can't continue to let all the best high school kids to go to the States," he said. "But we're willing to work initially through the CIAU."

If UBC were to turn to the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA), it would take a significant amount of time—five to ten years, according to Philip.

UBC had hoped that a proposal for first-year scholarships at the CIAU Annual General Meeting in June would induce high-level Canadian student-athletes to stay home rather than opting for the bright lights of the United States.

Recently, many top local student-athletes have gone to the NCAA, such as Victoria's Steve Nash (the University of Santa Clara from 1992-96, and currently with the Dallas Mavericks in the NBA), Richmond's Pasha Bains (the University of Wyoming), and Vancouver's Amy Ewert (the University of Utah).

But at the CIAU's annual meeting in June, a motion to change the existing Athletic Awards Policy to include incoming student-athletes failed by a count of 43-37. The motion required a two-thirds majority, with each of the 48 member institutions getting two votes.

The voting was split along regional lines, as Ontario

schools voted 19-0 against the measure. Members outside of Ontario voted 24-5 in support, with none of the no votes coming from the western regions.

Kim Gordon, UBC's Coordinator for Interuniversity Athletics, said that the Ontario schools are slower to change and adapt than their Western counterparts. "We've got younger [Athletic Directors] out west, and in Ontario it's still the old guard."

Gordon also stated that while first-year scholarships are a very divisive issue, UBC will not deviate from the stand they've taken.

"We're losing a lot of athletes [to the States]," she said. "We have to be successful to survive."

Philip and UBC are looking at a number of possible ways to extend scholarships throughout the CIAU, but that may not be possible without extensive changes to the organisation's structure.

Philip, who was CIAU President from 1993-95, says UBC would support a tiered league, where one level of competition allows first-year scholarships and the other does not.

"In the past [tiering] would have had a detrimental effect because schools would compete based on the calibre of sports," he said. "Now, the tiering would be divided by scholarships."

Gordon says that UBC wants to stay in the CIAU if possible, and that tiering may be the way to do it.

Philip reiterated the need for action in order to keep the union together.

"The lines between Ontario and the rest of Canada are really drawn now, and the CIAU has got to do something." ♦

"We can't continue to let all the best high school kids to go to the States, but we're willing to work initially through the CIAU"

**—Bob Philip,
 UBC Athletic Director**

Johnson interim football coach

by Bruce Arthur

UBC has named defensive coordinator Dave Johnson interim head coach of the Thunderbirds football team for the 1998-99 season. Johnson will take over from head coach Casey Smith, who will sit out the upcoming year to battle liver cancer.

"In my high school year-book, [my] life goal was to be half the man that my father is," said the 33 year-old Johnson. "I feel very much the same in this scenario—to be half the coach that Casey Smith is."

Johnson will move from defensive to offensive coordinator in addition to assuming head coaching duties, while defensive backs coach Neil Thorpe will temporarily fill Johnson's shoes in directing the Thunderbird defence.

While Johnson realises that he will be the focal point of the defending national champions, he is adamant that he has no intention of replacing Smith. "Those are big ol' shoes to fill, and I don't even want to fill 'em. This isn't the Dave Johnson show by any stretch—if anything, I'm leaning on the guys

who know how to do it better than I do."

Johnson points to the superb crew of assistant coaches Smith has assembled and to the already-existing structure of the program as aspects that will help keep UBC afloat. While he says he believes the quality of returning players is high enough to keep UBC competitive, the major adjustments will be in off-the-field operations.

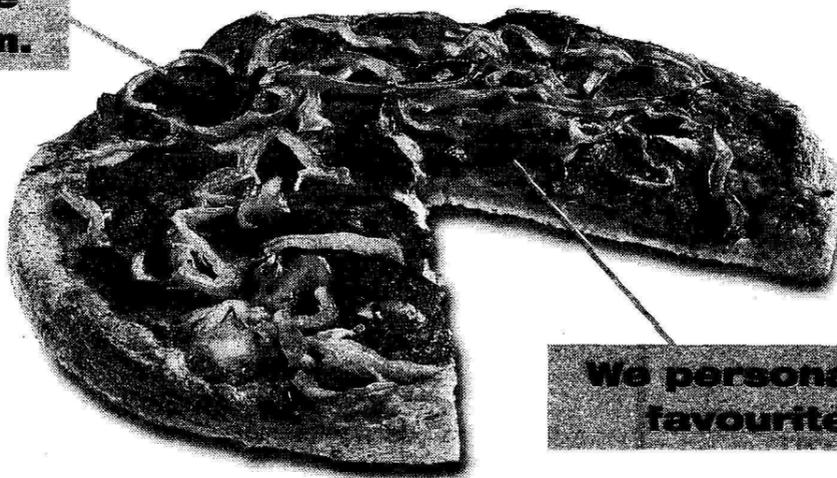
Johnson himself has a varied and impressive resume. Drafted by the BC Lions as a linebacker in 1988, he instead became an assistant with the BC Junior Football League team—the Abbotsford Air Force—for two years until he was named head coach in 1990.

From Abbotsford he moved to Scotland, where he spent the 1991 season as head coach of the World League Glasgow Lions. He also spent six years at Abbotsford Senior Secondary, three as head coach.

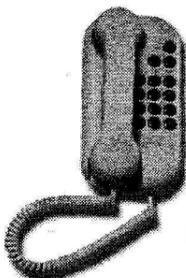
He then returned to helm the Abbotsford Air Force before being hired by Smith as defensive coordinator when the Thunderbirds rolled to the 1997 Vanier Cup victory over the Ottawa Gee-Gees. ♦

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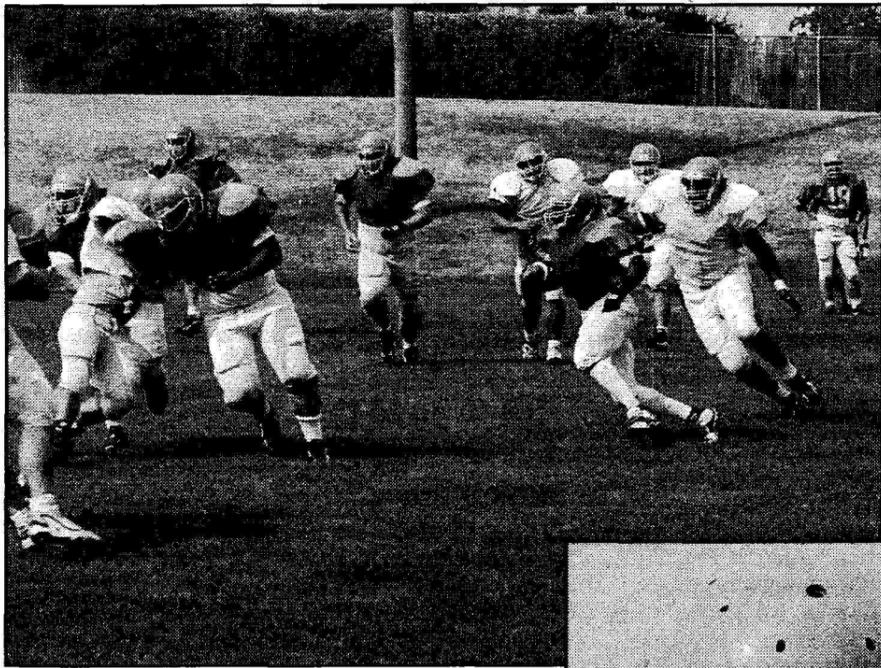
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Camp without Casey



THE 1998 UBC THUNDERBIRDS Casey Smith may be missing, but team spirit is not, as the team runs through the motions (left). The T-Birds' helmets will bear decals (below) in honour of Smith, who will miss the upcoming season with liver cancer. DALE LUM PHOTOS

by Bruce Arthur

It's a different sort of camp at UBC this year.

Football training camps are usually pretty straightforward. Players sweat under the August sun, banging off the rust, icing aching muscles, and adding to their scar collections. It's a fun time to be a football player.

And there are rules. The rookies perform the chores, whether setting the tables for lunch or having to tell a joke before they're allowed to eat. The veterans eat first. Everybody has a grand old time.

But not this year. At the UBC football training camp, there are a whole new set of rules.

"I mean, it is a little bit different feeling, finding out about Casey," said quarterback Shawn Olsen, who returns for his third year with the Thunderbirds. "It was a bit sombre."

When head coach Casey Smith was diagnosed with liver cancer this summer, it changed the way UBC's training camp was supposed to be. A pall would probably hang over the camp without the head coach, and his players and colleagues would worry themselves right out of contention.

But they're fighting not to let the illness win.

"Casey always said when you cross the concentration line and you step up on the field, that's when you block out everything," said wide receiver Brad Coutts. "So I think Casey would want us doing that."

The players are trying to make this as normal a camp as they can. Casey has made the arduous trip to visit camp several times. And after six weeks of punishing chemotherapy, he is thinner. But the set of the jaw is still firm, and his players are following suit.

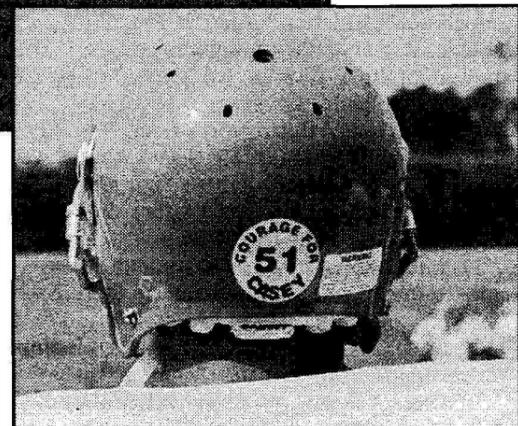
Casey doesn't want to talk about the cancer, he's dealing with it privately, but his players speak freely and are full of praise.

"It is a big lift," said defensive lineman and team captain Alex Charles, of his coach. "When he's watching you don't want to make any mistakes, you know? You don't want him to go through what he's been through and coming to practice to watch you drag your butt around the field, that just isn't cool. So when you know he's watching you're going double-time, tripletime."

