Thinking we can walk on water **SINCE 1918**

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SUSTAINABLE SAUSAGE FROM HERE: *THE UBYSSEY* EXPLAINS THE INS AND OUTS OF LOCALLY PRODUCED MEAT. PAGE 5

THE UBYSSEY

NOVEMBER 29, 2010

- VOLUME 92, NUMBER XXIV
- ROOM 24, STUDENT UNION BUILDING
- PUBLISHED MONDAY AND THURSDAY
- FEEDBACK@UBYSSEY.CA

WHAT'S THE PLAN?

UBC'S LAND USE PLAN GOES TO PUBLIC HEARING. PAGE 3

NOVEMBER 29, 2010
VOLUME XCII, N° XXIV

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LEGAL

The Ubyssey is the official student newspaper of the University of British Columbia. It is published every Monday and Thursday by The Ubyssey Publications Society. We are an autonomous, democratically run student organization, and all students are encouraged to participate.

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 Please include your phone number, student number and signature (not for publication) as well as your year and faculty with all submissions.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

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ONGOING EVENTS

***UBYSSEY* PRODUCTION** • Come help us create this baby! Learn about layout and editing. Expect to be fed. • *Every Sunday and Wednesday, 2pm.*

MULTIVERSITY GALLERIES CURATOR TOURS • Learn about a different aspect of the Multiversity Galleries from a different curator every week. From the local to the global and the mundane to the arcane, let the experts introduce you to the objects that intrigue them most. Along the way, you'll gain fresh perspectives related to collecting, consulting, researching, interpreting and exhibiting in the Museum. • *Tuesdays 1–2pm, Museum of Anthropology, $14/12 included with admission, free with UBC student ID.*

AUDITIONS FOR BRAVE NEW PLAY RITES FESTIVAL • Audition: Call for actors for Brave New Play Rites Short Play Festival. Actors needed for short play festival which runs March 30, 2011–April 3, 2011. Non-union, non-paying but great acting experience with exciting new playwrights and directors. • *Auditions take place Jan. 9-10, e-mail* bravenewplayrites@gmail.com *for more information.*

MONDAY, NOV. 29

"AIDS THEN AND NOW" SPEAKER FORUM • UBC-Universities Allied for Essential Medicines presents a public screening of the Dr. Peter Diaries, followed by a talk by Dr. Julio Montaner on "AIDS Treatment as Prevention." Special guest Jo Gorton will discuss the politics and economics of HIV. • *5–7pm, Woodward 5, free.*

AMS HOLIDAY GIFT FAIR • The annual AMS Holiday Gift Fair has arrived. Each week the vendors will vary. Over 30+ vendors each will be selling various winter accessories, knitwear, clothing, jewellery, handcrafts and supplies, bath soaps, fragrances, etc. Come check out this year's Holiday Gift Fair for your latest gifts for family, friends and yourself! • *Nov. 29–Dec. 3, 10am–5:30pm, contact* conco3@ams.ubc.ca *for more information.*

TUESDAY, NOV. 30

SIGNED WITHOUT SIGNATURE: WORKS BY CHARLES AND ISABELLA EDENSHAW • From the late 1800s to the early 1900s, Charles and Isabella Edenshaw produced Haida art that continues to inspire the finest Haida artists of today, many of whom are their descendants. This exhibit highlights Charles Edenshaw's engraved silver bracelets, as well as his wife Isabella's basketry, which Charles painted. • *10am–5pm, Museum of Anthropology, $14 adult, $12 student/senior, free for UBC faculty, students and staff.*

HOLIDAY GLAM-UP! • Earn make-up tips to really glam up for the holiday season. Professional make-up retailer Beauty Court will show you tricks on looking your best. Men's skin care will also be covered. • *5–7pm, UBC Bookstore, free gifts for attendees, lucky gift basket draw at the end of the session. Products available for sale.*

THURSDAY, DEC. 2

THE GEORGIA STRAIGHT, CiTR AND LUV-A-FAIR PRESENT: CONJURE ONE AND FRONT LINE ASSEMBLY • Conjure One's Rhys Fulber (Delerium, Fear Factory and Front Line Assembly) is concluding his North American tour at Venue on December 2, showcasing his "dirty, squelchy electronic, semi trip-hop" album, *Exilarch.* • *19+ event, 9pm–2am, Venue Nightclub, 881 Granville St, $20.*

KEEP THE LIGHT SHINING: CANDLELIGHT VIGIL • A candlelight vigil will be happening to remember and celebrate the strength and resilience of people who have and are fighting HIV/AIDS and in memory of those passed away from HIV/AIDS. • *6–8:30pm, North SUB entrance.*

FRIDAY, DEC. 3

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES • The United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities gives people an opportunity to shine a light on the achievements of people with disabilities, and to glimpse the possibility of a world where everyone belongs. The celebration will include a marvellous evening of music, performances, crafts, dance, storytelling and art, performed and designed by artists, performers and musicians with disabilities. • *5:30–9pm, Roundhouse Community Centre, 181 Roundhouse Mews (Davie & Pacific), free, go to* vancouverdisabilitiesday.ca *or call (604) 608-0384 for more information.*

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE & ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: DANCE FUNDRAISER • Dance the night away at this all-ages dance fundraiser hosted by UBC V-Day and Pride UBC. All the proceeds of the event go towards support services for women experiencing gender-based violence. • *7pm–12am, SUB Room 207/209, contact CJ Rowe at (604) 822-2415 or* cj.rowe@ubc.ca *for more information.*

ONE-MAN STAR WARS • A one-hour, high energy, nonstop blast through the first three *Star Wars* films. The catch is, there's only one cast member. Charles Ross, the writer and solo performer, spent too much of his childhood in a galaxy far, far away—adulthood has been similar. Ross plays all the characters, recreates the effects, sings the music, flies the ships and fights both sides of the battles. Three movies, one man, one hour! • *8–9pm, Vogue Theatre, 918 Granville St, $27.50–29.50, tickets available at* voguetheatre.com, *Vogue Box Office or on the phone at (604) 569-1144.*

SATURDAY, DEC. 4

EXCLAIM! AND CBC RADIO 3 PRESENT: FRAZEY FORD • Exclaim! and *CBC* Radio 3 are bringing you Vancouver's very own indie folk phenomenon, Frazey Ford. Formerly from the Canadian folk trio The Be Good Tanyas, Frazey has been touring the globe in support of her debut solo album, *Obadiah.* • *19+ event, 8pm–2am, Fortune Sound Club, 147 East Pender St.*

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NEWS

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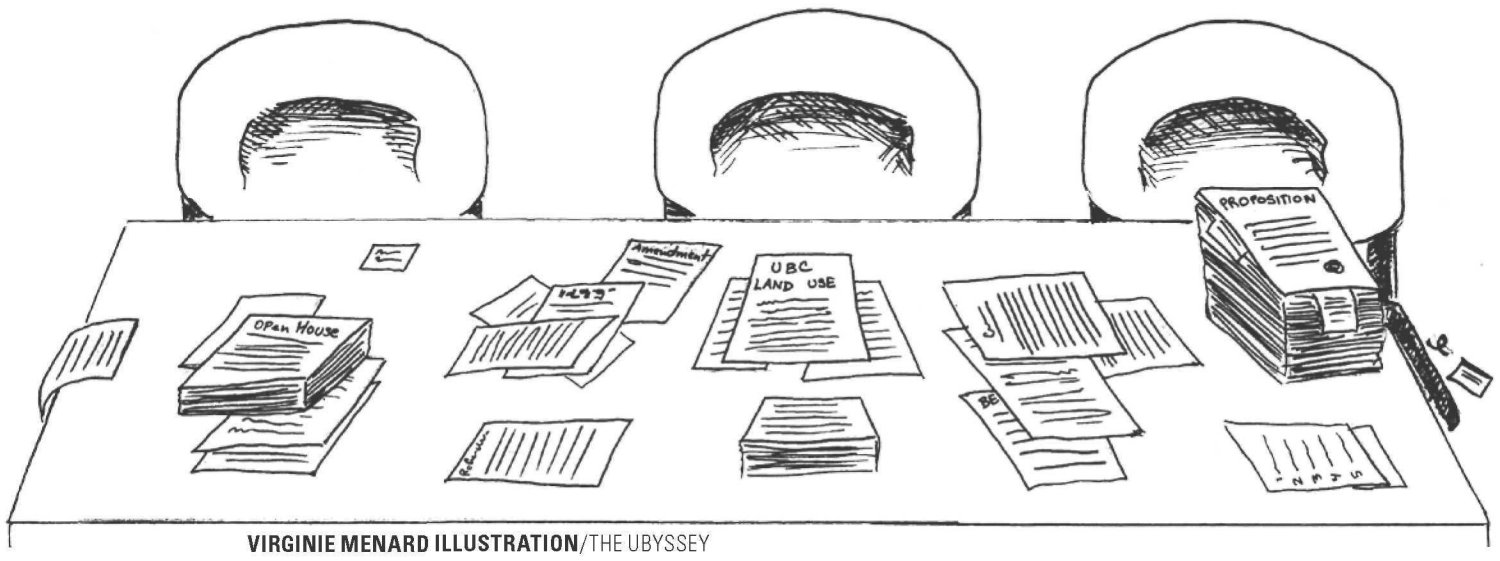
Land Use Plan ready for its close-up

Public hearing for amendments this Tuesday



VIRGINIE MENARD ILLUSTRATION/THE UBYSSEY

ARSHY MANN
news@ubyssey.ca

After months of consultations and meetings, UBC's proposed amendments to the Land Use Plan (LUP) will be open to public scrutiny at a hearing Tuesday evening.

The hearing will take place at 6pm on November 30 in the Ponderosa Centre. It will be the only opportunity for UBC students, residents, faculty and staff to provide input on the specific amendments that the UBC Board of Governors (BoG) is proposing.

According to a Campus and Community Planning (CCP), the hearing is "to ensure that all persons who believe that their interest in property is affected by proposed amendments to the LUP are provided a reasonable opportunity to be heard or to present written submissions."

The Public Hearing Committee which will oversee the forum is comprised of UBC Associate VP Nancy Knight, UBC VP External Stephen Owen, Chair of the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) Sharon Wu and two external professional planners, as well as two members of the UBC Board of Governors—faculty representative Andrew Irvine and AMS representative Sean Heisler.

