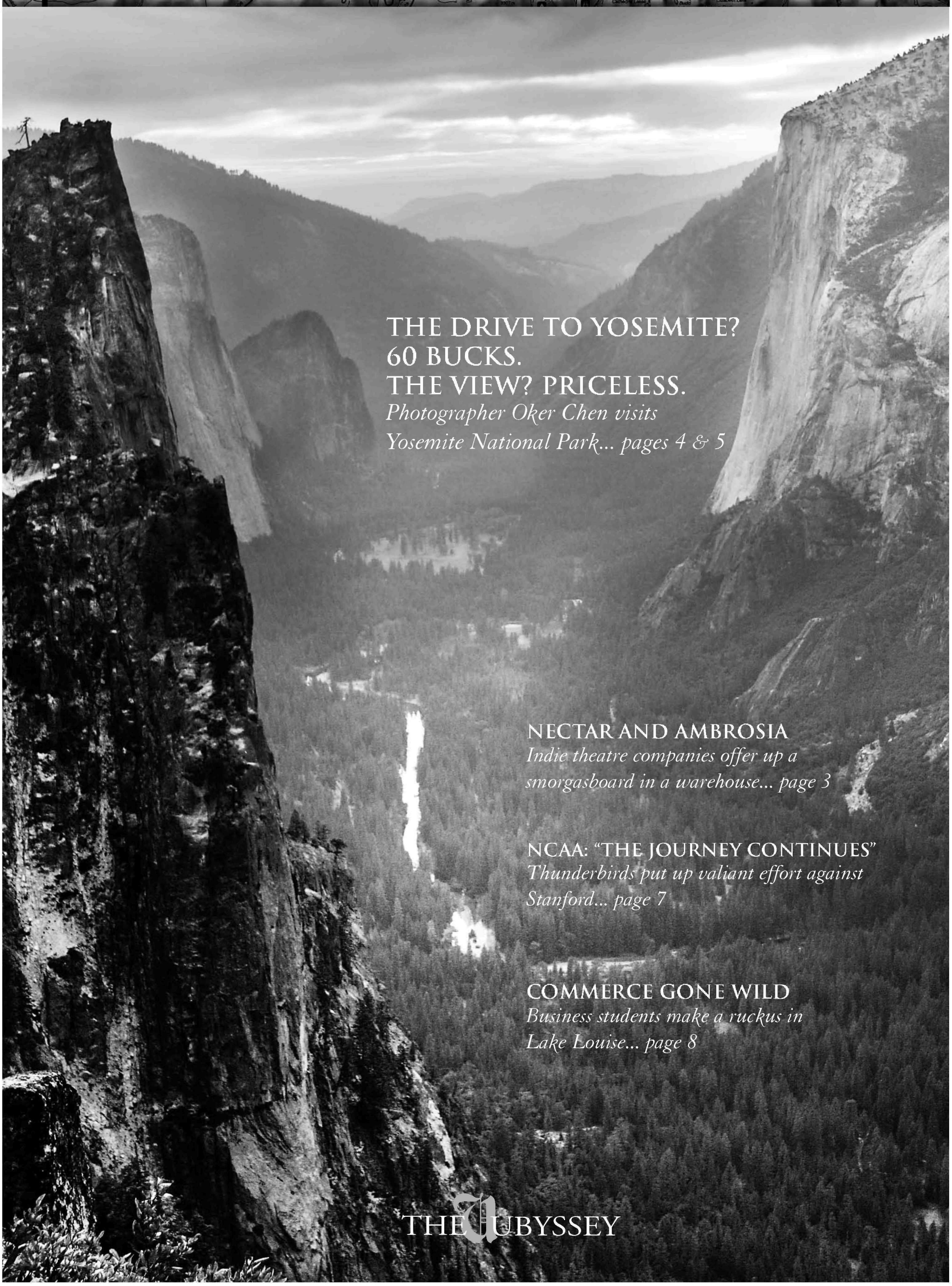
PAGE FRIDAY

Vol. LXXXVIII N°19 | www.ubyssey.bc.ca | Friday, 10 November, 2006 | A cunt-inuous source of inspiration since 1918



THE DRIVE TO YOSEMITE? 60 BUCKS. THE VIEW? PRICELESS.

Photographer Oker Chen visits Yosemite National Park... pages 4 & 5

NECTAR AND AMBROSIA

Indie theatre companies offer up a smorgasboard in a warehouse... page 3

NCAA: "THE JOURNEY CONTINUES"

Thunderbirds put up valiant effort against Stanford... page 7

COMMERCE GONE WILD

Business students make a ruckus in Lake Louise... page 8

THE UBYSSEY

UBC prof discusses real-life *Mean Girls*

by Chelsea Theriault
CULTURE WRITER

MEAN GIRLS: Cruelty among young women has taken a sexual turn. **OKER CHEN PHOTO**

"She's a walking STD. We've been, like, when we see her walking by in the hallway, 'Oh my god, I smell herpes,' then kind of stare her down." As Dawn Currie read this quote from her research, a group of tight-lipped mothers gasped and shook their heads in shock. You could practically see the thoughts streaming through their collective heads: "Is my daughter ever this cruel to her peers, or victim to such cruelty?"