And make no mistake, Casey is a coach. He will always be a coach.

"He does some coaching when he's out here," smiled interim head coach Dave Johnson. "And some of that is by whispering in my ear and some of that is actually approaching kids and saying, 'try this, try that.'"

So the team is working hard to keep this a fun



experience. The catcalls, the yelling, the laughter—there is a lot of energy here.

Even the normally gruff Johnson, who was moved up from defensive coordinator at Casey's request, is caught up in the fun this group is having.

"It's been terrific. I'm impressed with how smooth things have gone so far," said Johnson. "We have a great core of veteran leaders, and the assistant coaching staff has been spectacular—it's really been a pleasure working with those guys and watching them do what they do. It's been a lot of fun for me."

People are excited about this team. Even without Mark Nohra, Bob Beveridge, Jim Cooper, Paul Girodo, and Curtis Galick—all stars on last season's team—this team feels pretty good about itself.

"I get the same sort of chemistry feeling as we had last year, with everyone pulling for a common goal," said Olsen. Johnson agrees.

"It's more of a 'we' thing this year," he said. "Not that it wasn't that way last year, but I think we did rely on some of our superstars, and this year we may have a little less glitz and glamour but hopefully we're as effective."

But without Casey Smith, there will be a difference. Three years after a 1-8-1 season, Smith led UBC to a Vanier Cup victory. After taking over from his father Frank, Casey made UBC his team.

No question, Johnson is in charge here, and he and his staff are running a near-seamless camp. But in the midst of all the drills, the sweat, and the shouting, there is something else at work here. You can read it, plain as day, in the stickers that read "Courage for Casey" on the back of every players helmet. This is still Casey's team. And his players appreciate seeing their head coach where he belongs. Olsen, for one, was pretty happy to see his coach.

"Obviously it's a pretty serious illness, but to see that he's strong and he's fighting it, and that he's strong enough to come out and talk to you...it gives you hope, and sort of puts your mind at ease a bit. It means a lot." ♦

NOHRA A BC LION

Mark Nohra is coming home. Nohra was acquired by the BC Lions from the Hamilton Tiger-Cats last week, and contract negotiations are ongoing. He was among the final cuts at the Buffalo Bills' training camp, and returned home to Toronto to await the outcome of talks with the club.

"He's a good Canadian [player], and we've been trying to get him for

a long time," said Lions director of player personnel Brendan Taman. "There aren't enough good Canadians out there."

Taman went on to say that Nohra will start out on special teams and as a backup with the club, and shows the potential to be a solid starter.

Nohra powered UBC to the Vanier Cup last year and led the T-Birds with 1216 yards and 11 touch-

downs en route to winning the Hec Crighton trophy as the most valuable player in Canadian university football.

Nohra will be reunited with former UBC teammate Bob Beveridge, who was inked by the Leos after being cut loose by the New England Patriots last month. The Lions are still trying to finagle a roster spot for the beefy offensive lineman. ♦

UBC looks to life after Nohra

by Bruce Arthur

It's easy to label football players with stereotypes—the racecar wide receiver, the golden boy quarterback. And it's even easier with running backs.

Mark Nohra seemed to be a walking stereotype for UBC last season. His arms and legs hewn from an oak tree, and his neck suitably submerged in massive shoulders. He was the Clydesdale, the grinder, the powerful, bruising, back.

Meanwhile, his understudy seemed nearly as easy to cubbyhole. Akbal Singh is the speedster. He is the ping-pong ball back, bouncing between the tackles and scooting outside, with lightning feet and swiveling hips. Interim UBC head coach Dave Johnson says that "he can take us from here to paydirt quicker than a hiccup."

"I think I can do that," Singh says as he laughs uproariously. "I think I can turn it on, when it comes down to it."

But neither stereotype quite holds true. Nohra's speed was deceptive, for instance, and his feet were quick. Well, the five-foot seven Singh is no flyweight, either. His biceps are like cannonballs, and he weighs in at a compact and explosive 185 pounds. Singh is a guy who can run past you or over you, and he doesn't much care which. And it will be up to him to step into the running back position that Nohra made so prominent in 1997.

"I've been running between the tackles

since high school, and even before that," said Singh. "There are the times when I know I'm going to have to power right through some of the backs, and I think I have the power and the strength to do that."

Singh will need to be able to carry UBC's running game in 1998, because there's no doubt who the Thunderbirds are looking to.

"Akbal Singh without a doubt is the guy who'll be carrying the mail for us," said Johnson. When asked the biggest difference between Singh and his predecessor, Johnson wryly quipped "about 65 pounds."

To say that Nohra set a high standard for UBC football last year is a gross understatement. Nohra churned his way to 1216 yards and 11 touchdowns, won the Hec Crighton trophy as the most valuable player in CIAU football, rushed for 166 yards in the Vanier Cup and won the game's MVP. Singh, meanwhile, started the season as tailback, but was hampered first by a hip flexor that barely allowed him to raise his knee to waist level, then by a series of shoulder injuries.

But to put Nohra's numbers in perspective, Singh was second on the team in yards gained on the ground, and he had 199.

Wideout Brad Coutts had five touchdowns. Nohra was a one-man wrecking crew. So what will UBC do without him?

"We're not going to try to replace [Nohra] because I don't think you can," said interim head coach Dave Johnson. "We need it to be a real team effort. Everybody has a chunk and a portion of work to do. We'll [replace Nohra's production] by committee."

One of the leaders of that committee will be second-year man Trevor Bourne, who stepped in admirably for Nohra when the warhorse was injured late last season. He'll join Singh in the UBC backfield at fullback.

"I'm not sure how it's going to work, but even though Mark's gone I think we might even have a better attack," said the 6'1", 210 pound Bourne. "I'm basically a tailback playing fullback, so we're going to have two weapons instead of one."

Not only is Nohra gone, but so are All-Canadian offensive linemen Bob Beveridge and Jim Cooper. But both Bourne and Singh, true running backs to the core, are optimistic

"[Akbal Singh] can get us from here to paydirt quicker than a hiccup."

**—Dave Johnson
interim head coach**



AKBAL SINGH The UBC speedster will be UBC's number one tailback. RICHARD LAM/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO

about UBC's ground game.

"I think our line's just as strong," said Bourne. "I think we could rush the ball a lot this year."

Singh agrees. "This year with our run-blocking scheme, I think we'll be fine with that."

UBC better hope so. That Nohra fellah casts a pretty long shadow. ♦

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Somewhere near the American border, under cover of night, a plain-looking semi-trailer rumbles along a US interstate highway. Nearby in armoured vehicles, heavily-armed federal agents watch over the rig, weapons poised. At the border, the US agents pass through customs and hand the cargo over to Canadians waiting on the other side.

N

by Dale Lum

While this scenario may sound as fictional as an episode of X-Files, it's part of a plan that's being considered between Canada, the US and Russia. Fortunately the recipient of the plutonium, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL), has no intention of getting into the business of making atomic bombs. Instead, the cargo will be transported from the Canadian border to the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station in Ontario to be used as reactor fuel.

The fuel, known as mixed oxide (MOX), is a blend of uranium oxide and plutonium oxide extracted from decommissioned nuclear warheads. Canadian Deuterium Uranium (CANDU) nuclear reactors such as the Bruce A reactors normally use uranium fuel rods in fission reactions that generate electricity. But the US Department of Energy (DOE) and AECL say that by mixing a little plutonium into the fuel, commercial nuclear reactors such as those in Ontario can be used to eradicate the surplus supplies of weapons-grade plutonium in Russia and the United States.

In 1992, the DOE set a goal of dismantling 2,000 Cold War-era nuclear warheads per year. While it has never reached that goal, both the US and Russia have reportedly accumulated about 50 tons of excess pluto-

nium from their nuclear stockpiles. At a 1996 meeting of the G-8 nations in Moscow, Canada announced that in the interest of getting rid of weapons plutonium, it would make available Ontario Hydro's CANDU reactors for MOX fuel.

But according to Canada's department of foreign affairs and international trade, Russia and the US have been studying the feasibility of using MOX fuel as early as 1994.

AECL is the Crown corporation that manages Canada's nuclear research and CANDU reactors. Larry Shewchuk, AECL's corporate media relations manager, says that it's the national governments that will make the decision to go ahead with the MOX project. However, he hopes that Canada will take part in what he says is a major step toward nuclear disarmament. "If we see surplus weapons-grade plutonium being destroyed by making electricity, this is a significant development in the area of world peace. We're taking nuclear weapons off the face of the earth and we're not just destroying them, we're making electricity out of the destruction of them," says Shewchuk.

He adds that while Ontario Hydro's reactors are being considered for MOX fuel, it's not just Canada that thinks this plan is a good idea. Other countries, including the US and some European countries, have expressed interest in using weapons plutonium in their civilian reactors. "It's really up to the United States, and the Russians as well, where they want their surplus plutonium to be destroyed. We're an option, nothing more at this point in time."

Shewchuk says that the project is only at the research and development stage. One of the questions still to be answered is whether the CANDU design is technically suited for burning MOX fuel. An experiment between the DOE and AECL, called the Parallel project, will utilise AECL's NRU research reactor at Chalk River, Ontario to test the reactor's performance and the completeness of the plutonium destruction. But previous tests conducted by other countries, says Shewchuk, indicate that all of the weapons plutonium would be consumed.

A firm date for the test run hasn't been announced yet, but Shewchuk says that it's hoped it will happen before the end of the year. AECL is currently waiting for the DOE to work out the logistics of fabricating, packaging and transporting the MOX fuel. The entire shipment will consist of about 150 grams of weapons plutonium, or three percent of the total fuel mass.

Shipping large amounts of plutonium requires the use of specially designed vehicles. Plutonium is one of the most carcinogenic substances known; a single microgram inhaled into the lungs will almost certainly cause cancer. Although extremely toxic, plu-

tonium gives off radiation mostly in the form of alpha particles and two neutrons. The DOE worries that the DOE won't be able to ensure for transportation because of its low radiation level. The amount of plutonium in the MOX will be in the form of pellets that will prevent being released in the event of an accident. "MOX fuel by itself won't ignite, it cannot explode, and it was involved in an accident that didn't happen with it," says Shewchuk.