Attendees will be allowed to make a five minute presentation to the committee and can also submit written material. Only university officials, however, are allowed to make any powerpoint or video presentations.

Neal Yonson, editor of the blog *UBC Insiders*, said that students should provide written submissions.

"I will be putting in a written submission," he said. "The oral submission that you make gets filtered through CCP, which inevitably distorts some of your points."

After the hearing is completed, committee members are not allowed to receive any more input about the amendments. This includes phone calls, emails, letters or even conversations.

The committee will then take the input from the hearing and decide whether to fully endorse the amendments, change some of the amendments or to reject the amendments outright.

According to Knight, CCP is hoping that the finalized amendments will be ready for the BoG to consider by January. Final approval must come from the province's minister of community, sport and cultural development, who is currently Stephanie Cadieux.

Yonson said that he believes the way the consultations were handled will mean the hearing will be flawed.

"During the consultation process, they were required to provide amendments to discuss. But instead, they only discussed themes, not particular amendments," he said.

"This is akin to your professor asking you to submit an essay and all you submit is an essay outline. It's unacceptable...And now that the actual amendments are visible, or have been circulated, the content of those doesn't necessarily match what was discussed in the consultation."

AMS President Bijan Ahmadian said the AMS's response to the amendments will be finalized in the University and External Relations Committee meeting, to be held on Monday. He also said that he would not be making the presentation on behalf of the AMS. Instead, VP Academic and University Affairs Ben Cappellacci will be speaking.

"I'm signing off on [the AMS's position] and Ben will be presenting it at the actual hearing," Ahmadian said.

This means that Ahmadian will not defy a council motion that barred him from liaising with the university about land use issues, and specifically from speaking at Tuesday's hearing. At the November 10 council meeting, Ahmadian had repeatedly asserted that if he did not agree with what Cappellacci would say at the hearing, he would speak on behalf of the AMS in defiance of the motion.

AMENDMENTS INCREASE DENSITY AND SAVE FARM, BUT STALL ON GAGE SOUTH

The proposed amendments to the Land Use Plan (LUP) would be the first changes since 1997 and would affect zoning, building heights, the UBC Farm, as well as the Gage South and University Boulevard neighbourhoods.

According to AMS President Bijan Ahmadian, two of the most important changes included in the amendments are the reduction in the number of zoning designations at UBC and the increasing density at UBC which would "make units more affordable."

Among these is a proposal to change the designation of the UBC Farm to "Green Academic." Currently, the farm is zoned as a market housing reserve. This new designation would save the farm on the condition that space for that housing be found elsewhere on campus.

Gage South, the area where the bus loop and MacInnes field are presently located, will be designated as an "area under review." This means that no development can occur on this area until further amendments to the Land Use Plan are made. The area is currently slated for market housing.

"The university has heard the AMS," said VP Academic and University Affairs Ben Cappellacci at the last AMS Council meeting.

"There is going to be no designated development on this area until further notice."

According to Nancy Knight, UBC is holding off on a decision on Gage South because the future of the new bus loop as well as the new aquatic centre is currently uncertain. In addition, during the consultation process, many students opposed building market housing in that area as proposed by the university.

"The future use of this area will be reviewed in a consultative process that includes students, faculty, staff, residents and the adjacent University Endowment Lands community," read the relevant section of the amendment.

Yonson said that there are problems with this designation.

"In terms of Gage South, they're putting a condition on it which will make it difficult to be returned to the academic core. They're saying that housing must be transferred but that there may be no place on campus to receive this housing transfer.

"In addition, the amount of housing that they're proposing to transfer is greater than the housing that they have said would go there in previous estimates."

The University Boulevard neighbourhood will be zoned as "Village Centre Academic" and will have housing and commercial development primarily aimed at faculty, students and staff. The area is slated to be rental-only.

At the meeting, Cappellacci said that this was largely in line with what the AMS was looking for.

Yonson, however, said that some aspects of the proposed amendments differ from what was brought forward during consultations.

"During the consultation, they asked if the relaxation of the maximum height from five storeys to six would be acceptable, but the actual amendment proposed includes an eight storey limit, and not the six that was proposed. So this is coming out of left field," he said.

NEWS BRIEFS

GEOFF LISTER PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

'TOO ASIAN' PANEL CRITICIZES *MACLEANS'* ARTICLE

A panel of UBC professors addressed the issue of diversity to a packed audience in Buchanan last Friday, during a dialogue concerning the recent *Maclean's* article "Too Asian?"

The article, published two weeks ago as part of *Maclean's* annual University Issue, has caused controversy amongst students and academics alike at UBC. The panel consisted of a mix of faculty, administration members and two undergraduate students.

Brian Sullivan, Vice-President of Students at UBC, opened the dialogue by addressing the issue as one "not about admissions." Nor was it about the "unhappiness over the way that students choose to associate or to be engaged," he said.

As the dialogue continued, panelist Professor Henry Yu made his feelings clear. "Canada is a different place than it was in 1967...This article harkens back to an older Canada. It's also a hurtful article for a lot of people."

Undergraduate student Elysa Hogg said of the claims, "What are the issues we're not dealing with? Do we really have a language barrier on our campus?" She continued, "Are we addressing that? If we aren't, I think it's a failure on our part to engage with the campus life."

William Tao, also an undergraduate student, agreed that the issue must be addressed on campus. "Oftentimes, we ourselves are the biggest perpetrators of the 'Too Asian' stereotype...These types of hypocritical activities must come to an end."

TOTEM SECOND IN ENERGY COMPETITION

UBC has reached second place in the first year of the Campus Conservation National Energy competition, beating 38 other North American campuses.

The competition, which is in its pilot year at UBC, was held at Totem Park. UBC saved 8,989 kilowatts hours of energy, with the competition saving 510,191 kWh overall.

The six houses in Totem competed against each other. Haida House took the winners title with a 24.1 per cent reduction in electricity use.

NATIONAL

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Bill C-389 looks to protect trans people

Would make it illegal to discriminate based on gender identity and expression

KAILEY WILLETTS
The Martlet (UVic)

BROOKE MACLENNAN PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/THE MARTLET

VICTORIA—Canadians may soon see legal protection for trans and gender-variant individuals.

Bill C-389, which is expected to go through its third reading in the House of Commons in December, would add gender identity and gender expression to the definition of an "identifiable group" in the Criminal Code's hate provisions. It would also add gender identity and gender expression to prohibited grounds of discrimination in the Canadian Human Rights Act.

"[The bill would give]...explicit legal protections, rather than ones that are implicit," said Meris Colby, UVic Pride's representative to trans groups.

First-year UVic student Katie Fukada showed her support by signing an online petition that sent her MP an email in support of Bill C-389.

"I feel like this bill is really important. I wanted to make sure that my rights and the rights of people that I care about very much are protected," she said. "Everybody has a right to safety and I think this bill would just help enshrine that."

Fukuda didn't, however, expect a response from LaVar Payne, a Conservative MP representing her home riding of Medicine Hat, Alberta.

Although she didn't expect Payne to be in support of Bill C-389, Fukuda said the response she got was shocking.

The letter from Payne said that for gender identity and expression to be considered for addition to the criminal code, "We need enough evidence to conclude that there are enough cases of hate propaganda against transgender people."

"That was really what bothered me the most," said Fukuda. "He literally says that he doesn't see there being instances of transphobia and I'm like, 'Can you take a look around?' So I found that to be really hurtful and really ignorant."

Payne's response also mentioned broadening identifiable groups in the criminal code "will further infringe on Canadians' right to free speech."

Payne could not be reached for comment as of press time.

Victoria NDP MP Denise Savoie, however, said the suggestion Bill C-389 would limit free speech is "ridiculous."

"[The bill] doesn't eliminate any existing right that's held within our constitution," said Savoie. "It simply gives people who are...marginalized and who do face prejudice and often violence...a certain protection that doesn't exist now. So I would just say that seems like hogwash to me and an excuse for not supporting the bill."

O'Connor echoed that trans and gender-variant people do face discrimination and cited a recent study that highlights the effects of that discrimination.

"[The study was] basically saying trans people have a 25 per cent higher chance of attempting suicide, and they're significantly underemployed compared to the general population and generally discriminated against in health care because few people understand their problems. There's a lot of societal momentum to work against and there's really no indicators right now that it is something anyone cares about beside queer groups," said O'Connor.

Colby is hopeful that Bill C-389 reaching its third reading in Parliament will help bring attention to trans issues.

"I think it's just gaining a lot of momentum right now. There's a lot more publicity now that it's reached this point," said Colby. "It's the third attempt so it's finally gotten far enough through that people are paying attention to it."

Carleton pro-life club to sue students' union

Club threatens legal action over union's decision to deny them club recertification

ALEXANDRA POSADZKI
CUP Ontario Bureau Chief

TORONTO (CUP)—Carleton University's pro-life club will take its students' union to court if the union doesn't reverse its decision to revoke the group's club status.

Albertos Polizogopoulos, the lawyer representing the pro-life club Carleton Lifeline, confirmed on November 21 that he would take legal action against the union if they do not re-certify the club. Losing their certification means Carleton Lifeline will not be able to apply for funding, nor book student space.

The union made the decision to deny Carleton Lifeline recertification on the basis that the club's constitution violates the students' union's "discrimination on campus policy." The policy states that CUSA will "respect and affirm a woman's right to choose her options in case of pregnancy."

It goes on to state that "actions such as any campaign, distribution, solicitation, lobbying, effort, display, event, etc. that seeks to limit or remove a woman's right to choose her options in the case of pregnancy will not be supported," and that "no CUSA resources, space, recognition or funding will be allocated for the purpose of promoting these actions."

In a letter dated Nov 11, CUSA's vice-president internal affairs invited Carleton Lifeline to amend their constitution to respect CUSA's policy by November 18 in order to regain their certification.

But Ruth Lobo, president of Carleton Lifeline, said the union's decision is discriminatory and a blow to free speech.

"CUSA's constitution says they will not discriminate against students for political ideologies and that's exactly what they're doing," said Lobo. "I think it's kind of ludicrous that I have to give money to a student union that discriminates against me. CUSA should be representing all students fairly, regardless of political ideologies."