On Nov. 1, Sociology Professor Dawn Currie introduced her captivated audience to the volatile world of 14-year-old female Vancouverites. Part of the ArtsWednesdays series sponsored by the Faculty of Arts every week at Robson Square, Currie's research on female identities was discussed in a lecture titled *Sugar 'n Spice: Understanding Girls' Meanness*. The title refers to the well-known proverb that claims, "Sugar and spice and everything nice, that's what little girls are made of." However, Currie's interviews with 70 Lower Mainland girls prove the rhyme's antiquity; the sugar and spice must be long gone if sixth grade girls are calling each other "hos."

It is not uncommon for girls to have the capacity to be viciously cruel to one another—the popularity of films like *Mean Girls* and *Heathers* is proof. However, little research has been performed on the subject. Even Currie didn't start out with the plan of investigating girls' meanness, but when she interviewed the girls about their identity formation, she discovered that "membership in various groups is really important, it really defines who the kids are." In every represented school there was a social hierarchy structured around popularity, and cruelty was the great judge of who could claim the coveted "popular" moniker.

Unlike what the moniker denotes, being "popular" in the girls' schools did not mean one was well-liked. On the contrary, "popular" girls were usually the meanest and therefore most hated of all, yet what set them at the top of the hierarchy is that they had power, specifically the power to "squash people like [bugs]."

But as members of the audience stated in the discussion period following the lecture, these power dynamics have existed in schools for decades. What is novel about Currie's research?

The cruelty being expressed by young girls is becoming increasingly sexualised, and the insults are being hurled at ever-younger ages, according to Currie. Her interviewees admitted that sexualised insults like "slut," "ho," and "dyke" are by far the meanest and do the most damage to their self-esteem.

Although time was running out by her conclusion, Currie afforded a quick explanation for the cause of all this cruelty. Her belief is that girls' bitchiness towards each other is born from their attempt to work around one of our society's most prevalent double standards: a boy tends to be applauded for chasing multiple girls, but when girls repeat the same behavior, they are deemed "slutty." Currie's research shows that for today's girls, being popular depends on being attractive to boys, yet a girl cannot attract or date too many boys or she will attract the reputation of being a "slut."

Dawn Currie's lecture brought to light many social stresses and problems that face young girls today, and she proves an exception to the idea that adults don't understand "what girls go through." The difficulty of being a girl is exemplified best in the film *The Virgin Suicides*, when young, suicidal sister Cecelia is asked by her doctor, "What are you doing here, honey? You're not even old enough to know how bad life gets."

"Obviously, Doctor," she replies, "You've never been a 13-year-old girl."

THE UBYSSEY

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Brandon Adams cast a vote for Michael Bround using a Boris Korby touch-screen machine. Because he was blind, he pressed the box for Colleen Tang and passed over boxes to vote for Champagne Choquer, Levi Barnett, Richard Lam and Oker Chen, all running as independents. Mary Leighton, Carolynne Burkholder and Elliott Chalmers counted the ballots for the riding of Jesse Ferreras-Marchand, and found that the ballots, designed by the Chelsea Theriault Company, were as a faulty as the Momoko Price that printed the ballots in the first place. Andrea Loewen and Karen Ko demanded a recall, but Victor Liang denied them. Matthew Jewkes had final say over the election and ruled in favour of a victory for Ryan Pettersson. The following candidates were disqualified: Patty Comeau, Claudia Li, George Prior, Katie Fitzpatrick, Eric Wallace-Deering.

EDITORIAL GRAPHIC *Michael Bround*
COVER PHOTO *Oker Chen*
COVER DESIGN *Champagne Choquer*

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'tweens

UBC Wrestling Club
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Life After God
November 1-11, 7:30pm
Touchstone Theatre & Theatre at UBC
Vancouver East Cultural Centre
Check out this spectacular examination of our quest for transcendence in the city of seismic shifts-Vancouver. Adapted from Douglas Coupland's short story "Life After God" and written by two-time Governor General's Award finalist Michael Lewis MacLennan.

Meligrove Band w/ The Golden Dogs & The Junction
November 11, 8:00pm
Gallery Lounge
An amazing live band signed to V2 records. The Golden Dogs are on True North Records and getting lots of hype. All three bands will be playing hour long sets. Tickets ten bucks at Outpost & Zulu Records.

Tokyo Police Club with Shukov
November 17, 8:00pm
Gallery Lounge
For those into the indie scene check out this event. "Blogger-approved quartet [that] has the potential to become a real five-tool player in indie for a long time." — Fitchfork

UBC Film Society SINCE 1935
November movies
FRI NOV 10 - SUN NOV 12
7:00 My Super Ex-Girlfriend (PG)
9:30 A Scanner Darkly (14A)
WED NOV 15 - THU NOV 16
7:00 Edward Scissorhands (14A)
9:30 Forrest Gump (PG)
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Membership: $10 (students)
For more info, call 604 822 3697 or visit www.ams.ubc.ca/clubs/filmsoc

CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements

SHARING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING: Integrating Indigenous knowledge into educational curricula. CIPO-VAN and GOSA present a forum inviting academia, indigenous representatives and community members to discuss the role and impact that education process plays in the construction of social values and on our global community. FREE ADMISSION. Traditional foods and drinks by donation. Unitarian Church of Vancouver, 949 West 49th Ave. Monday November 20th. 6:30-9:00PM

ANXIETY? Depression? FREE Mental Wellness Self-Help Support Group held biweekly on Saturdays (10:30 am – 12:30). Social support network, Interactive learning experience in a safe, non-judgmental environment. For more information call 604-630-6865.