While most nuclear groups in Canada seem like they have peaceful intentions, some are not so sure.

Gordon Edwards is a physicist at Montreal's Polytechnic Institute and a founding member of the Nuclear Response Group. He is also one of the opponents of MOX fuel. "While the American government has taken an environmental assessment, the Canadian government has not," he says, "there has been no public consultation in Canada at all. Canadian public is not consulted in any way until every penny of financial investment and commitment has been made and it's completely unstoppable."

Edwards says that while the release is as benign as Shewchuk agrees, the ceramic fuel will disperse very little plutonium. A successful test burning greater quantities of plutonium down Canadian highways and individual shipments concerned about, it's the question of what happens if this plan succeeds. "You can kill a lot of people with a very small amount of plutonium," he says.

One accident scenario DOE's environmental assessment describes as "extremely unlikely" is an accident causing a fire in the fuel bundle. Plutonium oxide particles could then disperse over a large area.

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Nuclear ARGO Run

relatively weak radiation, of alpha particles (two neutrons). Shewchuk says it take any special measuring the test shipment radioactivity and the small amount. In addition he says the form of solid ceramic prevent the plutonium from the event of an accident. If cannot spill. It cannot explode. Even if the truck in accident, nothing can says Shewchuk.

anything that contributes to an disarmament might like a good idea, anti-Canada and the US suspects something other than behind the plan.

is a professor of mathematics at Vanier College and a member of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, an anti-nuclear group of the more vocal opposition. Edwards is concerned Americans have conducted an assessment, the Canadian taken no such action. In has been no public debate. "It appears that the not going to be consulted anything is in place and so investment and political been made that it is virtu-

at plutonium isn't nearly Shewchuk suggests. While he nuclear pellets of MOX would plutonium in an accident, run might lead to much of plutonium travelling highways. "It's not just these is that we need to be concerned question of what happens...then we are taking like 100 tons of plutonium."

all risk of a radioactive long the transportation concerned about large amount that might be passing communities, says all a tremendous amount / small amount of pluto-

scenario, described in the initial assessment as but "credible," is a traffic fire, a subsequent break-leak and a release of tiny particles into the atmosphere by winds, the plutonium over a large area.

But Shewchuk dismisses the idea that transporting nukes along public highways is unsafe. He says that more highly radioactive material goes through Vancouver every day on its way to hospitals and dentists. AECL has been moving nukes around the country for over 30 years, he adds. "And sure, over time there are accidents. Trucks do get into accidents. There haven't been that many but there have been a few. And on every occasion the container has withstood the accident as it's been designed to."

In the meantime, it will probably be several years before Canada is ready to receive large shipments of MOX fuel. Ontario Hydro is currently facing a budget shortfall and was forced to fire a large portion of its maintenance staff; seven reactors were taken offline because of poor performance and inadequate maintenance. The reactors are being repaired and are eventually expected to return to service but the Bruce A reactor, the intended destination for the MOX fuel, isn't expected to be ready until 2003 at the earliest.

While the hazard posed by the relatively benign alpha radiation from plutonium might be in dispute, some say that there are much greater dangers associated with MOX fuel.

One such opponent is the Campaign for Nuclear Phaseout, a coalition of antinuclear groups from around the country. Kristen Ostling is CNP's national coordinator. Both Ostling and Edwards agree that a greater threat is the likelihood that the use of MOX fuel would establish plutonium as a legitimate source of energy.

"Rather than decrease the circulation of plutonium in the world, it could increase it. It could create a situation where we see the trafficking of plutonium—which has also been termed a 'plutonium economy,'" says Ostling.

Edwards notes that MOX fuel is already being used in Europe and that Japan, Germany, France and Russia already extract plutonium from spent reactor fuel.

Plutonium is naturally found in the spent fuel of nuclear reactors, and occurs in 15 different isotopes. However only one of those isotopes, plutonium-239, can be used in reactors to generate electricity or be made into bombs. And it's that isotope around which the debate rages.

Because there are countries working to create more plutonium-239, Edwards says the idea of burning MOX fuel to contribute to nuclear disarmament is deceptive. "This is a very scary proposal because even if Canada went ahead and burned up this MOX fuel over a period of 25 years, by the end of that

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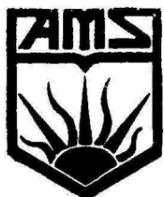
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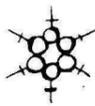
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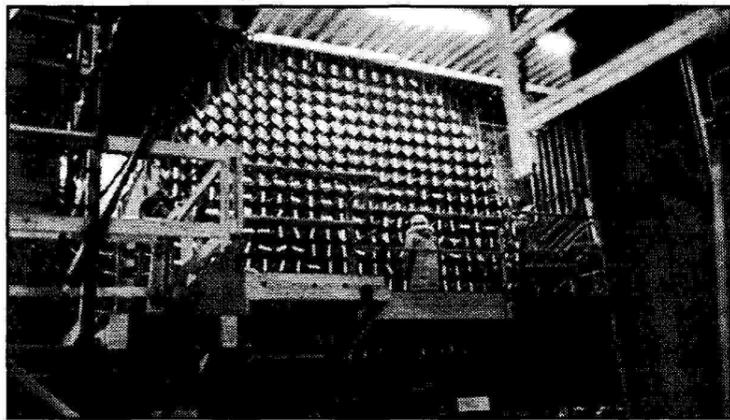
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continued from page 13



CANDU NUCLEAR REACTORS in Ontario might be fuelled by plutonium from dismantled Russian and US nuclear warheads in the future.

period of time there would be far more plutonium at large in the world than there is today."

Ostling agrees, adding that "both the US and Russia continue to maintain and upgrade their nuclear weapons arsenals."

According to the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, despite the START nuclear disarmament treaties, the US is lagging far behind in destroying its stockpiles. Instead, much of the US arsenal has simply been put into storage, with warheads as operational as they were during the Cold War.

Edwards says that if countries were earnest about getting rid of weapons plutonium, an easier and less expensive way is to entomb it in glass. The method, called vitrification, involves mixing the plutonium with highly radioactive waste to make separation difficult, then imbedding the mixture into large blocks of heat-resistant glass.

Vitrification isn't a perfect solution, because high-level radiation would destroy the glass over time. But by making blocks a couple of tons in mass, Edwards says that vitrified plutonium has the advantage of being virtually impossible to steal.

While weapons plutonium in North America is kept under relatively tight guard, the sinking Russian economy has caused gaps in security. In August 1994 German police apprehended 363 grams of weapons-grade plutonium from couriers on a flight from Moscow to Munich. Edwards notes that although it's difficult to extract plutonium from spent reactor fuel, "once done, it's quite easy to steal, transport across borders and fashion into weapons."

Edwards and Ostling both speculate that what Canada's nuclear industry is really trying to do with the MOX fuel project is sustain itself in the face of budget cutbacks, reactor shutdowns and a bad public image. Ostling says that because there haven't been any nuclear reactors sold in North America since 1978, the industry is looking for other ways to stay alive. "What the whole project gets down to is a survival tactic on the part of the nuclear industry in Canada.

"The nuclear industry has, for many years, tried very hard to keep these things as quiet as possible for as long as possible, so that very few people as possible know about it until it's far too late to do anything about it," says Edwards. He says that very little information about the MOX project has been publicly released in Canada, with what little there has been coming from Freedom of Information requests. He also says that most of the infor-

mation obtained by CCNR has been from the US.

There does seem to be less secrecy in the US about the MOX project. The DOE has notified residents along all three possible transportation routes of the test shipment. The environmental assessment has also been widely distributed. Even so, US Congressman David Bonior has asked the DOE to hold public meetings in his Michigan district. "There is tremendous concern in our community about the possibility of becoming a corridor for international shipments of plutonium," stated Bonior in a letter to the DOE.

The difference in openness south of the border might be because of previous lessons learned rather than a genuine interest in public participation. Nuclear accidents at Three Mile Island and Hanford, Washington, while ecologically disastrous, were also hugely damaging to the DOE's public image.

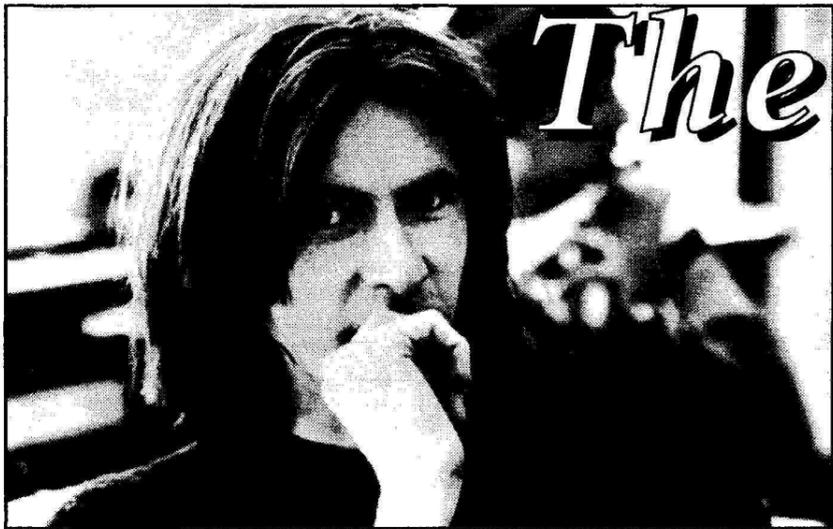
Even so, the DOE is still keeping some things secret. Shewchuk admits that the transportation route through Canada will be chosen by the DOE and AECL won't have any input. He says it isn't much of a concern because of the low danger. "We're not talking about anything that is a security risk in any way, shape or form."