CUSA's decision comes on the heels of the recent arrests of Lobo and four other students for attempting to put up a controversial pro-life display featuring graphic images of aborted fetuses on campus. Polizogopoulos believes that CUSA's decision stems from those earlier arrests. He points to the fact that Carleton Lifeline has been certified since the winter of 2007, and has applied for and received funding and recertification every year since.

The club has not changed their constitution or their position on abortion since, which raises the issue of why CUSA would choose now to decertify the club, he said.

Cara Zwibel, a spokesperson for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, said there seems to be a growing trend towards silencing pro-life clubs on Canadian campuses.

"We're very concerned about freedom of expression on university campuses," said Zwibel. "It's an important place for people to debate and discuss controversial issues, and to silence one side of the debate does not contribute to the marketplace of ideas."

"I think the very existence of pro-life clubs has become seen as offensive," said Lobo.

Zwibel said the Canadian Civil Liberties Association supports a woman's right to choose, but she does not think that abortion is the real issue at hand.

"This is about the right to express different opinions in a university setting, and we think it's inappropriate for a student group to be prohibited from being a club because of the views that it's expressing," she said.

Polizogopoulos said that CUSA tried to deny Carleton Lifeline club status back in 2006 for the same reason. But after public outcry from students and other organizations, the club was certified and has successfully remained a club since then.

He believes the issue is a textbook definition of differential treatment.

"CUSA has labeled itself as a pro-choice organization, and is shutting down groups that are pro-life, that disagree with the position that CUSA has taken," he said.

"So they are effectively treating pro-life students and pro-life student clubs differently than they're treating pro-choice students."

Alex Sirois, union president, said CUSA believes they were upholding the Clubs and Societies bylaws and the anti-discrimination policy in their decision, but they are unable to comment further until the legal issues are resolved.

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CULTURE Meat Your Maker

A Culture food special

EDITORS BRYCE WARNES & JONNY WAKEFIELD » culture@ubyssey.ca
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A pound of flesh

BRYCE WARNES
culture@ubyssey.ca

Tomatoes in winter flown in from God knows where, frozen dinners that look like they came from a food replicator in *Star Trek*—the cogs and wheels of industrial agriculture and processing form a gulf between us and our bodies' fuel.

This is the argument presented by the local and (to a lesser extent) organic food movements, one which has been gaining mainstream momentum. The success of films like *Food Inc.* and books like Michael Pollan's *The Omnivore's Dilemma* have been changing the discussions we have about how we're fed. Convenience used to be the gastronomic ideal. Now it's the health and well-being of our environment, our local economies and our bodies.

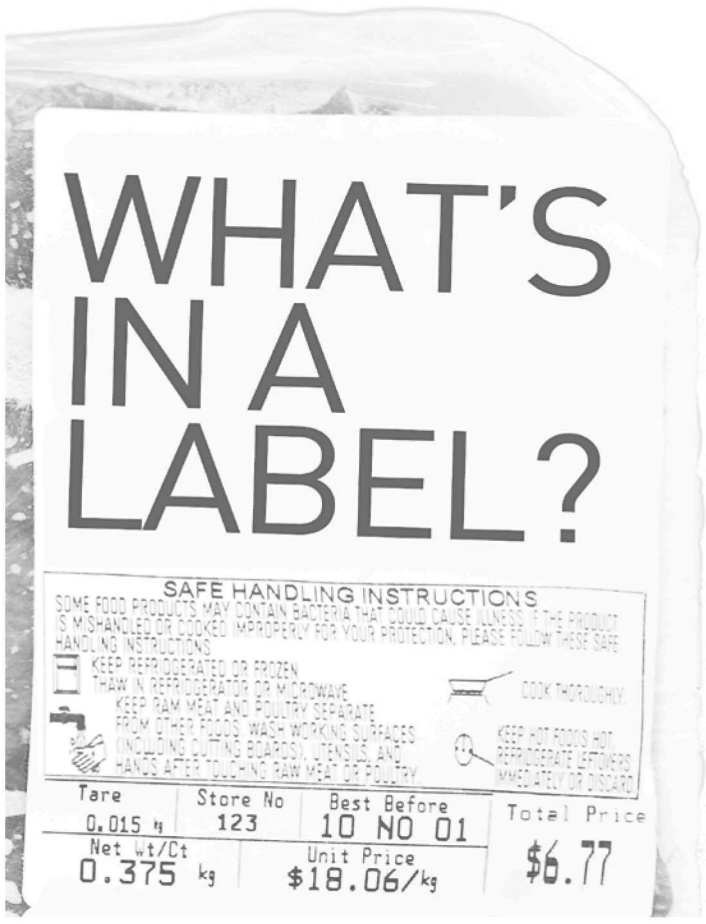
Meat adds a layer of complexity to the discussion by introducing a third party—the animal that is killed. Any omnivore who is concerned about the wider impact of their food choices has to take into account the lives of the animals they eat—how they lived, how they were ended and what effects these factors have on the people who eat the finished product.

This special food supplement of *The Ubyssey*'s Culture section isn't meant to convert carnivores to niche market meat products, or lead vegetarians astray from their chosen path. It is an introduction to alternatives to industrial agriculture's methods of raising and killing animals. To that end, we have a guide by Micki Cowan to the labels—from grass-fed to hormone-free—that adorn "sustainable" meat; a list by Anna Zoria of the businesses closest to UBC that offer these options; a gastronomic exploration by Martin Parlett of some Vancouver restaurants that source their animal products locally; and a profile of Pemberton Meadows Farms by Nina Kiri, complete with a mini-biography of one of Don Millerd's pasture-raised, "happy" cattle.

A diet that includes flesh offends some and obsesses others. Wherever your tastes lie, we hope you'll take this opportunity to learn about the alternatives that exist, how they can be pursued and what differences they make in the lives of humans and animals alike. Dig in.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

We visited The Butcher on 10th to learn about the resurgence of what was, for a time, a dying art. Check out *ubyssey.ca/culture/* for the video.



GEOFF LISTER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/THE UBYSSEY

MICKI COWAN
mcowan@ubyssey.ca

For the concerned carnivore, labels on meat products can be confusing.

Mark Bomford, director of the UBC farm, said that each label has different strengths, so it's really about deciding what matters most to the individual consumer.

"Some [labeling] systems might have lower net greenhouse gas emissions, others might excel in animal welfare practices, some may be particularly economically viable—but there is no single system that is the clear winner in all categories," he said.

This leaves the rest of the decision making up to you. Here's the skinny on what the labels on your meat actually mean, according to two local butchers and Bamford.

THE BUTCHERS

Richard Noble is co-owner of The Butcher on 10th, which carries a wide range of meat products, with labels including grain-fed and grass-fed for beef, free-range for poultry, as well as many locally sourced products.

Chris Jackson is an eighth generation butcher and the new owner of his family's business, Jackson's Meats on W 4th. He carries certified organic, non-medicated and free run poultry, and grain fed beef. See below for a translation of those labels.

GRAIN FED AND GRASS FED

Grain-fed cattle, mainly out of Alberta, are fed a combination of grains, and will often be from feedlots, but have a fattier, more flavourful meat, said Noble. Some of the grain-fed cattle, said Jackson, also eat grass during the growing season, but are brought into the barns for processing and finished on grain. Noble explains the difference.

"Grass-fed animals just stay out in the pasture," said Noble. "They just sit out and eat grass. They're not finished on any grain, they just go straight to market as grass-fed beef."

Jackson described the taste of grass-fed as being earthier in flavor. This type of beef also has an environmental advantage.

"Grass-fed systems can be part of an important restorative strategy for lands that have seen many years of intensive agricultural cultivation. In these cases is it possible to sequester carbon back into soils with the transition to perennial feed grasses and animal grazing."

FREE RANGE AND FREE RUN

Noble said that free-run birds, like cage-free birds, are kept inside a barn with no access to the outdoors.

"The free-range birds can get outside. They have access to the outdoors, they can play around and run and do whatever they like," he said, noting, however, that some don't bother to leave the barn.

CERTIFIED ORGANIC

Bamford said that unlike non-certified organic meat, "Certified organic operations have to follow a fairly detailed set of standards that demand many components associated with animal welfare, including space allowances, water and feed access and quality, and enrichment."

"If it's not certified, it's not certified organic," said Noble.

NON-MEDICATED AND HORMONE FREE

Both labels actually mean the same thing.

"It means that they weren't given any antibiotics or growth hormones during the growing process," said Jackson. "There's no growth hormones, no animal by-products in the feed. Most birds are given a shot when they're a chickling, or a hatchling, just to keep them from getting sick. It's a vaccination. But that's it, that's all they receive."

LOCAL

"Local means within the province of BC...we could buy from Uruguay if we wanted to, but if we can buy and support local farmers, it reduces our footprint," said Jackson.

Both Jackson and Noble consider local to be from the Fraser Valley or Lower Mainland. For those on the 100-mile diet, ask the butchers themselves to be sure that the meat you are buying is within range.

"Every butcher, if they're doing it right, they see every piece of meat every day. They know exactly what they're selling, exactly what it is," said Noble. "I would strongly recommend that [you] at least try and source a good butcher [and] some good products that are locally supplied, and you'd be a lot better off. You'll pay a little bit more out of it, but at least you get an honest answer out of who you're dealing with."

Jackson's Meats, for example, gets poultry from Maple Hill Farms and Bradner Organic Chickens, both located in Abbotsford and well within a 100-mile trip from the city.

KEEPING IT LOCAL

ANNA ZORIA
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With the rise of mega-sized chains like Whole Foods and Choices, it's getting harder to spot family-owned establishments that sell local, organic and free-range meat products at a reasonable price. The benefit of going to a real butcher is that they will be able to tell you where the animal was raised, how it was fed and where it came from. They also won't look at you like you just ordered a minotaur when you ask for a specific cut. Here are just some of the specialty stores that can put some meat on your bones.

JACKSON'S MEATS AND DELI
2214 W 4th Ave

Jackson's has been frequently crowned best meat shop in town. Formerly located on Granville, it hasn't suffered from any loss of faithful clientele since its move to Kitsilano. Their rib eye steak is rumoured to be consistently tender and fresh, and their made-on-site British banger sausages are also renowned. The prices are on par with what you would pay at a grocery store and their staff are very knowledgeable about all things carnivorous. Jackson's also carries a variety of cheeses, fresh pasta and sandwiches if you want to eat on the go.