ECONOMICS STUDENTS ASSOCIATION CAREER NIGHT. Find out what's going on "out there" in the world of work from a single campus location. Wednesday November 15, 6pm-8:30pm in the Graduate Student Society Ballroom. Semi-formal attire. *Tickets at the door: $7 for members, $10 for non-members.

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Employment

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Miscellaneous

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Hive hopes to give buzz

by Andrea Loewen
CULTURE WRITER

As children, most of us were taught that getting too close to a beehive can result in little more than painful beestings. The folks behind *Hive* are hoping Vancouverites will toss such notions aside November 9 to 11.

Hive is an event that brings together 11 adventurous independent theatre companies into one space, one of which is set in a large warehouse-like space. Audiences are invited to the central bar to get a drink and are then free to wander between the 11 performances occuring simultaneously.

Adrienne Wong, co-artistic producer of NeWorld Theatre, describes it as "part mother of all parties and part theatrical experimentation." Audiences get an opportunity to see beyond professionalism and peer inside the world of independent theatre in Vancouver.

One of *Hive*'s conceptions is an interactive experience for everyone involved. Wong describes it as "capitalising on theatre's great strength—intimacy," while Jason Long, co-artistic director of Theatre Replacement, says, "*Hive* is about human presence. I can touch my audience, make them feel uncomfortable, or give them a present." This kind of intimacy is rare in mainstream theatre, as is the opportunity for audiences to interact with theatre artists and each other.

With this interaction, *Hives* creates a brand new kind of theatre experience. Long refers to the site-specific nature of the event, as creating "true site specific theatre, because of the constraints placed on the artists [which] force us to act on impulse, instinct, to have fun and stretch ourselves."

The experience is also vastly different from anything most seasoned theatre-goers are used to. There is enormous empowerment for viewers. They have the freedom not only to choose which performances you want to see, but also to watch repeat performances, walk out, or spend your time visiting with artists and audience members at the bar, make for a sort of "Choose Your Own Adventure" night at the theatre.

What sets *Hive* apart is its dedication to sustainability. The goal is to create a carbon zero event, where the artists use as few resources as possible creating their pieces. This claim is not just lip service, the artists are all asked to keep track of how much energy they use in creating their work, from gas consumption to electricity. At the end of the event, a proportional amount of money will be donated to a sustainability-promoting organization. Wong even hinted at an exciting, secret prize as an incentive for theatre companies to use the least amount of energy.

Hive aims to bring newer, more adventurous theatre to the forefront of the scene. Anyone interested in underground theatre should not miss this event. As Long says, "Vancouver is a young theatre town, and *Hive* creates a picture of the future of theatre in Vancouver."

Although *Gonzo* has cutesy appeal, it is as veritable as a Muppet Show

GONZO
at Norman Rothstein Theatre
until November 12

by Karen Ko
CULTURE WRITER

Director Gordon Pascoe's production *Gonzo* attains his ultimate goal of providing an introduction to WWII Japanese POW camps to school-aged theatre-goers and their teachers with admirable success. The amateur production manages to convey, with remarkable jocularity, the story of a kindly Japanese prison guard's treatment of British women and children at a Shanghai internment camp over a period of several years.