Edwards, however, speculates that the dangerous potential of plutonium means that the government would have to do a security check on everybody living along a transportation route. "You really find that the whole fabric of civil liberty is threatened by the existence of this kind of traffic. Because the risks are so great that you can't afford to just say 'Hey, these people are entitled to their privacy.'"

The only constant in the debate is that the plutonium currently in the world will still be around from eons to come. With a half-life of 24,000 years, it will take a couple hundred thousand years for stockpiles to decay substantially.

In the meantime, Canada isn't quite sure what to do with its nuclear waste. Proposals for getting rid of the waste vary from burying it deep in the Canadian Shield to rocketing it into space. Without a nuclear waste repository, CANDU reactor waste is currently being stored on site.

Because of its persistence, Ostling says that there is no way to truly dispose of nuclear waste. The best thing to do, she says, is to simply stop using the stuff. "One of the things that we could do now is to end the separation of plutonium and have a global agreement that civil use of plutonium fuel should be forbidden, and to begin right away to immobilise plutonium and guard it under a very strict security regime." ♦



BERNARD BUTLER: He is now looking into the future with *People Move On*.

by John Zaoriny

We're nearing the end of the concert when it happens. Bernard Butler is voicing his enjoyment of the incredibly silent audience, obviously not knowing that this particular trait is a Vancouver specialty. Suddenly, two loud voices from the back of the room cry out for 'Animal Lover,' a song from Butler's days with his very former band, Suede.

The room falls even more silent as Butler bows his head, seemingly close to tears. A minute later, he finally lifts his head back up, stares angrily out and addresses his audience.

"What can you do? You're enjoying the silence and suddenly the two biggest morons in Canada have to announce themselves."

Now pointing his arm at the back doors, he continues on: "I've just got one thing to say to them. There's the door. And behind it, there's the past. Right here, this is the future." Then Butler starts into the next song. I turn to my friend and say, "Told you he was a bit touchy."

Bernard Butler was in the mega-selling British band

The Butler does it

Suede. Then he hooked up with singer David McAlmont for two hit singles. When that partnership broke up, he worked as a sort of outlaw guitar hero, working on a one-off basis with everyone from Neneh Cherry and Bryan Ferry to Angelo Badalamenti and the Verve.

And then he decided to record his own songs, and sing themself. And now that his album *People Move On* is out, Bernard Butler would like to know what all the fuss is about.

It's understandable that Butler's touchy. The British music scene is an intense magnifying glass, and with Butler's strange and unpredictable career choices, he's been an easy target.

When I get a chance to speak with him after his soundcheck, I'm cautioned that the earlier interviews didn't exactly go well. No talking about Suede, I'm told. That's alright. There are other things to talk about. But somehow, no matter what topic we're discussing, Butler seems to have a chip on his shoulder.

Ask him if he feels vulnerable being solo on stage and it leads to discussion on the Monica Lewinsky affair and media feeding off media. Mention British folksinger icon Nick Drake and he'll give you a lecture on how people assume that any British solo singer with a guitar and long hair is Nick Drake. Talk to him about peoples' expectations and he'll say, "expectations? Why should people have expectations?"

Still, Bernard Butler does have interesting things to say. One listen to *People Move On* will tell you that. The album's title is simultaneously a description of his current state and a directive to those Suede-minded fans. His current acoustic bent is meant as a chance for those fans to see him in a dif-

ferent light.

"You want to give people a new experience, something they haven't seen before. Like those kids out on the doorstep out there, they've come from Calgary or something. And they're just asking, 'What's he going to be like?' They couldn't work out what it's going to be like having heard the record. Which is really funny for me, 'cause I know exactly what I'm doing and it's a very simple thing for me to do. But they're trying to imagine in their heads because the record is so different from this."

Indeed. *People Move On* is the kind of record that the British seem to do extremely well lately, an album where electric guitar, acoustic guitar, strings, solos and confessional lyrics come together. It's a lushly produced record, a testament to Butler's perfectionist producer tendencies.

But with the acoustic tour, Butler said he wanted to make it interesting for both the audience and himself. "It's not about playing the guitar so that you can impress people." He imitates an awed fan, crowing "Oh Gawd, isn't he good at the guitar!" I've never been interested in that. I always like to change things every night and the whole point of this.

"Every night's different and it's very spontaneous. I'm trying to make it so that I'm not practising the songs. I'm going out and doing what I feel is right."

And it works. That evening's concert is a flawless example of emotional guitar work, with Butler seemingly playing 'till his fingers bleed. Perhaps all that got-something-to-prove stuff is worth it if it manifests performances like this.

Much like the album, some songs that night are quite good, while others are forgettable, but Butler's intensity gives each one a distinct personality. It's as he's willing them to be good for just this one concert. It certainly makes for an intriguing listen. And it bodes well for the next album, which Butler hopes to have out for next May.

Having a chip-on-your-shoulder mentality may make for tense interviews, but it also makes for great albums. ♦

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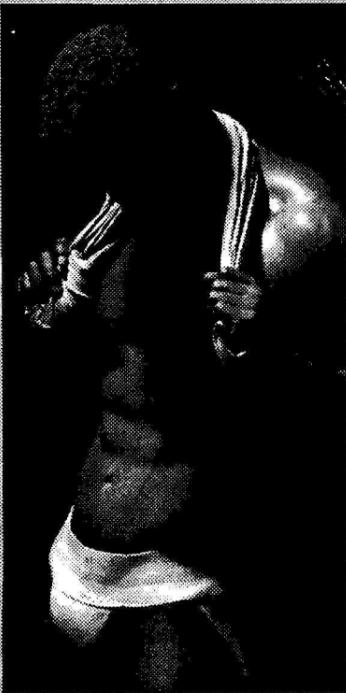


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Lillith Fair homecoming a quiet affair

Lillith Fair
at T-Bird Stadium
August 31
by Ronald Nurwisah

Meteorologists say this summer has been the hottest on record. Too hot, it seems, for the crowd attending this year's Lillith Fair. When the gates opened, hundreds descended en masse onto Thunderbird Stadium, blankets and sun-screen in tow. But the heat seemed to have a sedative effect on the crowd. Of the warm-up acts only African artist Angelique Kidjo, with her awesome rhythm section, elicited so much as a murmur from the audience.

Maybe the headliners could stir the audience? The first was Lisa Loeb who, with her coy stage manner, tried to charm the crowd. Loeb did put on a good set with crowd favourites such as "Stay"; she even sang a duet, the poignant "Falling in Love," with Sarah McLachlan. The effect on the crowd was at best moderate. The crowd didn't hate her—it just wasn't in the mood to cheer.

After a brief and energetic set by The Wild Strawberries on the B-stage, Nanaimo-born jazz diva Diana Krall took to the main stage. Musically, Krall did a fine job with a good rendition of Cole Porter's "I've Got You Under My Skin." But the crowd's reception was once again lukewarm and understandably so. Although Krall's music was good, slow and soulful jazz standards

could not stir the crowd on a hot and late afternoon. Me'Shell Ndegeocello, who followed Krall, tried to shake up the crowd with her funky guitar stylings and powerful voice. At times it worked, and for brief moments people twirled and danced.

But as soon as Paula Cole walked on stage, the audience rose in anticipation. She didn't disappoint. Cole dished out a set that was both musically charged and heartfelt. More importantly, Cole got the crowd going. Each chord she pounded out of the piano was a jolt of electricity resuscitating the crowd.

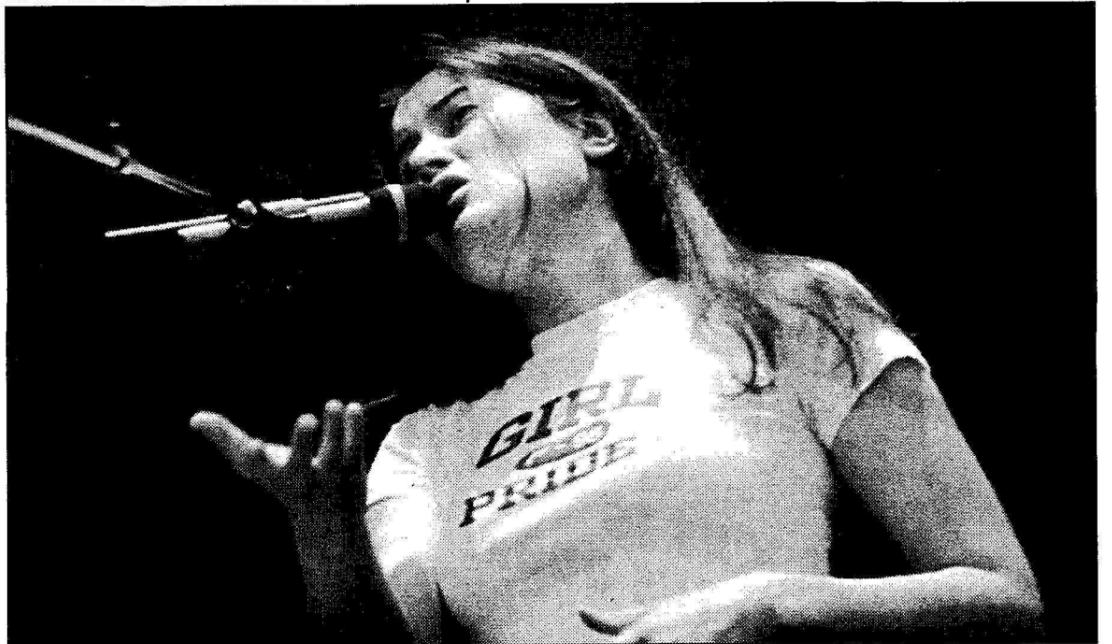


STRAWBERRY: Roberta Carter-Harrison's brief set was all energy. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

Like Paula Cole, Sarah McLachlan was met with cheers. She seemed glad to be back home. In the middle of her set, she marvelled at the weather, literally howling at the moon at one point. As if we needed extra proof, her impromptu rendition of "Oh Canada" expressed her relief to be home.