MARKET MEATS
2326 W 4th Ave

Located on the same strip as Jackson's, Market Meats carries a wide variety of meats, from the usual beef and pork to unexpected game such as muskox, ostrich and quail. Although it's pricier than Jackson's, the staff will surprise you with their knowledge on anything and everything in their store, and will even give you cooking suggestions for your next culinary masterpiece. If you're looking for a tasty ready-made meal, they also carry stuffed potatoes, marinated wings and ribs, barbecued chickens and steak and prawn combos. If you're willing to put down some extra green for real quality, this is your place.

THE BUTCHER ON 10TH
4529 W 10th Ave

This specialty meat store, located close to UBC, puts a modern spin on a classic butcher shop, with a focus on local, organic and grass- fed meat. They have free-range chicken that comes from Fraser Valley, along with lamb and rabbit from Saltspring. Their sausages are tailored to your tastes, with an option to make requests such as wheat-free. The Butcher also carries a variety of artisan cheeses, meat pies, pastas, soups, pates, cabbage rolls and bacons, as well as a selection of locally produced deli items.

WINTER FARMER'S MARKET
1882 Adanac St

This farmer's market, which happens every other weekend from November to April and is located close to the Drive, is a great way to support local farms. Empire Valley Beef, Forstbauer Family Natural Food Farm and Gelderman Farms Ltd are just some of the BC farms that can be found here, selling everything from beef to bison.

Aside from finding fresh eggs, lamb, fish and meat at reasonable prices, you can also stock up on local cheeses, sauces, baked goods, honey, maple syrup, tea, coffee, flowers and fresh produce. All vendors are certified organic and set up their stalls both outside and inside Wise Hall. The Winter Market is undeniably the best way to buy meat directly from local farms, and has a friendly community vibe.

At home on the range

Pemberton Meadows cattle live life outdoors—naturally

NINA KIRI
Contributor

The food industry has changed a lot in the last century. Author Michael Pollan witnessed for himself the reality of present day factory farms that he visited, where approximately 90 per cent of North America's beef is raised. He recorded his first-hand accounts in his book *The Omnivore's Dilemma* and according to him, the average life of the factory farm raised cow is anything but appetizing.

The calves are separated from their mothers at six months of age to learn how to feed independently. Instead of grass, they are immediately put on a diet of corn—a food their rumens (specialized stomachs) aren't meant to process and which makes them sick. Two to three months later, they are moved to feedlots. Here, liquefied fat, protein supplements, liquid vitamins, synthetic estrogen and antibiotics are added to the supply of corn. The cows are also fed blood and fat products from other beef, even though, as Pollan points out, "cows are herbivores by evolution." This type of diet allows the cows to be hyper-fattened to meet industry needs.

There are, however, alternatives. Enter Pemberton Meadows farm, an all-natural beef farm that, contrary to the majority of industrial-sized cattle "farms," uses no hormones, steroids or antibiotics on its animals. The farm was founded by Bob Mitchell and Don Millerd on excess land that they owned. Learning that 90 to 99 per cent of cattle raised in BC are shipped to Alberta for fattening and slaughter, and then shipped back, they decided to start a cattle farm where the cattle could spend their entire lives.

Pemberton Meadows cattle have a completely different lifestyle in comparison to those raised by typical 21st century farming methods.

Born from February to March, calves go out on the pasture and nurse with their mothers for the summer. By late October, they are brought in from the pasture to be weaned. Weaning is the process of separating the calves from their mothers so that they can be introduced to adult food. Millerd noted that, "unlike the conventional cattle business, we only separate them through a nose-to-nose wooden fence, and once the mothers' milk has dried up, the mothers can go out on the pasture and come back to see their calves." The result of this method is that the cows and their offspring naturally separate, as opposed to being forced.

Next comes winter. If you're expecting a smelly cow barn, don't hold your breath, because Pemberton Meadow cows know of no such thing. The cattle's winters are spent in an area called "the Park"—20 to 30 acres of trees and bushes where the cows can wander freely. Following their natural instincts, the cows can create "hidey holes," as Millerd calls them. These are hollows in the bushes and in between branches that the cows make to stay dry and warm. Having an entire playground to roam keeps the cows happy and healthy. With plenty of space, the viruses and infections endemic in modern feedlots are no longer a serious threat.

Watching over the herd at Pemberton Meadows. **DAVE STEERS PHOTO**/COURTESY PEMBERTON MEADOWS FARM

During this time, the cows are fed their grains and hay outside. Millerd points out that having an entire playground to roam around on makes the cows not only happier, but also "much healthier because they get away from each other and aren't living in their own feces and bacteria." At two years of age, an animal is slaughtered and ready for packaging.

When looking at these cows' lives, it's obvious that an organic, free-range approach to raising cattle is the more humane way. Millerd, however, is quick to point out that we shouldn't be downplaying the beef made industrially. "We have to be very careful about making judgments on the food industry," he said. "Obviously I think our beef is superior, but it's also more expensive. I think the great thing about the food industry is to have choices so the people who can't afford to buy specialty beef can buy lots of beef on special at Costco or Safeway—they don't have to go to Whole Foods." The bottom line with Millerd is that "there's no right or wrong way to do it, it's different, which gives us choices, which is the good stuff."

Fine dining, from the field to the table

MARTIN PARLETT
Contributor

Four letter words get us into trouble and 'meat' is becoming one of them. Recent times have witnessed a purist challenge to the viability of this unadulterated primal pleasure. Kudos to vegetarianism and its more extreme manifestations (I dabbled in high school—who didn't?), but boycotts have never really been my thing, especially when it comes to food. That's why ethical meat-eating appears to be the pragmatic 'third way' when it comes to carnivorous indulgences. Vancouver is at the forefront of this development towards a 'meat conscience,' and this week I have been exploring some of its most prominent pioneers.

Raincity Grill was the first stop on my week-long meatathon. Testament to Raincity's commitment to celebrating the best of local produce ("farm to table" is their motto), I was invited to a private event showcasing Sloping Hill pork and BC pinot grigios. It was a five course homage to neighbourhood pig and grape, and I was pleased to kneel at its altar. From head to ear to cheek to chop to belly, chef Jennifer Peters gave this animal a regal memorial in every dish. The confit of pork belly with a crème brûlée crackling battled with the dessert of a bacon sprinkled donut, maple syrup and crab apple sorbet for the runaway success of this tasting. It was an intriguing act of gastro-anatomy and it demonstrated without doubt that local meat, treated with respect, yields better results than any inferior import. I was not alone at the table in making this equation.

CAITLIN CRAWSHAW ILLUSTRATION/THE UBYSSEY

The farmers at Sloping Hill cite the limitation of intramuscular fat and more marbling as the reason for why their breeds taste better "compared to any conventionally raised pork." Whatever it is, my week began with a confirmation that dining ethically tastes better.

I thought I'd seen the most committed local enterprise in the city, until I stumbled upon Aphrodite Cafe and Pie Shop—an under-the-radar organic bistro on West 4th Avenue. Aphrodite's manager, Kyle McEachern, sat with me in his countrified and unpretentious restaurant, and radiated a commitment to (almost) 100 per cent organic foods, including their meat. By the light of miniature flower lamps, he explained that it's a vision passed on from Allan Christian, the cafe's founder, whose farming background shaped his attitude towards food. Their evening menu will always offer a local meat option, but it is brunch where the principled carnivore can feel most at home. Whether it's their rich elk and succulent bison sausages or their festive Québecois-inspired tourtiere—a deep dished pork pie bathed in aromatic maple syrup—you can put fork to mouth with the knowledge that McEachern has selected the best from Maple Hill and Oyama, and that all meat will have a supporting cast of local fruits and veggies. Customers expect local here, and it sells—a queue was forming by the time I settled the bill, despite the inclement weather. Before I left, I was introduced to two waiters and ex-veggies who cite Aphrodite as the celestial power which converted them back to the brawny light. Amen to that.

Finally, I made plans to visit Vij's—an Indian restaurant so popular that in the two hours I was there, I couldn't get a table. So I walked about five feet and settled myself in at their sister restaurant Rangoli, conveniently located next door—serving less ambitious food, but with the same meat ingredients. A warning: Vij's and Rangoli are a little more half-hearted when it comes to meat sourcing, and I was made aware that only the chicken and the goat were native Canadian fare that evening. The latter beast was my choice, braised slowly and served with a jackfruit and coconut curry sauce. Whilst the meat was almost too tender—and like the best lamb and game in one mouthful—there was something unapologetic about the foreignness of its orbital ingredients. The waitress was realistic: "We get what we can from our local farmers, but when they can't supply we go elsewhere." Perhaps that's why "local" is to be found nowhere on the Rangoli menu. There was something refreshing about her honesty and this ad hoc approach—it makes sense, and it's a good first step for any Vancouver eatery.

Raincity Grill: 1193 Denman Street, (604) 685 7337

Aphrodite Cafe and Pie Shop: 3598 West 4th Avenue, (604) 733 8308

Vij's Rangoli: 1488 West 11 Avenue, (604) 736 5711

SPORTS

EDITOR VACANT

Wrestling club refused varsity status

DAVID LEE
Contributor

Wrestling is huge in BC high schools: there are 2200 high school wrestlers in the province, many of whom are top in the country. In an effort to retain these athletes, UBC's Wrestling Club has sought to gain varsity status with UBC Athletics, which would provide partial scholarships and travel funding for the current club's wrestlers.

For ten consecutive years, the UBC Wrestling Club has tried to gain varsity status, only to be rejected each time.

Last spring, Matthew Kocal, former captain of the UBC wrestling team, and his squad put forward a comprehensive varsity proposal and again they were turned down.

"Disappointment," is how Kocal, current national team member, summarized his reaction to the rejection.

"The athletic potential is not being fulfilled, and students are not being provided with opportunities. We have a lot of good athletes at the university who are struggling with their potential in the sport. Some of us do well still, but it is a big individual effort to succeed in the sport while attending UBC."