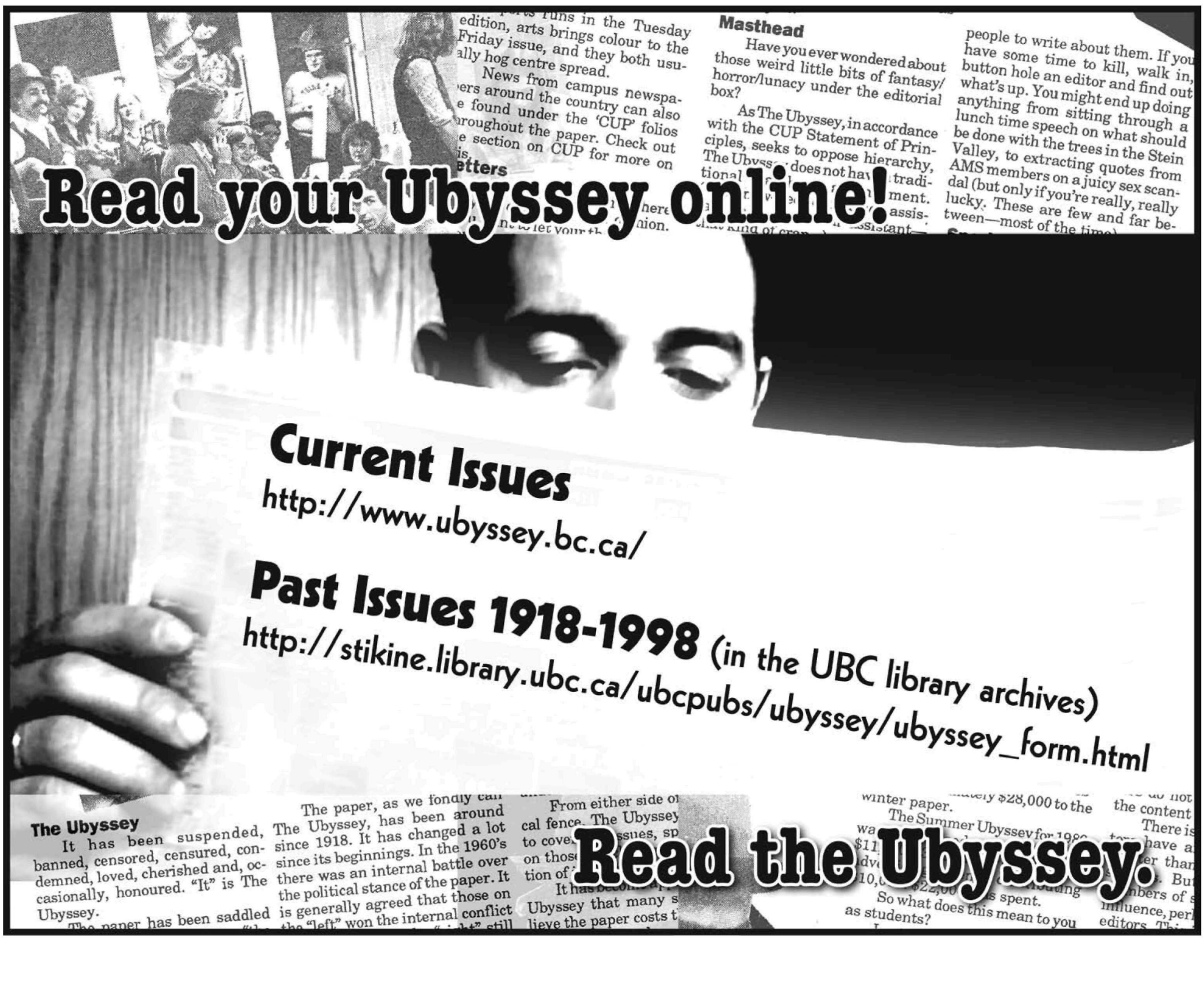
This sweet and good-intentioned production features notable performances by established and emerging Vancouver talent, including a spot-on portrayal of the overbearing Hut Representative by Christina Jastrezembska. She channels an absolutely perfect Maggie Smith and contributes to the production considerably with her endearing, emotionally-guarded and traditionally British depiction of her character.

On stage chemistry is obvious among the actors and results in the somewhat believable development of the relationship between the prison guard Gonzo and the British ladies. The audience grows to understand that enduring the ostensibly harsh conditions of the camp was made significantly easier by the relationship between the guard and his prisoners based on mutual trust and genuine affection.

Although *Gonzo* provides an excellent introduction to the basic history of the Second World War, its strictly dramatic elements leave something to be desired.

Unfortunately, the play relies far too heavily on the cutesy appeal of its largely under-aged cast to be taken seriously. The production's main dramatic weakness results from its after-school special approach to what is remembered historically as a brutal and often less-than-kind occupation by Japanese forces. The realities of war cannot be glossed over by adorable barefoot British moppets and borderline offensive Asian caricatures.

This isn't to demean the value of the production, and what this reviewer believes to be the director's overall intention. The play may neglect the more emotionally raw realities of the situation at internment camps, yet it *does* offer a tremendous live-action history lesson aimed at a given demographic. However, unless you're currently enrolled in a high school social studies class, you're not very likely to fall into that demographic.