Clearly people came to see Paula Cole and Sarah McLachlan. Krall's jazz improvisations and Loeb's charming stage manner were added bonuses. But you'd be kidding yourself if you believed they were the reasons people came to Lillith Fair. But where were the other great acts? Where were Sheryl Crow, Natalie Merchant, Liz Phair or any of the other high-powered acts which filled Lillith's lineup throughout the tour? Vancouver was the last stop of the Lillith tour—didn't it deserve better? ♦

HEADLINER: Paula Cole dished out a heartfelt performance to an enthusiastic crowd. RICHARD LAM PHOTO



Morcheeba set to jazz up the Rage

Morcheeba
with Sean Lennon
at the Rage
September 4

WHO ARE THEY?

Skye Edwards (vocals), Paul Godfrey (DJ) and Ross Godfrey (guitar/keyboards). A threesome from Kent, England, who combine sultry vocal styling with scratches, drum beats and jazzy keyboards.

WHAT ARE THEY LIKE?

Well... if the aforementioned description sounded familiar, it should. Morcheeba aren't exactly the first people on the block with the strong female vocalist with beats and keyboard. There's Portishead, Massive Attack, Tricky, Esthero and Mono, to name just a few of the more prominent names. But Morcheeba aren't simply the usual beats and singing band. They've got a much earthier, jazz-influenced style than the beat crazed Esthero, or the hip-hop-headed/film-noir guitared

Portishead. They're far more likely to put a sitar or string section into the mix than another drum machine.

HOW'S THE NEW RELEASE?

Big Calm is a bit slower than the previous one, but that's probably for the best. Morcheeba throw in the whole mix of styles this time, with a country song next to DJ scratchings next to a string section and so on. And it's all good.

IS IT WORTH GOING TO SEE THEM?

Yes. If Portishead's recent show is any indication, trip-hoppy acts can move the crowd just as well live as they can on record. And the word on Morcheeba's last show was quite good. It won't exactly be the end of the world if you miss the show, but then you won't get the chance to tell all your friends you saw Sean Lennon. ♦

—John Zaozirny

Straight Man is bent fun

Richard Russo—*Straight Man*
[Random House]

by Bruce Arthur

It's getting harder and harder to find a good page-turner these days. No, not someone to turn pages for you, but a novel that keeps you racing on—that makes you *really* want to read.

Well, you wouldn't think that a book concerning the chair of a deeply divided English department at a small, inadequate college in the Pennsylvania rust belt would be a page-turner. Well, academia ain't never had it so good.

In Richard Russo's *Straight Man*, William Henry Devereaux, Jr (or Hank) faces the prospect of aging with considerable confusion and dismay. As he is faced with impending budget cuts, Hank must also deal with worries over whether his wife may be cheating, the long-awaited return of his philandering father, the prospect of what would no doubt be a torrid affair with a colleague's daughter, and what may well be his first bladder stone. Sounds like a rollercoaster ride for the ages, huh? Maybe a rollercoaster ride for the *aged*.

But *Straight Man* grabs you. As Hank's world becomes progressively more and more complex, a sense of runaway entropy builds and builds. The rich cast of characters is superbly nuanced, and Hank himself is marvelously unpredictable. He careens almost helplessly along—at one point, he threatens on live TV to kill a duck a day until he gets his budget.

One of the truly fine points is the terrific, meticulously constructed sense of history—the feeling that

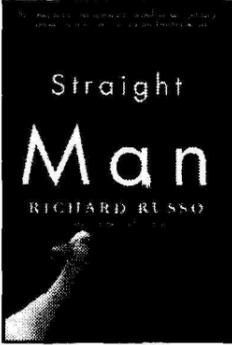
everyone has a past. Russo's fine use of this creates a real sense of depth, of place, allowing tenured life to be sharply rendered in all its bored helplessness.

Russo's writing is self-assured and powerful, full of wry wit and deep pathos. It helps that Hank himself is written with an enormous amount of intelligence and humour. As Hank watches his highbrow, academic mother being courted assiduously by the fumble-mouthed and simple Mr Purty, and observes that "for Mr Purty, listening to my mother talk is not unlike watching a bear dance. It's just the damndest thing."

And upon hearing that his heretofore self-possessed father has taken to random emotional outbursts, Hank begins to wonder what his namesake has become as he reads bathroom graffiti ("eat shit") in a vain attempt to pee. "The William Henry Devereaux Sr of my adolescence would see nothing amusing in such witless vulgarity. Is that why they strike me, at this moment, as the funniest in the English language? And who knows?"

This new William Henry Devereaux Sr, the one Mr Purty has just described to me, might find them funny too. Maybe he'd laugh like a lunatic. Then again, maybe they'd strike him as infinitely sad, so damn sad the tears would streak his old, spotted, hollowed-out cheeks, making him unrecognizable to himself."

It's this sort of writing that Richard Russo proves in *Straight Man* that he is a writer at the height of his powers, and this book is a treasure. Read it whether you're a tenured academic or a young student brimming with promise. Either way, you'll be able to relate. ♦



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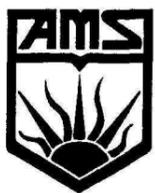
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The AMS is YOUR students' society. The reason we exist is to improve the quality of the educational, social, and personal lives of the students of UBC.

The AMS has a huge mandate to fulfill and we need your help to do it. Whether it is Student Government, Volunteer Services, Safewalk, Speak-easy, working for one of our many businesses in the Student Union Building (or better known as SUB), or of course getting involved in one of the many clubs and/or resource groups that are facilitated by the AMS.

Whatever you decide to do, remember, get involved, have fun, and don't forget to study.

Welcome to UBC, have a safe and fantastic school year

Your
AMS Executive, Council, and Staff

If you have any questions about the AMS, or would like more information on how to get involved, call 822-2901 or E-mail feedback@ams.ubc.ca

Come join us

At our Welcome Breakfast, Sept 11th at the south entrance to the SUB! 7:30-10:30 AM



CASA

Who is CASA?

Members include the universities of British Columbia, Alberta, Calgary, Lethbridge, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Waterloo, Western Ontario, Ottawa, McGill, St. Thomas, New Brunswick (Saint John), New Brunswick (Fredericton), Acadia, Dalhousie, Kwantlen University College and Mount Royal College. (Representing over 275 000 students)

What is CASA?

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization, representing students at 17 of the largest universities and colleges in Canada. Our mandate is to represent student interests at the federal and provincial levels, to provide a forum for public debate on issues that effect post-secondary education, and to work toward achieving the highest levels of quality and accessibility throughout the post-secondary education system. Moreover, CASA is committed to pursuing activities that promote working relationships and standards of cooperation within and among its members associations.

What does this mean to YOU?

Our membership in CASA means that YOU, the average UBC student, has a strong voice on educational issues at the federal level.

Currently the AMS and CASA are working to:

- Create a national education act, that would ensure accessibility and inter-provincial mobility of students, (academically and financially)
- ensure a portion of federal transfer payments are earmarked for post-secondary education
- establish a nationally-equitable level of tuition
- Prioritize the harmonization of provincial and national loans

Education Builds a Nation

For more information on CASA and AMS External Affairs call

Ryan Marshall

822 2050 or E-mail external@ams.ubc.ca

Calling all Volunteers!

Are you interested in campus safety, getting involved in important student innovations, and getting to know other students?

The **AMS Task Force for Campus Safety Innovations and Improvements (CSII)** is looking for dynamic individuals to join our working group. Two of the functions of this group are to perform the Campus Safety Review, to be held in mid-September, and the Annual Campus Safety Audit later in the term.

This Task Force is an excellent opportunity to get involved on campus, both with student organisations, and the University. This is a great way to gain skills and knowledge and meet new people!

NO experience or prior knowledge of the AMS or campus safety issues are necessary. We are looking for energetic and enthusiastic students, in any year, interested in getting more involved!

If you are interested in joining the Task Force contact:

Augustine Park at 822-8725, or apark@unixg.ubc.ca or univc@ams.ubc.ca

or

Neena Sonik, AMS Vice-President at 822-3092, or vicepres@ams.ubc.ca.

Please reply by Friday, September 18th at 4:00pm

Campus Safety



Student Administrative Commission

What is SAC?

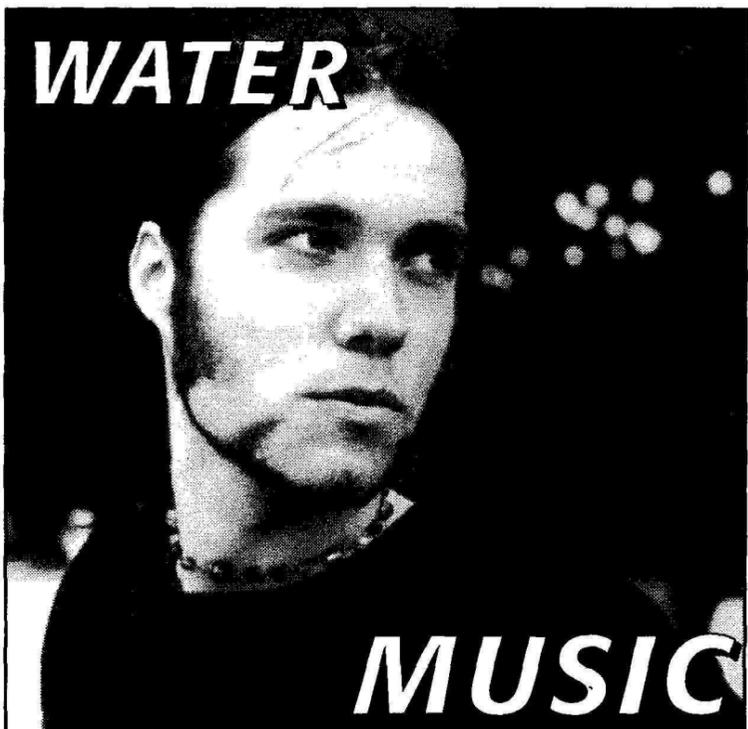
Officially SAC is the liaison between the various clubs and constituencies around campus. SAC is responsible for function security in the SUB, office and locker allocations in the SUB, club contract approvals, and new clubs wishing to become AMS subsidiaries have to be approved by SAC.