Theresa Hanson, associate director of Athletics, argued that UBC simply "does not have the capacity to add to our varsity program at this time." According to Hanson, a lot of factors must come into consideration such as "financial [resources], facilities, administrative, etc." She added that "it would require funding for areas such as staffing, team travel, equipment, membership and sport fees, recruiting, scholarships, uniforms, etc."

Gurinder Grewal and Ben Lee train and study. **CHRIS BORCHERT PHOTO**/ THE UBYSSEY

However, Dave Wilson, coach of the UBC Wrestling Club and former heavyweight wrestler from Concordia University, thinks differently. "Wrestling is among the cheapest of all sports," he said. "All you need is a mat, a training partner and a coach. We also stated [in the proposal] that we would do our own fundraising. So money is not the problem."

Wilson believes their professional proposal was never considered seriously. "We proposed a well-researched, innovative and feasible wrestling program that would be economical and self-funding. And it wasn't even read." The detailed proposal included a practice schedule, a tentative competition schedule, recruiting, a budget proposal, an action plan and a combat studio.

"We felt that if it was objectively assessed we would be successful in our quest to be elevated to varsity status. However, if the administration is not even open to reviewing the proposal, it makes dialogue challenging."

The future remains dim for wrestlers at UBC. Hanson is not optimistic about a varsity program for wrestling any time soon. "You can never say never," she said. "However, as mentioned, we do not have the capacity to start a new varsity program in the near future."

Yet, Wilson is determined. "We're not quitters," he affirmed. "We'll keep on moving forward and developing. We will likely communicate with Bijan Ahmadian and the AMS as they have been super supportive. They may be able to guide us to the next step."

In the summer of 2008, the UBC Wrestling Club hosted the first Annual UBC Summer Youth Wrestling camp in the SUB ballroom. Thirty-five young wrestlers had an experience with UBC students/athletes, Canadian Olympic champion Daniel Igali, World Champion Guivi Sissaouri and the Canadian men's Olympic team.

"That was pretty spectacular," Wilson recalled. U

Women's Basketball extends winning streak

T-Birds sweep Saskatchewan for fourth straight win to end first half

MARIE VONDRACEK
mvondracek@ubyssey.ca

The UBC women's basketball team made great progress this weekend, both on and off the scoreboard.

The Thunderbirds (7-5) extended their winning streak to four games with a 77–64 Thursday night win and a 94–55 win on Friday over the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns (2–10).

The 'Birds were led by Alex Vieweg, who tallied 40 points, a 17–25 shooting record and 14 rebounds over both games.

"She is a very hard-working player and she's very committed to basketball, so it's nice to see her rewarded for her efforts," said UBC head coach Deb Huband. "This weekend she really got her offensive touch back, made some good decisions and finished well."

Due to foul trouble, UBC played Thursday's first half without leading forward contributors Vieweg and Zara Huntley, who finished the matches with 38 points and ten rebounds. The two players combined for just 12 minutes of playing time in the first half.

These spots allowed players to come off the bench and gain experience which will benefit the T-Birds in the long run. The hole was largely filled by Devan Lisson, putting in 12 points and five assists. Lisson also had 6 of UBC's 14 steals in the game.

"Anytime you have to sit people because of fouls, it disrupts your flow and your chemistry on the floor," said Huband. "So losing our starting forwards is not a situation we wanted to be in, but I think people came in and did a good job."

Lethbridge put in a strong run late in the third to try to get back into the game, but the T-Birds opened the fourth quarter hot to secure the win. UBC kept that fire going into Friday's game, starting off with an 18-2 run and extending it with a 14-2 run to gain a big 39-17 lead at halftime.

"Any time you can hold a team that low, you are giving yourself a lot of transition opportunities," she said. "We have been working towards trying to be more disciplined for each defensive possession and we know if we can do that, we are capable of holding teams to minimal scoring."

The Thunderbirds found other great backing off the bench from rookie Alyssa Binns, who added ten points and was two-for-two from the three-point range and four-for-four from the free-throw line. Lia St Pierre and Lisson also combined for 21 points and 12 assists.

Zara Huntley drives the hoop against the Huskies. **CHARLES TO PHOTO**/ THE UBYSSEY

"We have made a lot of progress as a team," said Huband. "It was nice to see us put together 40 minutes and play solid defensively and offensively. We got a lot of people involved offensively and had a lot of weapons on the floor. It was a really positive step forward for our team." U

BIRD DROPPINGS

THUNDBIRD WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL NOW RANKED NUMBER ONE

The number one-ranked UBC women's volleyball team (8-2) swept the Saskatchewan Huskies (1-7) to keep their winning streak, which is now at eight games.

The Thunderbirds had a scare Saturday when the Saskatchewan Huskies took a two set to one lead. In the fourth set, the Thunderbirds clawed out a 27-25 set win and cruised to a 15-7 fifth set victory.

"I give Saskatchewan credit because they did a lot of things really well. And it may not be fancy, but it put pressure on us," said head coach Doug Reimer. "That's a very good 1-7 team."

Lisa Barclay led all players putting in 22 kills and Shanice Marcelle was close behind with 21 kills in the match.

Marcelle had 31 points, 27 kills and an impressive 28.5 percent hitting success rate over the two matches. This earned her Canada West women's volleyball 'athlete of the week' honour.

"I was really pleased with how we hung in there and how players, after struggling in certain areas, found a way to come back and contribute," said Reimer. "It was a very important win for us."

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS HUSKIES

The Thunderbird men's volleyball team (4-6) swept the Saskatchewan Huskies (1-7) 3-2 and 3-1.

Friday night the Thunderbirds battled through four close sets, only to cruise through the fifth set 15–6 to win the match.

"I think we kept it simple in the fifth set. We just want guys to make plays. Chris Klassen goes in and serves the game out. That's the type of plays we're talking about," said Schick. "Working hard isn't good enough. Working hard doesn't necessarily mean you are working smart. We've just got to relax and do what we've got to do out there."

On Saturday, UBC had a smoother go of things in a 3-1 victory over the Huskies. Demijan Savija started a 9-1 UBC run in the fourth set that essentially ended any hopes of a Huskies comeback. He racked up 23 kills with a .444 hitting percentage to lead the UBC attack ending the effort with a big kill on match point.

Blair Bann, the reigning CIS Libero of the Year, tallied 42 digs over the two game in a standout defensive performance and help lift the 'Birds to victory.

"We've leaned on Blair a lot this year and we've got to lean on him some more. He makes the game look pretty easy and he knows the game pretty well. He's got to do a lot for us and he's brought it every single game," noted Schick. "Our guys also have to learn from him, how he plays and what he brings. I don't think they realize how lucky they are sometimes but it's part of the learning process." U

LETTERS: GAZA RESPONSES

FRIEDMAN: IN RESPONSE TO ONLINE COMMENTS

Dear *Ubyssey*,

In your past two issues, you have been publishing extensively about recent conflicts involving the Social Justice Centre. I have some reservations about the comments that are appearing in response to *The Ubyssey*'s recent coverage, particularly, with regard to some misconceptions about the SJC's recent donation of $700 to the Canadian Boat to Gaza.

First of all, contrary to what our critics have led many to believe, supporting the Boat to Gaza does NOT constitute supporting Hamas. The project's stated aim is to deliver humanitarian supplies (not weapons or even money that could be used by Hamas) to communities in Gaza that are suffering as a result of Israel's illegal blockade. This is part of a broader effort to lift the blockade, which blatantly violates the Fourth Geneva Convention. It is ridiculously one-sided and quite prejudiced to assume that anyone who opposes Israel's human rights abuses is automatically "supporting the terrorists."

Second, the donation is going to a legally registered Canadian Charity, Alternatives. As such, it will be screened to make sure that no aid gets to Hamas, as Canada considers this group to be a terrorist organization. That is good enough for the SJC; it ought to be good enough for the AMS.

Third, some have said that this project is reckless, as it resulted in "needless deaths" the last time it was attempted. I would like to remind you that those deaths were not the result of the Gaza Flotilla but rather of an illegal boarding in international waters by the IDF—technically an act of piracy under international law. The only party that has been acting "recklessly" in this case is Israel itself.

Thank you for giving this issue the publicity that it deserves.

Sincerely,

—Arielle Friedman
Treasurer, Social Justice Centre

BERGER: SJC UNACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS

I am writing in response to the November 25 editorial [*The Gaza flotilla donation is fair*] as well as the column by Blake Frederick [*AMS President inflaming Israel/Palestine campus conflict*] regarding the ongoing scandal involving the SJC. In their columns these two writers fail to lay any blame on the SJC and instead pass the buck to the AMS administration.

The editorial did get one thing right, when it stated, "If students don't like the way that they [the SJC] are choosing to operate, they could join the SJC or put forward referendums to have the group removed." This is absolutely correct; every fee-paying student has the right to attend resource group meetings, raise motions, run in their elections and vote on their proceedings.

What the columnists fail to recognize, however, is that the current leadership of the SJC has made open and democratic involvement in their group impossible. In his column Frederick claims that last week "...a group of students infiltrated an SJC meeting..." How exactly can students 'infiltrate' a group of which they are voting and fee-paying members?

The reason we have a problem in the first place is because the current SJC executive labels students who do not agree with their agenda 'infiltrators.' The SJC leaders have hijacked a valuable AMS resource group and pushed it toward their own extreme agenda. Any student who dares to speak out in opposition is silenced as an 'infiltrator.' This became abundantly clear at their recent attempt at an AGM. When it was obvious that the current executives would not be re-elected, they adjourned the meeting and shut the opposition out. The message was clear: if we are opposed, then democracy is closed. Will the student body and the other resource groups let this stand?

—Jeremy Berger
Commerce 4

A WORD FROM THE CANADIAN BOAT TO GAZA

Attention AMS President Bijan Ahmadian,

I am writing to share with you the letter that I co-wrote with others from the Canadian Boat to Gaza when we learned of the planned donation from the UBC Social Justice Centre. You may have already seen this letter, but I would ask that you consider it seriously, and also that you read the website of the Canadian Boat to Gaza (*http://canadaboatgaza.org*). Do the humanitarian aims of this Boat project really warrant this special 'intervention' by your office? On what possible grounds can this be justified?