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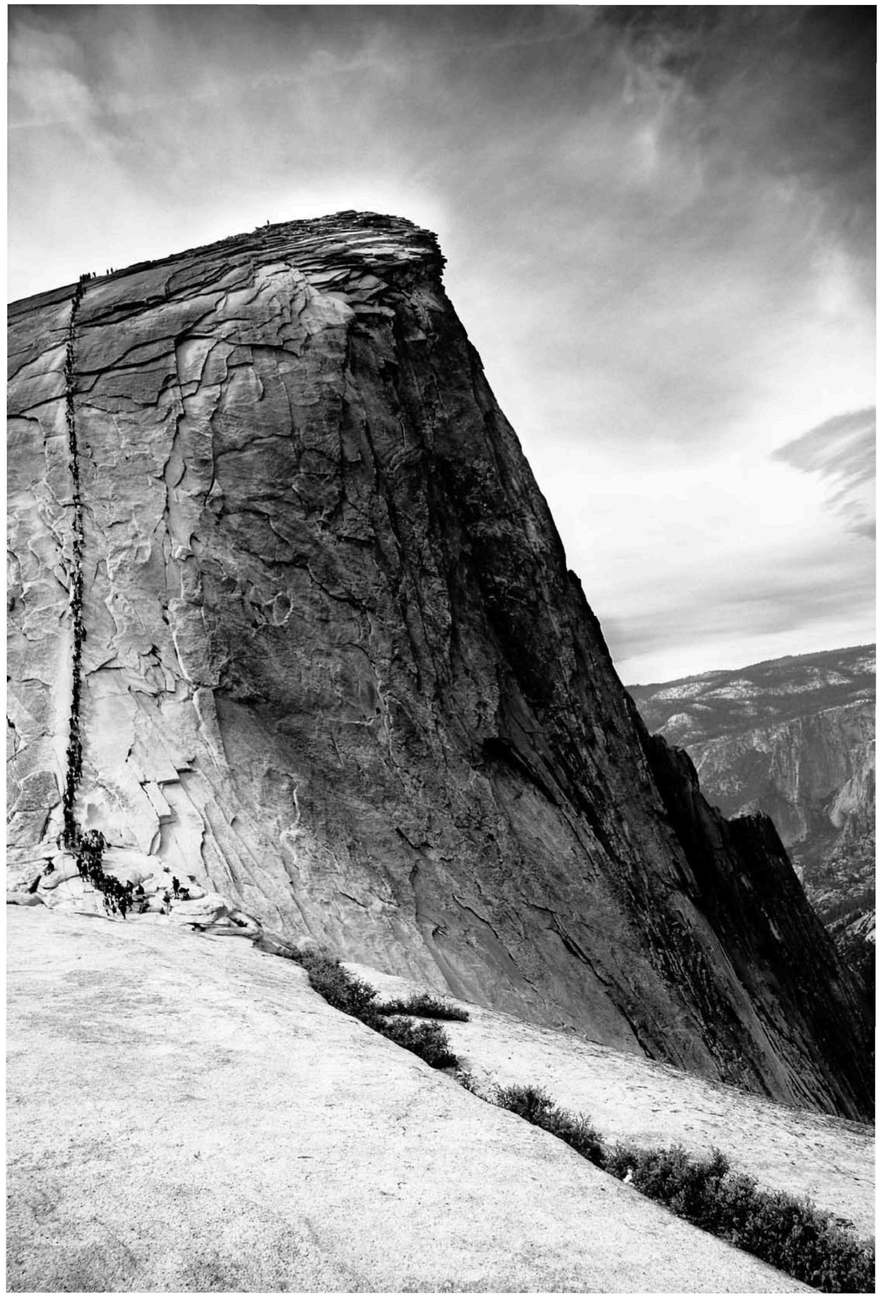
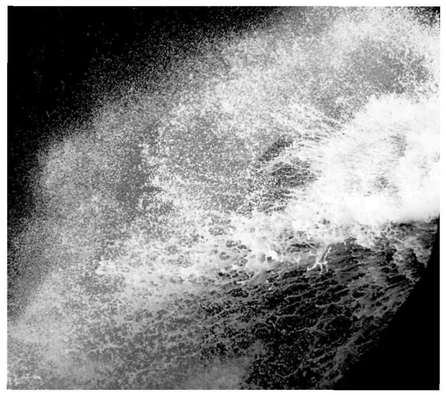
Slander Anagram

How many words can you make out of the word "slander"?

If you can find more than ten three-letter words, 24 four-letter words, and 13 five-letter words, come into *the Ubyssey* office and Carolynne will buy you a **chocolate bar**.

Here's a few to get you started...





BEAUTY ON A BUDGET

From Vancouver to Yosemite in less than five days

Our journey from UBC to Yosemite National Park, located in the heart of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in Eastern California, was cheaply budgeted. By carpooling, our group of two passengers and two drivers travelled—aside from a few rest stops—for 20 hours straight. We covered the 1,750 km distance at a cost of roughly $30 US per person.

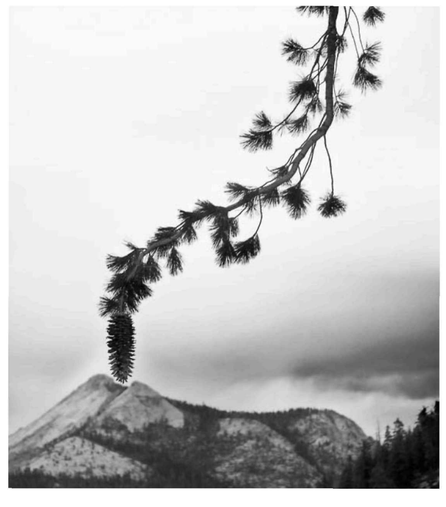
Our steel sedan moved down the coast, perforating the black-velvet night sky with a continuous incandescent beam. We travelled the Interstate Highway as a single unit in an endless conduit of unblinking lights, red going one way, white going the other. Despite the unending lightshow, the ride felt very lonely, what with so much activity and not a single visible human face at which I could smile or scowl. By morning the landscape was lit by the hot sun: we had arrived in California, the Sunshine State.