Sounds dry doesn't it? Actually, SAC is much more exciting and challenging than it sounds. SAC is essentially the "guiding hand" of the AMS to the various subsidiaries of the AMS, getting to know the numerous representatives of the clubs and constituencies is part of the job, and those of an outgoing nature will find SAC to be a worthwhile challenge.

SAC organizes some of the most anticipated events by the various clubs and constituencies of the AMS. Our first one is Clubs Days. This is a great opportunity for you to GET INVOLVED (!) as the various organizations will be out actively seeking fresh young blood to cultivate into dedicated members. If you only skip classes one day in the year, this will be the time to do it, as you may find (and hopefully, join) a club that may change your life, or if not, your perspective of it.

**Clubs Days
Sept 23 - 25
in the SUB.**

If you're interested in more of what SAC does, or want more information about Clubs Days, contact Sheldon Tay, SAC secretary at 822-2361, or by email at sacsec@ams.ubc.ca.



RUFUS WAINWRIGHT: He is making music with its own time period

by John Zaoriny

The thing about being a piano player is, well, there just aren't that many anymore. I remember hearing Ben Folds, of Ben Folds Five, complain that he'd been compared to Elton John and Billy Joel hundreds of times just because he played piano. But the fact is, in terms of male piano players, there just aren't too many of them anymore. It's as if the great guitar-rock boom of the '60s and '70s wiped out everybody except the Piano Man and Captain Fantastic.

And that's probably why it's so refreshing to hear Rufus Wainwright's self-titled debut album. It's something new, something you haven't heard before. Women on piano? Well, there's Tori Amos, Fiona Apple, Paula Cole, and—at times—Sarah McLachlan, to name but a few. But for the guys? There's Ben Folds. There's Rufus Wainwright. And then nobody.

Rufus Wainwright doesn't want to be the next Piano Man. He just wants to play, which is fine with music like his. He may write his songs in the tub, but who's gonna tell?

Talk about a league of their own.

I suppose that if Rufus Wainwright was in a crowd and, despite never having seen him, you were asked to pick him out on the basis of having heard his music, it'd be an easy task. Somehow he suits his music. He's tall, he's incredibly flamboyant, and he's got a personality that lays siege to a room. This is, after all, a man who makes reference to Jo Jo's psychic network in song. He's the son of famed folk singers Loudon Wainwright III and Kate McGarrigle, of the McGarrigle Sisters. He's a great musical talent, and he's the kind of person who can get away with wearing wooden shoes. But, he does play piano. Which all leads back to Billy Joel, of course.

"Yeah, I've heard that one," he says, laughing, when the Piano Man comparison is brought up. "It's funny, but you can't blame the people for saying that. One night, I did a show and this guy came up to me and he said, 'You're a combination of Billy Joel and Andrew Lloyd Webber.'" At this he laughs again. "I'm not a big fan of either of them, but I respect them. They do a good job. I can see how they would say something like that. Some people need those references."

And in terms of references, there aren't many. Which makes it hard to describe Rufus' music. It's bouncy one minute and mournful the next. So that's part of it. Part of Rufus' charm. But there's more, of course. There's the fact the songs are simply awesome. Full of thumping piano, beautiful strings, courtesy of Van Dyke Parks, and Rufus' distinct, plaintive voice; songs like "Foolish Love" and "April Fools" have the ability to make the listener feel alive. Think back to that feeling you get when an insanelly catchy, strangely powerful and mega-popular tune you adore comes on the radio, something like "Bittersweet Symphony," or "1979."

Remember that sense of warm elation, happy buzzing, and invigoration you get? Well, that's what listening to Rufus Wainwright is like. When he came to town with Sean Lennon this summer, all you had to do was look around at the audience to feel that joyous anticipation. "I can't wait for it to start," everyone seemed to be saying, "and I don't want it to end."

But just what is this strange draw his songs have? Well, that's hard to put into words. Suffice to say that what all the songs have in common is a sweetly sentimental and romantic heart, an operatic sense of drama and, moreover, an endearingly painful, yet still hopeful, sense of love. After all, this is an album that starts off with a song named "Foolish Love" and ends with another named "Imaginary Love." Actually, the entire album can probably be summed up by the chorus of another song, "April Fools." "And you will believe in love/And all that it's supposed to be/ But just until the fish starts to smell/And you're struck down by a hammer."

It's the overtly emotional yet peculiarly strange voice and poppy musical style that, at first listen, bring up a sense of the '60s music scene. It seems to belong in that era of quirky romance and jangly pop songs. But that's something Rufus swears he wasn't intending.

"The idea is old, in terms of my wanting it to just be song and arrangements," he says. "But we didn't aim for that ['60s] feel. Jon Brion, the producer, he's very influenced by that period, but I'm not that influenced by it. Basically, we just went in and [did] whatever worked best with the piano." Which must have worked out well, given the end result. Still, not all the songwriting and production work took place in the studio. When asked about that chorus for "April Fools," Wainwright brightened up in remembrance. "I was sitting in my bathtub," he reminisces eagerly. "when suddenly it came to me. And I just stood straight up in the tub and began singing it." Now that's songwriting. ♦

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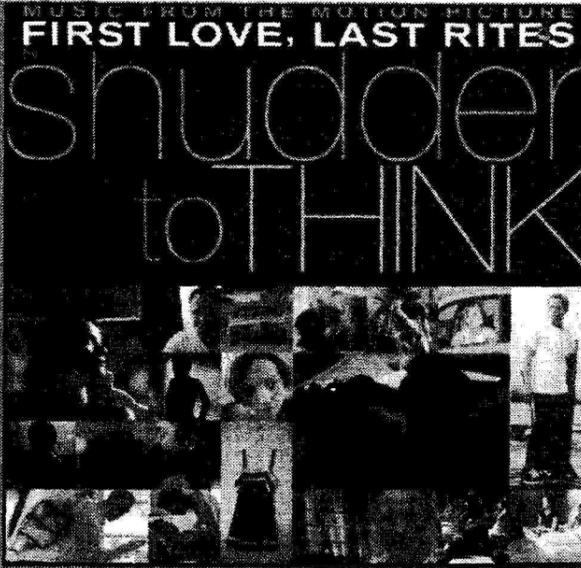
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music minded

Shudder to Think—Music from the Motion Picture "First Love, Last Rites"
[Epic/Sony]

There are times when motion picture soundtracks have an integral connection to the film. Sometimes, as in the case of the soundtracks to *Natural Born Killers* and *Lost Highway*, they serve as strong aural backdrops that project the films' sensibilities upon the listener. Other times the soundtrack is there as a support system, a means of accentuating the film's mood—a phenomenon most obvious in films such as *Titanic* and other such epics. And then, there are soundtracks that have absolutely nothing to do with the film. These are the kind that serve merely as another means for extracting cash from your wallet—the kind that serve up twelve popular artists whose songs were squeezed into one corner of the film or another. These are the places you'll find Nick Cave next to Brandy and Method Man. And this is what *Shudder to Think's* soundtrack to *First Love, Last Rites* is.

Now, that doesn't make it a bad album. On the contrary, the *First Love, Last Rites* soundtrack is apparently leap years better than the film. But still, it's quite obvious that when *Shudder to Think* were given the chance to put together a soundtrack, they didn't say, "Hey, let's make it a companion piece to the film!" Nope. What they probably said was, "Hey, let's make an album that encompasses nearly every genre of music and get a bunch of our famous friends to sing on it!" So, what you get is an album that has Jeff Buckley, Liz Phair, Billy Corgan, John Doe (from punk band X), Nina Persson (from the Cardigans), and a bunch of other people singing songs from almost



every musical section of Americana. There's a punk song, a soul song, a blues song, a country song, a lounge song, a jazz song, and so on. Hell, there's even a '50s crooner tune, with Mimi Parker and Alan Sparhawk dueting about their everlasting love for each other.

It's not that the songs are bad. On the contrary, most of the choices are incredibly inspired. Buckley's gorgeous voice turns "I Want Someone Badly" into an irresistible singalong, while Persson's hushed whisper on "Appalachian Lullaby" should put anyone into a peaceful sleep. But there's something missing. Perhaps it's a point. So all the *First Love, Last Rites* soundtrack ends up being, like so many soundtracks, is a home for a couple of memorable tracks and a bit of a conversation piece.

—John Zaozirny

Snoop Dogg—Da Game is To Be Sold, Not To be Told
[No Limit Records/Virgin Music]

Much like Tupac did on *All Eyez on Me*, Snoop sits in the back photo of his new album, holding a No Limit medallion, pledging new allegiances. Like Tupac did, Snoop wants a new start. He's a No Limit soldier now, the record label Death Row is history, and we'll have to see what happens. There's no other rapper that can play the game like Snoop does. Watch him stretch his rhymes, make you think he's not gonna find his way and then groove all over your butt. Give him the mic, Snoop's got a gift.

I went back to *The Chronic* after listening to *Da Game*. Things seemed different then. Dr Dre was hanging out with some unknown rapper, Snoop Doggy Dogg, and Death Row was nothing but a

very small logo in the corner of the album. The classics rolled nonstop: "Nuthin' but a G Thang," "Deez Nuts," "Lil' Ghetto Boy." In ten minutes, you have Snoop's finest moments recorded.

Da Game reminisces a lot. There's a "Gin & Juice II" and a "Still a G Thang." But it finds Snoop in fine shape. The mix of his rapping with the thick R&B lines make you forget the thick bass line and the high pitched keyboards Dr Dre liked so much.

But only for a short time, though Snoop's cover of the Cops Theme, "Bad Boys," leaves you buzzing. "Whatcha gon do," he raps, "when they come for you?/If you're a Dogg, you better not run."