On the positive side, I should inform you that the publicity this blocked donation has generated correlates with an increased interest from potential donors and supporters for the Boat to Gaza. Poll after poll has shown that the more Canadians know about the 'conflict' in the Middle East, the more that they tend to support the Palestinian cause. This, of course, is because it is no ordinary conflict between two equally powerfully and equally culpable sides; it is a case of oppression and injustice, and in cases like this you can't fool all of the people all of the time, at least not forever.

Not knowing you at all, I imagine that on some level you must know that your heavy-handed action in this matter is wrong, on both political and moral grounds. It's not too late for you to do the right thing.

If you don't, you will provide an ongoing wedge for us organizers of the Boat to use as motivation for our supporters. I can guarantee you there will be people from right across Canada stepping forward to donate $700 to match the amount you have blocked.

Best regards,

—Derrick O'Keefe
UBC BA '99, B.Ed '06

CANZER: "FEES TO FUND A 'FLOTILLA' [ARE] TANTAMOUNT TO SUPPORTING ARMED CONFLICT"

Dear Council Members,

I write regarding SJC's recent request to transfer $700 to SPHR for a donation to a so-called Canadian Gaza Flotilla. I understand that the AMS Executive has decided to refer the matter to AMS Council, and that the issue will be discussed at the December 1 meeting.

As a graduate of UBC, I am deeply concerned about this request. Approving a transfer of student fees to fund a "flotilla" is tantamount to supporting armed conflict. UBC students would be equally shocked if Hillel asked for funds to be donated to the Israeli army to resist the flotilla, and rightfully so. To pretend that this is a generic aid mission is to ignore the obvious: Israel considers ships that aim to break its blockade of Gaza a threat to its national sovereignty, and they will use military force to stop these ships.

There are established channels available that allow Israel to prevent weapons from being smuggled in to Gaza with humanitarian supplies, and SJC's decision to fund a flotilla reveals that their true intention is to confront the Israeli army, not to support their Palestinian brethren with genuine supplies. The legitimacy of Israel's blockade is an excellent topic for informed debate, passionate protest and political action, but student fees should not be used to support one side of this conflict unless there is overwhelming consensus among students that the cause is just. That certainly is not the case at UBC.

I encourage you to refuse to allow UBC student fees to be used to promote armed conflict. I would also appreciate if someone could advise me of the legal authority and AMS policies under which the Council will consider and vote on this issue. Surely, there must be some restrictions on SJC's autonomy.

Thank you,

—Matthew Canzer
LL.B. 2008

SPHR'S RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE LETTER

Dear Matthew,

Thank you for your interest in this issue regarding the transaction which was illegally frozen by AMS President Bijan Ahmadian. I understand you have some concerns as outlined in your email. I have responded with a brief summary regarding resource group autonomy and describing how Mr Ahmadian neglected the channels of due process in order to freeze the transaction. I have also written to clarify some questions about the flotilla funds.

In regards to Resource Group autonomy:

AMS Code Section XI, Article four, clearly describes the autonomy of the resource groups which was declared by the referendum of 1996. A referendum is the highest level of student law. This autonomy can only be overturned by another referendum and can be put on suspension if they commit an action which is contrary to Canadian law. That said, AMS Council, by a two-thirds majority vote, can create a resolution which the Resource Groups must abide by, and according to AMS archivist Sheldon Goldfarb, this is a murky area since it is in contrast to the referendum-granted autonomy of the RGs.

Our concern is that Mr Ahmadian neglected due process by deciding himself to freeze the funds, without the approval of Council. While we respect his disagreement with the RGs' decision, we condemn his neglect for code and bylaws.

In regards to the Canadian Boat to Gaza:

The funds are administered through Canadian charity Alternatives, which is subject to scrutiny by the Canadian government. If there are any concerns about funds being used to fund conflict, I am sure the government will catch this. Amnesty International has applauded the international efforts to lift the illegal blockade (fourth Geneva Convention, Article 33) on the Gaza Strip and deliver humanitarian aid. They have reiterated, "The blockade of Gaza [is] a form of collective punishment in contravention of international law and call on the Israeli government to lift it without delay" (2010).

Please do not hesitate to contact us with further questions.

Sincerely,

—Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights

DURGAN: FREE THE FUNDS FOR GAZA BOAT

I have come to a surprising understanding of freedom. Those at the vanguard of the status quo, such as sororities, have inherited our culture of rape and exploitation no less than radical feminists have. As inheritors we all embody and engender it just as any survivor of systematic abuse or refugee from mortal conflict. One difference is how we organize.

The conformists take flight from freedom and build personalities that fit into socio-economic niches like cogs in a meat grinder. In the resistance we not only swing hammers to smash that machine, but we seek to free ourselves as much as anyone else. We spend our days at war and our nights in love, but as we seek to end cycles of victimization we cannot escape our own history, our biographies. So we tend to recreate them in all of our relationships. There is one antidote to this self-poisoning: the face of the Other.

Ego-centred versions of the world are shattered by the vulnerability manifesting in open dialogue. It is difficult to sustain, but we rely on one another to call us on prejudices we are blind to alone. In agoras such as the Resource Groups, the infinite possibilities of ethical action are revealed to us.

In this space we have come to realize that we are no less responsible for the Palestinians under siege a world away than we are to the most vulnerable members of our own community. We have heard a deafening call to action and the SJC has responded to it. This responsibility is what sets us free, but that freedom is the most terrifying thing of all. Our decision in the face of that terrifying freedom, namely to take responsibility or to neglect it, makes us who we are.

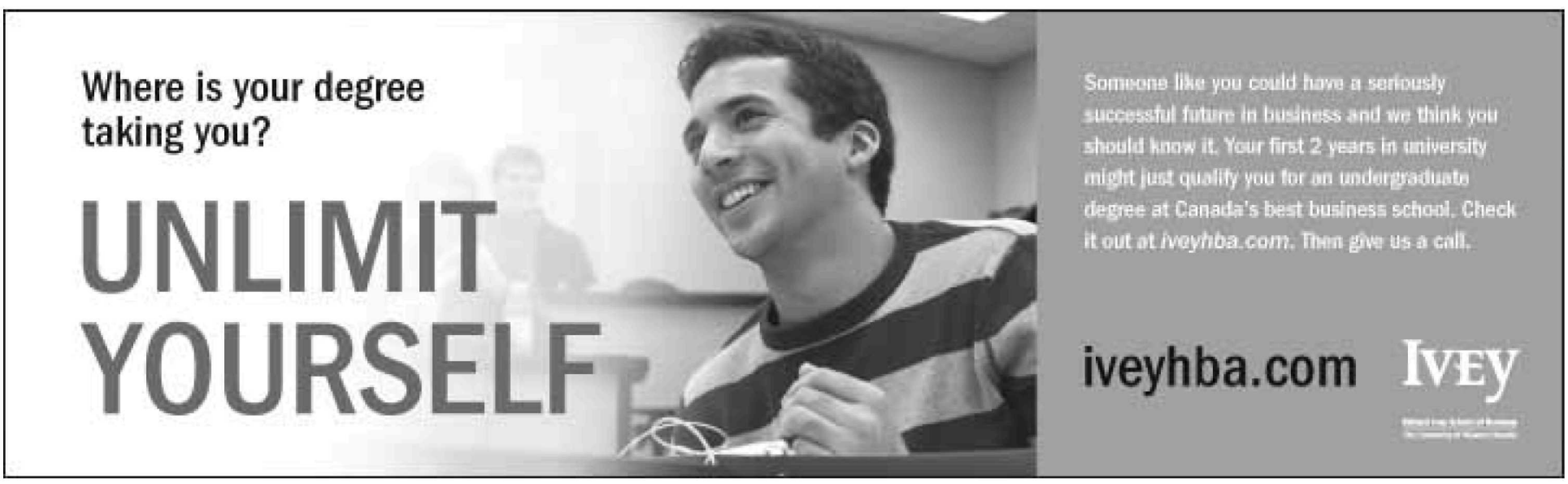
The AMS is terrified to take this ethical responsibility, but they are us and their decisions make us who we are as students at UBC. Please show your face at the meeting to encourage them to free the funds for the Canadian Boat to Gaza, to free Palestine and to free ourselves.

—Ed Durgan
Graduate Student

AND NOW, A WORD FROM NOAM CHOMSKY

I am happy to endorse the Social Justice Centre (SJC) and Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR). They are integral parts of the UBC and Vancouver communities, and important voices in the struggle for justice. I oppose any efforts to defame or destroy these groups, and would urge the AMS Council to ensure their voices are protected. I support the autonomy of the SJC, and defend the right of the SJC and other Resource Groups to fulfill their political mandates without interference.

Noam Chomsky
MIT



FAQ: THE AMS/SJC FLOTILLA FUND FREEZE

WANT TO SOUND INFORMED? KNOW ALL YOUR FACTS

Hello, UBC students!

Over the past few days, you may have heard a number of alarming things about your student union. Maybe you've heard that they're planning on giving $700 to Hamas. Maybe you've heard that they're trying to destroy the independence of clubs. Maybe you've been blissfully unaware of the scores of angry comments that have pervaded our website recently.

A big debate is happening on campus right now regarding whether $700 of student money should be given to help fund a flotilla to Gaza, and it's important to know what you're talking about before you give your opinion.

Thus, we present this installment of *The Answer Man*. As always, these are real questions by imaginary people.

Q: WHERE EXACTLY WOULD THIS $700 GO, ANYHOW?

A: The money would be donated to "Canadian Boat to Gaza," a group that claims they are trying to "fight the illegal Israeli blockade of Gaza and to expose the Canadian government's unjustified support for Israel," by funding a humanitarian aid boat to the Palestinian territory. The Canadian charity overseeing the operation is called "Alternatives." They estimate they will need $300,000 to pay for the boat and crew, of which $100,000 has already been raised. They plan to set sail in the spring of 2011.

Q: HOW IS THIS BEING FUNDED BY STUDENTS?

A: It's coming from the Social Justice Centre (SJC), one of the AMS Resource Groups. Students voted in a 1996 referendum to create the Resource Groups, fund them to the tune of $1.50 per student each year and allow them to be semi-autonomous from the rest of the AMS. So the money is coming from there—specifically, the $4000 line item for "grants" in the SJC's budget. $700 of this fund was slated to go to the UBC club Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR), who wanted to donate to the Canadian Boat to Gaza. And in case you were wondering, yes, all fee-paying students are members of the SJC and can run for executive positions and attend their meetings.