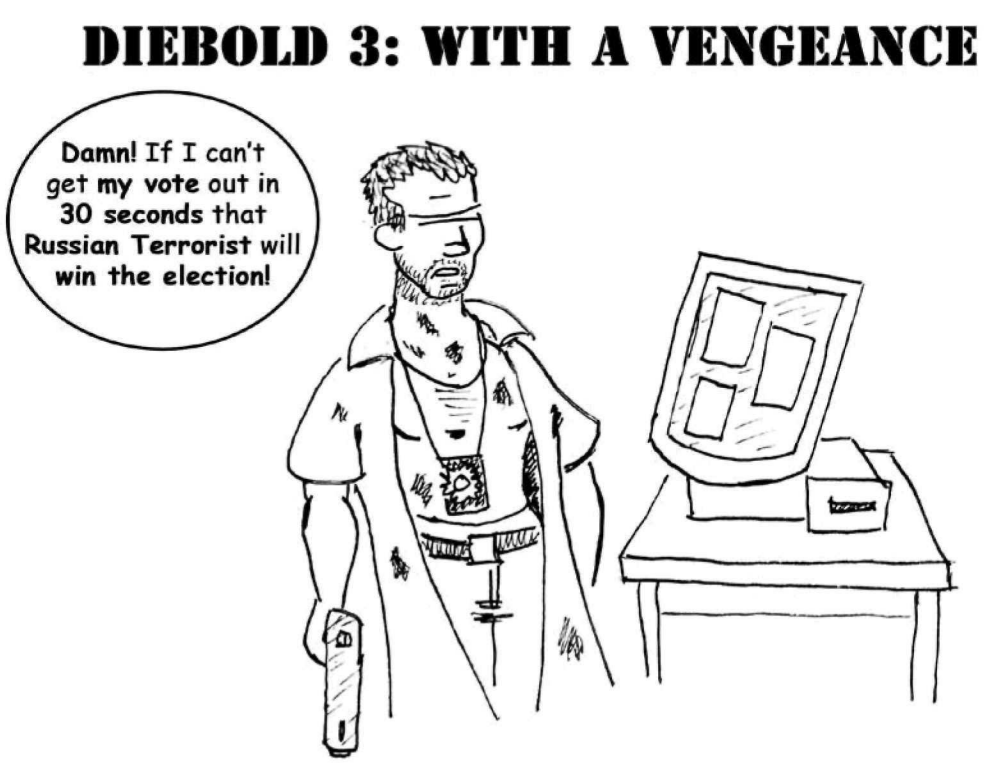
Yosemite Park is structured like a metropolis—the core, Yosemite Valley, is the oldest, smallest and most developed area, densely packed with trails to follow and surrounded by sprawling back-country. The Valley, protected as a National Park since 1891, eventually incorporated the surrounding wilderness through the works of legendary conservationists such as John Muir, the founder of the Sierra club. His memorable adage, "take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints," has been held in reverence here.

Yosemite's fall climate resembles that of a burning dirigible—despite the elevation, the environment is alarmingly hot. With such extremes in weather, it was amazing to witness the population density inside the park. Almost all the campsites were fully occupied and the roads were packed with people. The true testament to the awe of Yosemite was seeing a solid 100 metre-long line-up of people barely inching up the rockface, like thrill-seekers waiting in the line for an amusement park ride.

The trip back to Vancouver was full of more sights, from palm-lined suburban avenues full of graffiti to deserts garnished with apple orchards, made possible by glacial aquifers underground. Ultimately, the trip cost $60 USD per person. However, the average UBC student should remember that they don't have to go cross-country to see some sights. The whole experience reminded me of the importance of the provincial parks in our own backyard, a vital component of the BC's strength and identity.

Text and photos by Oker Chen





Follow the paperless trail

Another midterm election has come and gone down south with more than half of the states in the US now making use of direct-recording electronic (DRE) voting. There were no ostensible controversies on par with what we all witnessed in the 2000 election, but there remain crucial questions about the voting system that is being employed by the United States.

With the increasing pressure to broaden the use of this method in Canada, it seems appropriate to take a moment to recognise how DRE voting is holding up just south of the border.

The evidence that has been gathered thus far is far from encouraging. The electronic voting machines that US elections have gradually come to rely on have been documented as being unreliable and prone to hacking, making the possibility of votes being lost just that much higher. The only difference with DRE voting, however, is that it leaves no paper trail.

And it's more than a little ironic when intended improvements to the democratic process result in voices of the people being jeopardised instead of stabilised.

So before Canada jumps on the bandwagon, we should ask ourselves: Is the DRE system necessarily a better one?

At first glance, no.

Diebold, the principle DRE provider in the US, operates as a servicing company with representation from approximately 90 countries around the world. It has, on many occasions, shown that its machinery is far from being up to snuff.

In June 2005, Bev Harris, a critic of Diebold, was able to make 65,000 votes disappear by simple computer manipulation and worse still, the machines had no record of tampering even when the votes were lost.

This came after Diebold 'accidentally' left the source code for the entire program open in an FTP site over the Internet, which she mistakenly came across one day while surfing the web.

On many other occasions, voters would push the touch screen to vote for a certain candidate, but the name that would appear on the screen would be the name of the opposing candidate.

More alarming was an incident in 2004 presidential election: Indiana's Boone County district had 19,000 registered voters but because of a computer glitch more than 140,000 votes were tabulated—a mistake eerily reminiscent of the 1928 Nigerian presidential election where Charles King beat Thomas Faulkner by 600,000 votes when the population only had 15,000 registered voters

Americans have a long history of experimenting with voting technology and with each subsequent technological advance flaws continue to surface. The lever voting system that was adopted in 1892, punch-card voting in the 60s, and even optical mark-sense voting systems that were developed in the 1970s all showed room for fraud or error.

But the greatest example, which coincidentally prompted the US to implement the DRE voting system nation wide, was the infamous 2000 presidential election, where the election was not determined by a Supreme Court decision that handed the election to George Bush because of flawed punch-cards.

Let's hope that in Canada, in the event that we adopt a DRE voting system—a seeming inevitability—that it will be properly regulated and will have undergone the most rigorous testing so people can be secure in knowing that their voices will not be lost amongst the bells and whistles of new technologies.

Streeters

Canada currently does not use electronic voting for federal elections. How would you feel if we shifted to electronic voting for the next election?

—Zaccheus Lim
Physiology, 2

"I think it would make it a lot more accessible...for students like me. I had a long day [last time] and couldn't make it to a polling station. I ended up not voting."

—Dongqi Liao
Civil, 2

"Some people may abuse the electronic voting... the security of the voting might not be ensured."