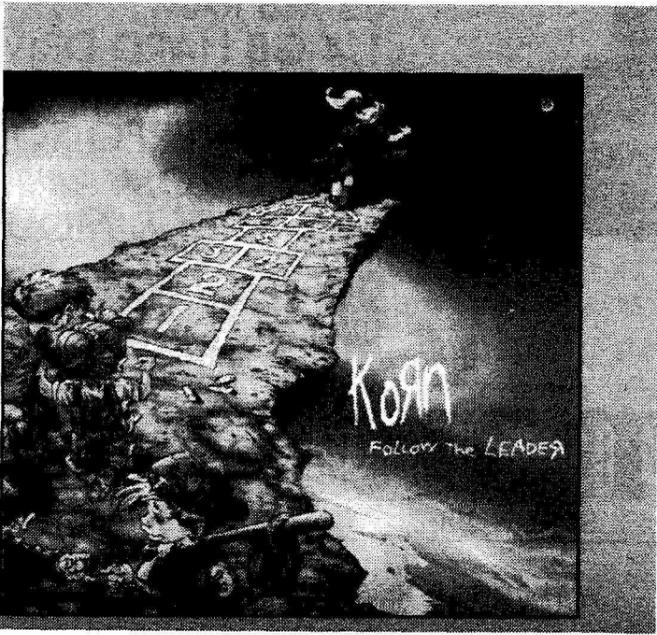
But it only lasts for a while. Nothing here matches the magic of "Nuthin' But a G Thang." But then again, nothing probably ever will.

—Federico Barahona

Korn—Follow the Leader
[Immortal/Epic]

After a dazzling self-titled debut, a disappointing follow-up, and a series of pushed back release dates, Korn is back with a vengeance with *Follow the Leader*—their latest. And they brought along a few friends to help out.

While staying true to their style—growled, grumbled, and sometimes incoherent vocals; low-end guitar riffs; killer bass lines; and controversial lyrical content—Korn has diversified by borrowing some non-genre talent. Ice Cube helps out on one track, "Children of the Korn," while Tre Hardson of Pharcyde makes an appearance on "Cameltois." One of the more successful mixing of hip-hop and alt-metal, the song comes off perfectly.



Another helper along for the ride is Fred Durst from Limp Bizkit. Coming from a band that also uses a low-end alt-metal sound, Durst chooses to rap instead. The end result is a hilarious insult match between Durst and Korn vocalist Jonathan Davis.

Hopefully, fans who may be avoiding this record due to their disappointing last effort *Life is Peachy* will be roped in by the first single, "Got the Life," one of the few songs suitable for broadcast.

Although I'm relatively new to the band, after one listen, I was hooked. Korn is a band that's definitely not for everyone, but if you like your music hard and pounding, *Follow the Leader* is an album to take a listen to.

—Vince Yim

**Erin and Alan
are destined to**

fall in love.

Good for them.

But what about

all the other

romances along

the way? This is

not something

you want to

discuss on the

first date. Is it?

A cute and dangerous movie

NEXT STOP WONDERLAND
opens today at Fifth Avenue Cinemas

by Peter T. Chattaway

Next Stop Wonderland is one of those sweet little date movies that flirts with bigger themes, but never really commits. The film follows the lonely, loveless lives of two hapless Bostonians, Erin Castleton (Hope Davis) and Alan Monteiro (Alan Gelfant), who always seem to just miss meeting each other but, thanks to Fate or to Destiny or to whatever-you-want-to-call-it, finally come together in the final reel.

No, I'm not spoiling the ending; it's pretty much a foregone conclusion right from the start. The trick, in a film like this, is whether or not the director can turn the restless wanderings of these lonely hearts into some sort of intelligent statement about Fate or Destiny. Failing that, he should at least keep the audience entertained.

As it turns out, director Brad Anderson doesn't have all that much to say, but he does stock his film with some reasonably engaging characters—especially Davis as the hawk-eyed skeptic of love—and he shoots the works in a disarming, documentary-like style.

Between the hand-held cameras, jump cuts and sometimes amusing improvisations, *Next Stop Wonderland* ditches the glossy affectations of other romance movies and

captures, instead, the sense some singles have that life is aimless and lacking in direction. The film seems to be saying that, even if this is the case, there may yet be an unseen hand guiding your life.

So what do Erin and Alan do in the meantime to prepare themselves, albeit unwittingly, for their climactic meeting?

Erin, still getting over the political-activist boyfriend (Philip Seymour Hoffman) who left her at the beginning of the film, dates a series of men through a personals ad placed by her mother, on her behalf and without her prior knowledge.

Several of these encounters are rather funny; my favorite is the one with the guy who makes and sells those small pieces of rubber that go on the bottoms of phones and the like. "Consider," he says with all seriousness, "what the consequences would be without those rubber nubs." Indeed. The horror, the horror.

Alan, meanwhile, has decided to escape his father's debt-ridden plumbing business and become a marine biologist. Problem is, everyone wants him to stick to pipes and gaskets, while the local loan shark (Victor Argo) wants him to perform a little sabotage for some

shady business associates.

On the relationship front, the 35-year-old Alan is quite content just to swim with the fishes, but a perky younger classmate (Cara Buono) tries to reel him in for herself.

It's sidebar romances like these that make you stop and think. Let's say you're going to this film on a date with someone you've just met, or even with someone you've known for a year or so. Perhaps you'd like to think that the two of you were destined for each other, just like Erin and Alan seem to be. But, in the meantime, seeing these

other couples come and go, it occurs to you that you might be in one of these other, time-filling relationships instead. Hmmm.

Here's a little advice: skip the Destiny issue. As one of Erin's friends puts it, there isn't much mystery to how people meet each other. They bump into each other, they go for coffee, they experiment with the experience of being in each other's company. "The real mystery," says her friend, "is what keeps two people together *after* they meet."

Exactly. And it's a pity that things are just beginning to get really interesting along those lines when the movie comes to its final stop. ♦

The trick, in a film like this, is whether or not the director can turn the restless wanderings of these lonely hearts into some sort of intelligent statement about Fate or Destiny.

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The sun was setting of the SUB backyard ballpark as the Ubyssy teams battled it out for baseball supremacy. Sarah "Soggy Galoshes" Galashan was first up, and failed to impress the sparse crowd, despite her off-key renditions of showtunes. Her pop-fly was caught in the wet glove of Federico "Wank Man" Barahona. Next up was the Battlin' Roughhouse Cynthia Lee. Squaring off against the wily pitcher Richard Lam, Cynthia went to the 2-3 count before finally knocking a single between second baseman Daliah Merzaban and short stopstop Peggy Lee. Then, the crowd hushed as "Boy Wonder" Ronald Nur-Wis-Ah strutted his manly self forward. Unfortunately, he struck out and there could be no joy in Ron-ville. Last up and the final hope for the team was Douglas "Birdie" Quan. Coach Bruce Arthur pulled the starter and brought in the hired heat, relief pitcher Vince "Loose Cannon" Yim. Yim pounded the heat into catcher Peter T. Chattaway, while first baseman Todd Silver, third baseman Dale Lum and right fielder Tara Westover gazed on. Commentators Jeff Bell and Joe Clark noted the fear and anger that shone in Doug's eyes as he set his stance in his batter box, only feet away from deadly rival Yim. Vince wound up, stretched back and launched the ball. Suddenly, by a freakish chance of nature, the ball hit the plate and spun up towards Doug. Bloody seconds later, Doug's severed arm hit the ground, but still clutched to it's clenched fingers. Now that's a ballgame, said John Zaozirny.



PHOTO MONTAGE BY TODD SILVER AND DALE LUM



Don't let the system get you down

Someone once said that depressing teenagers was like shooting fish in a barrel. In the same vein, causing young people to lose faith in the system is about as easy.

First, the government refused legal funding for protesters who alleged that the RCMP violated their civil rights during APEC, but agreed to provide lawyers for the officers during public hearings into the officers' conduct.

Some of those protesters charge that the Canadian government played a significant role in the suppression of their rights. Should this turn out to be the case, the government must keep more than an arms length from these hearings.

To further the complainants' frustration, all criminal charges against RCMP officers were dropped. Why? Because the RCMP internal investigation didn't gather sufficient evidence to

go ahead.

Let's clarify. The RCMP won't be charged because the RCMP didn't collect enough damning evidence against their own.

At one time, it actually seemed like the government wanted to get to the bottom of all this.

Students barely had time to wipe the pepper spray from their eyes before a government organisation rushed in to solicit their complaints.

And with what seemed like record time, that same government arranged for public hearings to further explore the alleged abuses by RCMP officers.

But it now appears that the whitewash is in full swing. The process has slowed, and the unbalanced playing field has some complainants talking about boycotting the hearings altogether.

That's understandable. If the fingerprints of our leaders are on the actions of the RCMP, where else can they reach? Given the APEC orders are said to have come from the highest office in Canada, there are few places within the process you can put your faith.

But boycotting these hearings is not the answer.

Lawyers or no, this is a chance to be heard. Think: if you didn't show up to APEC on November 25th, what would that have accomplished?

No, it won't be a fair fight, and you'll probably lose. But the spirit of activism isn't necessarily about winning, but resisting.

It might feel right to boycott this thoroughly corrupt process.

But don't walk away now. ♦

We take a special interest in journalism

by J.E. Clark

Ah the good old days... *The Ubyssy* was perfect in the 1940s and 1950s. The paper produced many fine journalists who went on to illustrious careers, it published an impressive four times a week, and most astonishingly there was a "dedicated professionalism."

Oh, how things have changed—at least according to Val Sears, a *Ubyssy* hack from the late 1940s and managing editor of the paper in 1949. In a recent article in *the Georgia Straight*, Sears discusses the virtues of centres of communication studies over trade schools as places to study journalism, but not until he dismisses his own Alma Mater—the student press. After singing the praises of *the Ubyssy* of old, Sears implies that today's *Ubyssy* has been "hijacked by special-interest groups—militant feminists, tree-huggers, ideologues of every sort, even poets" and argues that our communal editorial board does not "reflect the real world of brutal newsroom authority." As far as Sears is concerned, you can't learn 'real' journalism at a student paper any more. Is it any surprise that Sears is currently teaching at the University of Regina School of Journalism?