Q: WHY IS THE AMS LETTING COUNCIL DECIDE THIS?

A: Resource groups are allowed to operate however they want within the confines of their budget—set in conjunction with the AMS's budget each year—and their constitution. However, Council can, by a two-thirds majority, create a motion which the Resource Groups must abide by. Ahmadian has said he wants Council to decide this because a) the donation could be controversial and b) there are currently questions as to whether the SJC followed their constitution by not having their required Annual General Meeting.

Q: THE SJC SAID THEY TRIED TO HAVE AN AGM, BUT IT WAS PREVENTED FROM HAPPENING. WHO'S TELLING THE TRUTH HERE?

A: It's true they haven't had an AGM yet. At their November 15 meeting, they were going to have one. According to the SJC, members of the Israeli Awareness Club came and asked so many questions about their support of an event George Galloway was hosting in Vancouver that by the time they finished, the scheduled meeting time for the AGM had passed. They say they're working on scheduling a new one. Members of the IAC claim that the SJC shut down the AGM because they didn't expect new people to show up at the meeting and wanted to control the results of executive elections.

Q: I HEARD THAT AHMADIAN GOT SECURITY TO REMOVE SPHR PRESIDENT OMAR SHABAN FROM HIS OFFICE. WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?

A: Confrontations with no cameras or unbiased witnesses quickly turn into classic he said/she said cases, so making any definitive judgment is pointless. However, Shaban and members of the SJC did go to Ahmadian's office to ask for minutes of the executive committee meeting where it was decided to withhold the $700 transfer. Now, given that a) minutes can't be "released" until AMS Council approves them (which hasn't happened yet) and b) there was no official motion to withhold the money, but rather a consensus decision by most of the executive, the minutes don't matter anyway.

However, according to Ahmadian, Shaban stalked him around his office, stopped him from closing his door for privacy, became extremely agitated and refused to leave when asked. According to Shaban and members of the SJC, Ahmadian refused to give them a direct answer to their question, faked a phone call with no one on the other line and then called security.

Q: PEOPLE IN FAVOUR OF THE DONATION SEEM TO BE PUTTING ALL OF THE BLAME ON AHMADIAN FOR BLOCKING IT. IS THIS FAIR?

A: A majority of the executive wanted to bring this to Council, so if you're going to blame Ahmadian for this, you might as well blame VP Finance Elin Tayyar and VP Academic Ben Cappellacci as well. And as Ahmadian himself wryly noted, the President doesn't have signing authority—so he couldn't personally block the transaction even if he wanted to. But he is a divisive figure on campus, and when you're the AMS President, you get the credit as well as the blame.

Q: I AM VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT THIS ISSUE! HOW CAN I LET THE AMS KNOW WHERE I STAND?

A: Good question, angry person! There are two competing petitions. If you're against the donation, go to *ubcstudentsforstudents.com*, and if you're for it, try *petitiononline.com/SPHRGAZA/petition.html*.

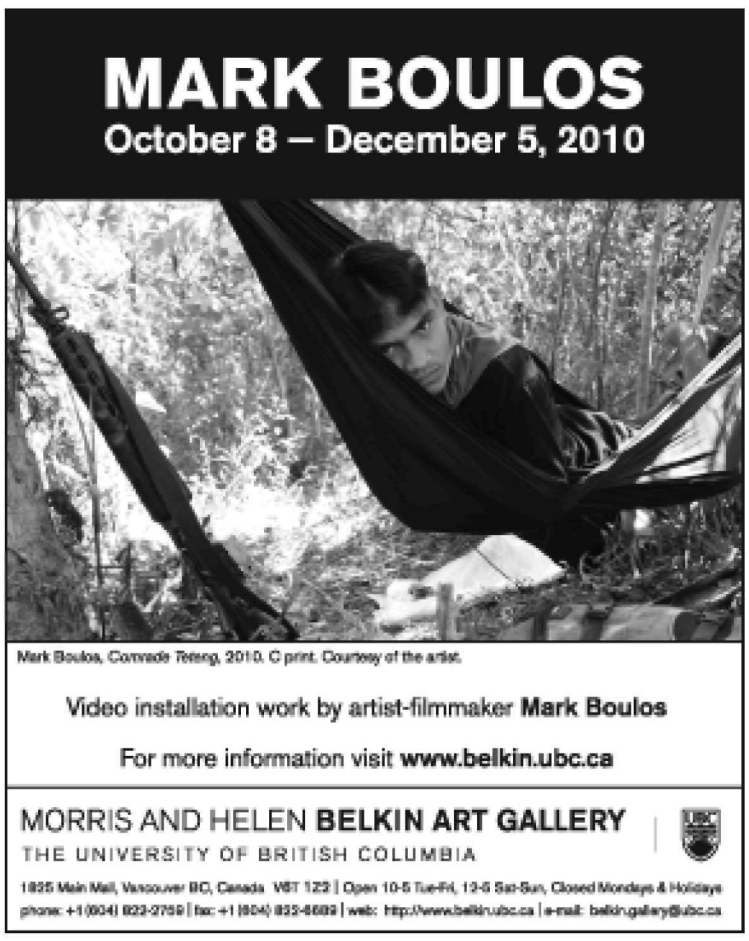
Q: WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY AND WHAT WILL THE MOTION LOOK LIKE?

A: We don't quite know yet. The executive have asked the AMS's legal firm to give an opinion on what the motion wording should say so there will be little possibility of a subsequent lawsuit against the decision. SAC is also releasing a report on Tuesday as to the current constitutionality of the SJC.

Q: BUT WHO WILL COUNCIL SIDE WITH?

A: There won't be as many fireworks as you would like. Many who sit on council don't like that Ahmadian has made this their decision, and just want to ensure that this becomes as non-political as possible. So, hoping that they will come out strongly in favour of one side or the other is folly. Instead, they'll focus on whether the SJC is meeting its constitutional mandate by holding legitimate AGMs, when (and if) Council can override the wishes of Resource Groups and how to avoid this clusterfuck in the future.

Given that the flotilla isn't scheduled to leave for another three to six months, the chances of any definitive conclusion being made on Wednesday are negligible. Which will probably further inflame people's opinions.



Many of you have strong opinions about what is happening in AMS politics right now. Please ensure that you don't embarrass yourself in a letter by a) mistaking comments made by others for *The Ubyssey*'s opinion, or b) not reading our above Gazagate FAQs.

JUSTIN MCELROY | letters@ubyssey.ca

THE UBYSSEY.ca

GAMES & COMICS

PHILOSOPHRENIC, BY RACHAEL FREEDMAN

SUDOKU (VERY EASY)

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6	5	2	4	9	1	3	8	7
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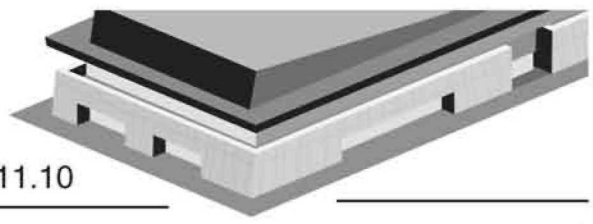
Submit your comics to our website at *ubyssey.ca/volunteer/submit-a-comic.*

VIRGINIE MENARD | production@ubyssey.ca

THE UBYSSEY.ca

ams student society | Insider weekly
a weekly look at what's new at your student society 29.11.10



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TAKE TO THE STAGE
Get tickets online or at the Chan Centre Box Office | For full information, visit: talent.ubc.ca

MY NEW SUB

Come see what the schematic design looks like for the New SUB, and to give us your feedback and comments! On **Friday, December 3rd, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**, we will be hosting a open house display in the SUB's main concourse to show everyone the progress on the new building. Team members from the design team and the New SUB Project committee will be there to chat with. Free candy canes for all those who attend!

NEW SUB PROJECT

Visit ams.ubc.ca for your FREE UBC RE-usable bag with purchase

The AMS Annual Holiday Gift Fair
November 22 – 26
November 29 – December 3
10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday SUB

ams Food Bank

The AMS Student Food Bank provides emergency food relief to current UBC students.

We offer a seven-day emergency supply of food to help students during a time of crisis.

Visit the SUB Room 58 during operation hours and staff members will be able to assist you.

www.ams.ubc.ca/services/ams-food-bank

Nominate a Candidate for the AMS Election!

The nominations period for the 2011 AMS Elections opens on Monday, November 29th 2010. Nomination forms for AMS Executive, Board of Governors, Senate, and Student Legal Fund Society Board can be picked up in the Student Union Building in room SUB 238A on Monday.

Nominations close at 4pm Friday, January 7th 2011. Good luck!

AMS Elections

STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE AMS
Facebook: UBC Alma Mater Society
Twitter: AMSExecutive

OPINIONS

DO YOU CARE? WRITE US A LETTER » feedback@ubyssey.ca

EDITORIAL

UBC NEEDS TO HEAR YOU LOUD AND CLEAR

Fans of good old-fashioned town-hall style democracy are in luck this week. There are two events, on two consecutive days, where hundreds of people will show up to loudly proclaim that the values of the UBC community just so happen to align perfectly with their own.

While Wednesday's AMS Council meeting, where the fate of the planned $700 donation to a Gaza flotilla will be decided, may be more controversial, it's Tuesday's land use public hearing that is of real consequence. The hearing is where ordinary students and residents of the university lands will get their final say about changes that will impact this campus for decades to come.

The public hearing is the final stage of a consultation process around zoning changes that, while overly controlled by Campus and Community Planning in their standard hamfisted fashion, have produced positive results. Maximum building heights, which UBC wanted to eliminate, have been capped at around 22 storeys, for example. Density increases, which would allow for more students to live on campus, have been given support. And the notorious "Gage South," which previously was going to be a market-housing development right in between Gage Residences and the SUB (and yes, somehow UBC didn't realize this was a stupid idea) has been given an "under review" designation. Which isn't ideal, but it's a step in the right direction.

So credit must be given to the AMS for standing up and gaining these concessions. Yet it's also important to realize that this isn't a victory, but merely the first step in ensuring that the future UBCity meets the needs of those that the campus serves. And further vigilance will be needed in the future.