—Kathleen Li
Pharmacy, 1

"I guess it would be both an advantage and a disadvantage. Maybe the error rate would be high. It could encourage people to vote. I think it's something you could try."

—Kyle Straw
Philosophy

"You could make an electronic trail...you can get more people coming out to vote. The downside is fraud...if somebody really wanted to skew it one way, it wouldn't make a difference. If it's fair, then sure!"

—Duncan Martin
Arts, 4

"It would be awful. I saw that video about the Princeton students...they basically inserted a virus into a Diebold machine...it would be tragic. As soon as you can be assured that it's safe, that's one thing; but right now there are just too many concerns."

—Coordinated by Kasha Chang and George Prior

PERSPECTIVE

Schizophrenia: reverse psychology?

by Greg Bauder

I have noticed in my 29-year battle with schizophrenia that mental illnesses are often a reverse or backwards working of the mind and emotions. When I became psychotic I was angry and abusive towards my family, even though I had always loved them, and I heard demons denouncing God, even though I was a Christian. I heard alien voices, too, which were frightening at first. I loved sports and music and school but lost interest in them. Instead, I retreated into a fantasy world where I lived with gods and was unaware I was grandiose. My mind made me special. It also barred me from realising how insignificant and ill I really was. It was a reversal of perception.

When I look back, the people and things important in my life became distorted—like my lack of grief for my loving mother who died, for example. The verbal abuse I gave my family was uncalled for, but schizophrenic perceptions turn opposite, so a mentally ill person might be suspicious of their family but trust drug dealers whom they shouldn't trust. I always loved Jesus, but when I became ill like many schizophrenic people, I heard the worst demonic voices possible hounding me. It's like being paralysed and unable to walk, despite wanting to walk, or being depressed when you want to feel happy.

I also heard alien voices and now I realise I did because of my fascination with science fiction, which was a kind of fantasy for me growing up. Some alien voices were good and some were bad, especially the ones that told me to attempt suicide. The normal will to live becomes reversed in the mentally ill brain and we feel uncontrollable urges to harm ourselves. A simple family get together can cause paranoia, so many sick people isolate themselves, when before their illness isolation was usually unbearable. I used to love working and going to school, making money and learning, but the negative symptoms took my interest away, so I became an invalid. It is as though the normal things we do become reversed when we are ill.

When I was first ill I could not take any kidding and often laughed when people were serious. I lost interest in sports, friends and dating which are major interests for most people. Not because I didn't want to enjoy those things; my mind worked in reverse. I always admired and loved my Dad but became distant and angry with him simply because my emotions were backwards. Now, with the right meds, many of these reversals have been turned around. But it is good to be aware that often what the schizophrenic person is thinking or feeling is the opposite of what they truly believe.

—Greg Bauder graduated in 1998 and is the author of **The Temptress Ariel, Selene's Guiding Light *and* Golden Sandals.**

UBC FALLS TO STANFORD 79-59

First half lead fades fast after slew of second half turnovers

Basketball Final

UBC Thunderbirds at Stanford Cardinal

	1st	2nd		
UBC: 9-1, 4-0 CW	26	33	59	Final
STAN: 1-0, 0-0 PAC-10	25	54	79	

UBC 59 — STAN 79

November 7, 2006 — Maples Pavilion, Palo Alto, California

by Boris Korby
SPORTS EDITOR

STANFORD—Maples Pavilion is an intimidating place to play basketball. Witness to only 17 losses in 137 games over the last 11 seasons, the home of the Stanford Cardinal—even if only half full—can rattle the nerves of the most experienced visitors.

For UBC, going into one of the toughest places to play in the NCAA and beating one of the most dominant college basketball programs of the last 20 years in their own building was an unenviable task.

So when the Thunderbirds—to the amazement of the approximately 3,000 Stanford supporters in attendance—took a 26-25 lead into halftime, you could forgive some of the rowdy Cardinal clad fans for pinching themselves.

But a dominating ten minute, 38-8 spurt to start the second half by Stanford dashed any thoughts UBC might have had of an upset, allowing the home team to cruise to a 79-59 win over the shell-shocked T-Birds.

"I think maybe our guys were a little complacent after they were happy to be up one point [at halftime]," said UBC assistant coach Randy Nohr. "We just didn't come out with the same energy they did in the second half, and that was the difference in the game right there."

Despite losing by 20, the T-Birds showed well against a level of basketball they rarely meet in the CIS. If it were not for a horrendous 30 turnovers, most when the game was still well within reach, UBC might have kept it close.

"I don't like the loss. I think there's a legitimate possibility we win the game if we don't turn the ball over," said head coach Kevin Hanson. "To play against a team that beat us up inside and played us physical, you can't make mistakes against a team like that. We've been getting away with making some mistakes [in the CIS], and it just showed that we have to cut those down, and our own mistakes led to those 30 turnovers."

A strong half-court defence helped UBC establish an early lead in the game's opening minutes as they matched the athleticism and quickness that was to be expected from a Division I program. Despite 14 first half turnovers that allowed Stanford to attempt almost twice as many shots—30 compared to UBC's 16—a strong low-post presence led by third-year Bryson Kool forced the Cardinal shooters outside, where they went an abysmal 10-for-30 in the first.

Down by eight with six minutes left in the half, UBC orchestrated a 13-4 run to head into the locker room up 26-25.