Now, maybe we shouldn't be too offended. After all we were happy to get a little press for our 80th anniversary, but for all his arguments about the fundamentals of journalism, Sears overlooks some pretty basic rules of reporting. Like balance: Sears includes some inciteful quotes from *Ubyssy* alumni, like John Turner and Pierre Berton, attesting to the quality and professionalism of the post-war *Ubyssy*. But did he make any attempt to contact the staff of today's *Ubyssy*? Did he even bother to read a copy of *the Ubyssy* since its resurrection in 1995? If he had, he might have discovered that far from being "hijacked by special-interest groups," *the Ubyssy* strives to be fair and thorough in its news, sports and entertainment coverage. The mainstream media should be making the same efforts—after all, just because the white heterosexual men that dominate our daily newspapers are not a so-called minority doesn't mean they're not a special interest group. In the "professional newspaper versus advocacy journal" debate, we feel like we've come to a reasonable middle ground. We believe in fair accurate reporting, but at the same time we are not afraid to voice our opinion on our editorial pages. We want to be professional, but that does not mean ignoring our social responsibility.

Sears talks of the sometimes chastening search for accuracy of the young reporter, but fails to deliver the facts in his own piece. In *the Straight*

article, Sears mentions some of the more prominent *Ubyssy* alumni from the years following the Second World War. We are proud to say this impressive list includes such "household names" as Joe Schlesinger, Allan Fotheringham and John Turner. But Sears also includes in his list, Vaughn Palmer, editor and writer for the Vancouver Sun. Yes, Palmer was a *Ubyssy* reporter and editor, but not until the 1970s. By our count, that's about 20 years after *the Ubyssy* renaissance that Sears so fondly recalls.

After dismissing the student press, Sears goes on to defend broad, academically-oriented journalism programs over a narrow trade school approach. An emphasis on a more liberal education gives prospective journalists better background in more than just how to write an effective lede, it prepares them for specialisation and allows them to consider issues like ethics in journalism. Surprise surprise, so does the student press. *The Ubyssy's* current editors are studying everything from English to International Relations, Canadian Studies to Geology. You'd never get that kind of liberal education in a J-school. Student newspapers also allow young journalists to grapple with ethical issues every day, not just on a theoretical level, but with the real

world consequences of lost advertising revenue, angry letters and lawsuits. Sears says that "the value of a smattering of libel-law knowledge in these litigious times is obvious and it is likely only obtainable—outside of a law school—in an embracing journalism course." Actually, in my three years at *the Ubyssy*, I have attended numerous seminars on libel-law and talked several times with our lawyer to discuss specific articles. I am confident that without ever having attended journalism or law school, I have at least a "smattering" of knowledge about libel.

Now that Sears teaches journalism at a university, he is convinced that this is the only way to become a journalist, despite the fact that he honed his own skills at a student paper. It may come as a surprise to Mr Sears, but in the past three years *the Ubyssy* has seen four of its staffers work at the CBC, one become a Canadian correspondent for the BBC World Service and several work as freelance writers and photographers. While they may not yet be household names, they have not had 50 years to establish their reputations. *The Ubyssy* has produced some well respected media personalities in its 80 years of history, but that history is not over. We here at today's *Ubyssy* are confident that the next 80 years will produce its fair share of dedicated and professional journalists. ♦

J. E. Clark is a regular contributor to the *Ubyssy* and a former editor.

FREESTYLE OPINION

RECONSIDERING INDONESIA

Time to break the silence

by Peggy Woon-Yee Lee

One Indonesian woman's voice:

My name is Vivian and I am 18 years old. I have a little sister and brother, and we live in what is supposed to be a "secure" apartment. At 9:15 on May 14, a huge crowd had gathered outside. They screamed: "Let's butcher the Chinese! Let's eat pig! Let's have a party!"... We could hear girls of 10 or 12 years old screaming: "Mommy, mommy... mom.. mom... It hurts." I didn't know then that these girls were being raped.

Not long after, nine men came to the room and grabbed me and my Aunt Vera. I passed out and everything went blank. I became conscious at around 5 or 6 pm. My head hurt and I realised I had no clothes on. I cried and saw my family were still there. My father was hugging my mother and Doni. I also saw Uncle Dodi lying on the floor and Aunt Vera was crying over his body. I fainted... After four days of treatment my condition improved. With a sad look, my father told me what had happened. After I fainted, seven people raped me. Repeatedly [*The Guardian*, July 23, 1998].

I read the articles, the horrific testimonies, and opened up webpage after webpage only to view more examples of our collective dehumanisation. Images of school girls bleeding from their genitals and mutilated in ways beyond polite description. I am appalled by the depths of human depravity. Yes, these are young Chinese women, not unlike myself.

To date human rights agencies in Indonesia, such as the Volunteers of Humanity, have documented 20 deaths and at least 168 rapes committed against women and children from May to as recent as July 3rd. The latest report details the rape of one female student at Tarumanegara University on July 2nd. The three rapists intentionally mutilated her genitalia with a massive object, so the woman required two operations to remove her womb [*Singapore Press*, July 15, 1998].

Four student demonstrators of Jakarta's elite Trisakti University were fatally shot, 20 pro-democracy activists have been tortured and twelve are missing. These atrocities are only a few of the many committed by the same imperialistic Indonesian government which has masterminded massacres in both East Timor and Irian Jaya.

Rape victims are the latest target of a fear campaign. Horrific photos are being circulated to threaten victims and discourage them from disclosing the events to authorities. New Indonesian president Habibie has paid lip service to the atrocities by appointing a 19-member investigative commission which includes no ethnic Chinese members [*South China Morning Post*, July 25, 1998].

In recent interviews President Habibie himself makes no attempt to hide his contempt for the Indonesian Chinese.

"The Chinese exodus won't kill us... If the Chinese community doesn't come back because they don't trust their own country and society, I cannot force them, nobody can force them," Habibie said. In the same interview, the president explained that those Indonesian Chinese which were not attacked and survived the mayhem were the ones that had "integrated into society," implicitly blaming the victims for their lack of assimilation [*The Straits Times*, July 20, 1998].

The history of class-linked racial hatred towards the ethnic Chinese in South East Asia is nothing new. The Chinese are known as the "Jews of South East Asia"—a term coined in reference to their supposed disproportional amount of wealth in the area. The narrative that gets omitted is the history of strategic scapegoating and outright discriminatory legislation.

Few people remember that not so long ago, as General Suharto was planning his October 1965 coup, one million people were systematically slaughtered. This was, as described by the CIA, "one of the ghastliest and most concentrated blood-lettings of current times." Of those killed, the majority were Indonesians of Chinese descent who were sus-

pected communist sympathisers. Suharto's army did not work alone as it began with a hate campaign that incited fear and suspicion towards the presumed Chinese communists. Backed by public sentiment, Suharto utilised the climate to distribute arms while calling for action against the Indonesian Chinese.

During this period, again the Western media was unusually silent, as America itself was caught up in its Cold War propaganda and initiating its confused involvement in Vietnam. Robert F. Kennedy was a lone voice when he said, "We have spoken out against the inhumane slaughters perpetrated by the Nazis and the communists. But will we speak out also against the inhumane slaughter in Indonesia, where over 100,000 alleged communists have been not perpetrators, but victims?"

Thirty years later, Suharto's legacy has created a state that specifically restricts the political, cultural and economic involvement of Indonesians of Chinese descent. From birth, ethnic Chinese are not allowed to have a Chinese name, publicly learn the Chinese language, or celebrate Chinese festivals. These restrictions apply only to the Chinese and not to other non-Pribumis or non-indigenous Indonesians. Indonesian Chinese are restricted from governmental positions and public scholarships. Most importantly, ethnic Chinese are not permitted to have permanent land title, creating a scenario where the only means of economic sustenance is through doing business.

During the early stages of Indonesia's economic development, concessions were made to Chinese businessmen who were instrumental in engineering the nation's economy. Despite economic participation, Indonesians of Chinese descent remain forever designated as second-class citizens. They are permanently denied full cultural and political citizenship and are constantly under public scrutiny to prove their 'Indonesian-ness.'

The blame game is perpetuated today by the global media that equates Indonesian ethnic Chinese with corrupted wealth. While there are examples of Indonesian Chinese business people that have manipulated the economy during the crisis, the majority of Indonesian Chinese are not members of that elite business class. Again, stories that do not fit the presumed racialised class stereotype do not get press coverage.

Web sites such as the Huaren Network voice outrage and call for action against the human rights violations. An e-mail Yellow Ribbon campaign has circulated globally in mourning for those that have died and several petitions have been collected to lobby both national and international organisations to condemn the atrocities.

Half way around the world I sit before my laptop, typing my thoughts, reminded of similar local discourses circulating about "Hongcouver" and the imminent fear of the Chinese investor takeover. While thankfully, there has yet to be systemic racial violence directed against the Chinese here, the jump from thinly veiled-racist public sentiment to blatant public violence may need only the trigger of a small economic crisis.

No longer can we sit in complicity while these atrocities continue. At this moment our elected government and other Canadian business elites continue to hammer out business deals, trade CANDU reactors and negotiate CIDA aid projects with Indonesian leaders without entrenching human rights as an integral part of their business negotiations. The search for global pools of cheap labour and lucrative sites for investment, at times, shrouds human concern for each other's basic dignities.

What can we do from here?

- Sign the petition urging the Canadian government to condemn such acts of violence and press the Indonesian government to investigate and bring charges to the criminals involved.

- Write to Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to make the protection of human rights a condition for Canada's foreign aid program to Indonesia.

- Write to Lucienne Robillard, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, to set up a special program facilitating the application of Indonesians to seek temporary reprieve as visitors or long-term protection in Canada as conventional refugees.

- Continue to learn and share awareness about ongoing global human rights abuses. Support and help local groups to organise the educational campaigns and memorial vigils.

Your silence is complicity. ❖

Peggy Woon-Yee Lee is a former staff member of the Ubyssy. She's a Chinese-Canadian writer, cultural activist, and M.Phil candidate at the University of Hong Kong.

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