The provincial government has given UBC the discretion to decide its future governance structure with very little oversight. Given that the university is both land-owner and land-regulator, this provides ample opportunity for manipulation, which makes Tuesday's public hearing all the more important. All governments need an honourable and loyal opposition to keep their plans accountable. And as UBC continues to make amendments to how lands on this campus are governed, students will—and should—continue to be at the forefront.

GOAT RUSTLIN', EVERY DAY I'M HUSTLIN'

Recently in these pages we've discussed UBC's future, donations to Gaza and abortion posters. However, there is another issue of crucial importance that deserves attention. We are speaking, of course, of goat abductions.

A disturbing trend has been plaguing farms in Chilliwack, and it makes pinworms, potato blight and two-headed calves look like 4-H follies. Over the past several months, more than 50 goats have gone missing in the Chilliwack-Agassiz area. Just over a week ago, RCMP responded to a call where seven goats—*all of them pregnant*—had been forcibly taken from their homes. Six were later recovered in good health. We are thankful the six expectant mothers are now safely returned to their owners. We dare not speculate on the fate of the seventh.

Goat rustling is a crime that affects communities, individuals and goats. Farmers in Chilliwack draw their living from goat-related resource extraction, husbandry and sales. The sort of doubt that a vigilante goat-snatcher brings to any rural economy has the potential to do harm. But in one as goat-centric as Chilliwack's, these actions can deal a crippling blow. *Crippling.*

We encourage consumers to continue purchasing as many goat-dependant products as they normally would, and to have faith in the important role goat-related stocks play in any diverse portfolio. And don't let these recent events push you towards bathing your family with non-goat's-milk-based soap. The goat market may see occasional instability, but it is always self-correcting.

And to the nefarious night-stalker who is responsible for these crimes: you will be caught. Theft of any sort is an offence. But to steal a goat who is in the family way, already weighed down with the stress of preparing for a new child, is simply wrong. We only hope that the long arm of the law reaches you before the horns of that missing mother-to-be's mate do. Truly, sir, you are guilty of crimes against man and goat.

BRYCE WARNES GRAPHIC/THE UBYSSEY

OPINIONS

RCMP shouldn't be the only ones talking about groping

KRISSY DARCH
Contributor

Last week, two campus security guards and an RCMP officer walked into Irving K. Barber and called the attention of all students. Someone had been putting up posters that were extremely offensive towards women. If anyone were to see folks putting up these posters, they should call campus security. Arrests would be made.

A young woman approached them and asked what was on these posters. The officer responded that they were "so offensive," he wouldn't repeat what they said.

That night, almost all of them— hundreds of them—were removed. Rumours circulated. A group of women meeting on campus. Maybe connected to the action. Women's Studies department discussing the posters in class. People shocked, angry, frightened, offended. A few days later, a student blogger posted pictures of the posters to a personal tumblr account, describing them as brilliant.

The posters went like this: "ATTENTION GROPERS: Based on recent incidents of men groping women on campus, the public has been increasingly concerned with risky groper behaviour. We have completed a series of tips we think will help you."

They went on to outline safety tips, while the subheading "Hey women, fed up with fear? We are too," clearly spoke to the opposite intention.

Looking closer, I could see the reference to the campus warnings that were issued in response to recent attacks and the RCMP warnings. The posters were a line-by-line satire of the messages that are typically directed at women: walk in groups, stay on familiar paths, don't go anywhere alone, use common sense.

I can see why these posters would have been triggering. The message was unclear. They definitely appeared, at first, to be encouraging groping. This distracted from what they set out to critique: an atmosphere that puts the onus on women to prevent assault, in which perpetrators of the violence are never directly addressed or warned. Rather than declaring UBC campus a woman-unsafe area, why don't we rally together and declare it, forcefully and often, a groper-unsafe area?

I often hear other young women talking about whether or not they "feel" safe, or "feel" threatened. Safe is not a feeling—it's an objective thing. Is the feeling of safety, but not the real thing, all young women can bring themselves to hope for?

Why do we so often use passive, subjective language around group-based, gender-motivated attacks? Women's bathroom stall ads all over Vancouver about cervical cancer and breast cancer are getting tough, waging war and calling passes. When it comes to gropers and rapists, no one wants to name any names. The men who are committing these attacks must "feel" pretty safe. The violence continues to be perpetrated while women continue to be told how to prevent it, even though those actions are only ever partial measures.

The posters were clumsily worded and probably hastily conceived, but our attention should be focused on the fact that the RCMP and campus security seem to think they should have a monopoly on saying what is in women's interests.

I was heartened to hear that there was a visible and angry response to the constant spectre of gropings on campus. What disturbs me is that there seemed to be more outrage over the posters than over the attacks.

I want to caution against the soft paternalism of suggesting that only people in statused positions of authority or police are qualified to respond to sexual assault, or that we can anticipate what will be "offensive" to whom. I know many women, myself included, who are not willing to be silent and let the RCMP frame the whole issue.

LETTERS

A ONCE-A-YEAR DISCUSSION ON RACE ISN'T A DISCUSSION

If the crayon box on the cover of *The Ubyssey*'s "Colours" supplement was meant to symbolize Canada and its racial makeup, then the 'artists' were discriminating in their use of these crayons to illustrate Canada's racial diversity. Perhaps this is one reason why people avoid discussions of race in the first place; exclusion, whether intentional or not, is boundary-forming. Particularly lacking from the Colours supplement is the mention of Aboriginal Canadians.

In fact, Aboriginal Canadians are only hinted at once in the entire supplement: Kalyeena Makortoff's article, "UBC professors weigh in on multiculturalism and racism in Canada." Although *The Ubyssey* runs an annual supplement focussing specifically on Aboriginal Canadians, this shouldn't preclude the inclusion of Aboriginal Canadians from the Colours supplement.

Canada's First Nations, Inuit and Metis populations face so many intersecting discriminations and oppressions that *The Ubyssey* could easily have a weekly column dedicated specifically to issues facing Aboriginal people across the country. However, as it stands, the exclusion of Aboriginal Canadians from the Colours supplement is yet another example of boundary formation.

To be wholly inclusive, I propose that *The Ubyssey* expand its "annual" focus on race and ethnicity to a weekly focus, dedicating a page (or part of one) to articles, personal anecdotes and feedback.

If the topics of race and ethnicity are avoided in everyday discussion, then *The Ubyssey* can help to facilitate a "safe space" for these discussions to begin. Furthermore, a weekly focus will allow these issues to be at the forefront of readers' consciousness; you can't just "start" a discussion on race if the next part of the discussion isn't going to happen for another year! Let's draw an accurate [expletive] picture instead of playing connect the dots.

Sincerely,
Emily Plommer

OUR CAMPUS

LILA VOLKAS PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

JUSTIN MCELROY
coordinating@ubyssey.ca

Look at the man in the yellow shirt. Now look at the frisbee. Now back at the man in yellow shirt. Now back at the frisbee. Sadly, you aren't the man in the yellow shirt. But you could be if, like this man, you lived in Vanier, and played in the first round of playoffs for Vanier Ultimate. On a marshy surface occasionally known as a 'field,' TweedSL (in green) and Mawder (in yellow) fought for the right to continue their season and go on to glory. They failed. So did many others. But next week, TEC plays MacRoss for the championship. It may be just one of many morale-boosting and friendship-forcing activities foisted upon first-years, but for one night, one team will feel like champions.

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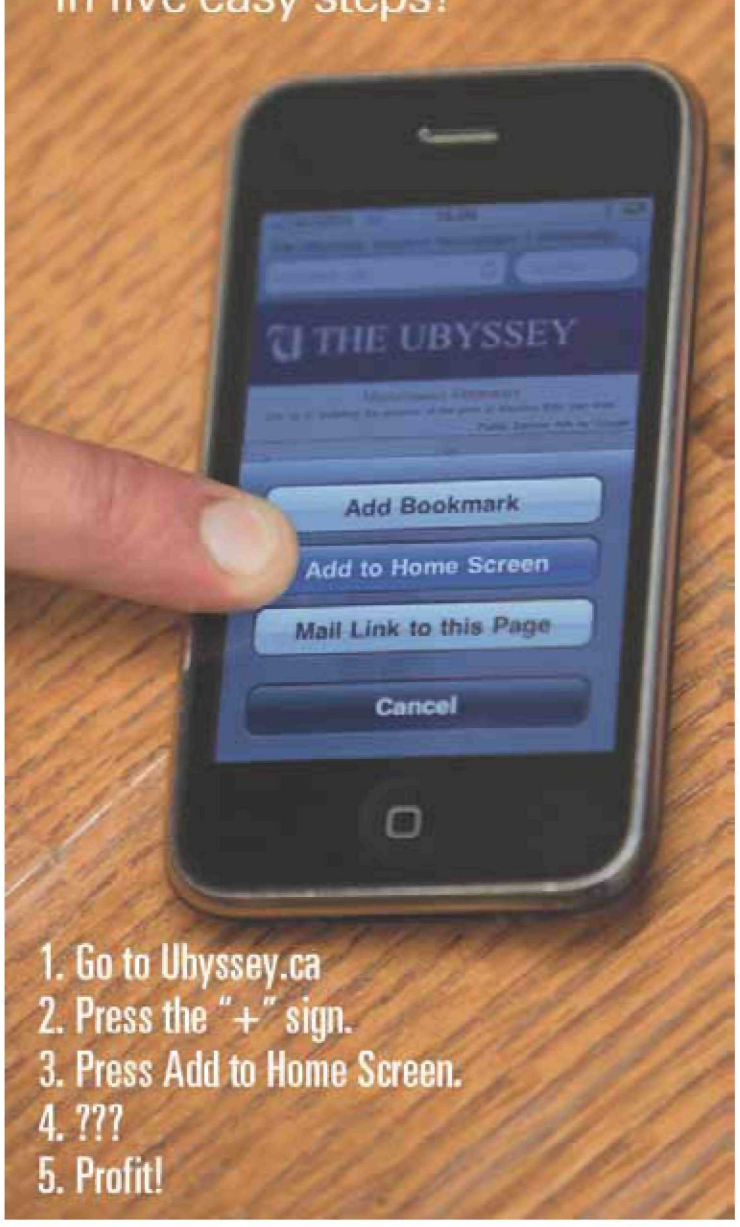

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