The wheels came off early in the second half for the Thunderbirds. It took the Cardinal just over seven minutes to match their first half point total, as they built a 63-36 edge before coasting the rest of the way.

"The break gave us a lot of energy to start the second half," said Stanford head coach Trent Johnson. "We got out in transition and got some easy looks, and our defence took over from there."

After the game, Hanson was satisfied with his team's effort and performance after playing back-to-back games just three days earlier. Even in the loss, he said the team benefited tremendously from the trip south.

"Our intention was to make us a better basketball team, and I think [this trip] did," said Hanson. "I thought last year, when you go through that consecutive run of winning games, you lose a little bit of focus, and I think this was a good kick in the butt for us."

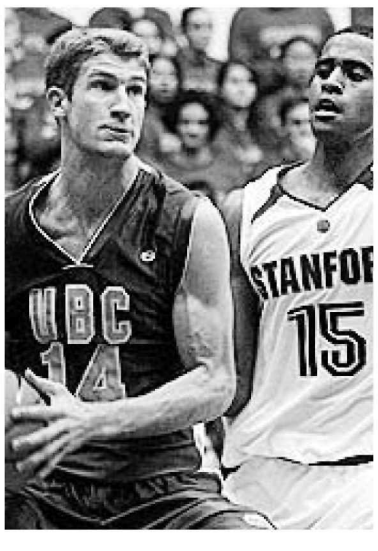
"If you play those kinds of teams, and better competition all the time you're going to improve," continued Hanson. "If you can compete and play well in that environment, it's going to help you down the road, so just even that experience for us was well worth the trip."

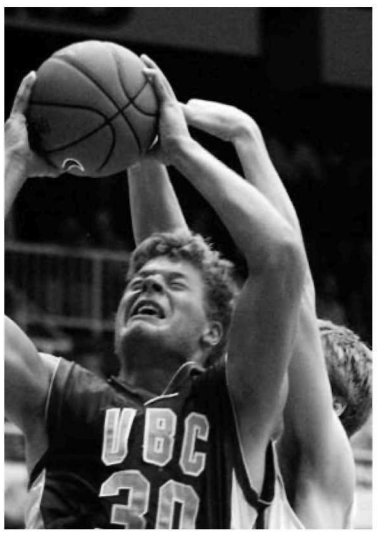
Fifth-year guard Casey Archibald paced UBC with 14 points and four assists, but struggled going 2-for-10 from the floor, while Jason Birring chipped in with 11.

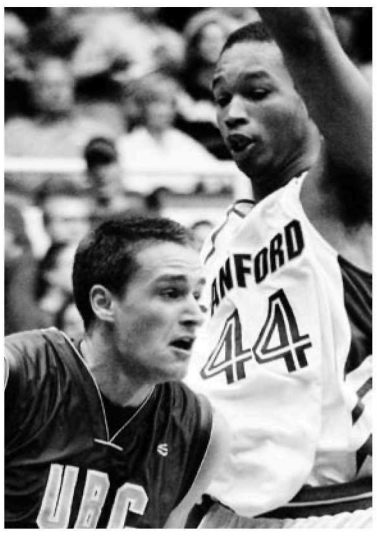
Sophomore forward Lawrence Hill led the way for the Cardinal with 18 points and eight rebounds against the T-Birds, with senior forward Fred Washington adding 15 on 6-of-8 shooting. 7'0" freshman Robin Lopez, one half of the most highly-touted recruiting pair ever to sign with Stanford along with twin brother Brook (injured until December) was 3-for-3 from the field with six points before fouling out with nine minutes left.

Stanford, a perennial PAC-10 power, is looking to get back to the NCAA tournament after failing to qualify last season and falling in the second round of the NIT (National Invitational Tournament).

UBC VS. NCAA, ROUND TWO: Fifth-year guard Casey Archibald (right) drives against Stanford Cardinal Anthony Good, as Stanford head coach Trent Johnson looks on. The Thunderbirds fell to the Cardinal 79-59 at Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA, on Tuesday. **RICHARD LAM PHOTO**







ON THE COURT: (left) —Third-year guard Matt Rachar is guarded by Stanford's Lawrence Hill as Cardinal fans look on.
(left centre)—Third-year forward Bryson Kool reacts as he is fouled by Stanford's Will Paul.
(right centre)—Fifth-year guard Chris Dyck drives by Cardinal Fred Washington on his way to the basket.
(right)—Kool battles with Stanford's Robin Lopez in the paint.

RICHARD LAM PHOTOS

Windows at Hillel House smashed

by Jesse Ferreras
NEWS STAFF

The focal point of UBC's Jewish community was hit with a third attack in three consecutive years Sunday night.

Two boulders were thrown through the front office windows of Eyal Lichtman, executive director of the Vancouver Hillel Foundation, at Hillel House UBC—a chapter of the world's largest Jewish student association—between 7:30pm Sunday and 7:30am Monday.

Scott MacRae, director of UBC public affairs, said that claims about political motivations for this incident are mere speculation.

"This is a very civil campus," he said. "People behave in a civil manner no matter how different their political opinions may be."

The incident took place while members were attending a ceremony to commemorate the 68th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the night of Broken Glass—on the evening of December 9, 1938, the Nazi Party initiated a *pogrom* against Jewish homes and businesses across Germany and Austria. Shattered glass strewn across the streets and sidewalks gave the event its name.

"This wasn't a random act of violence," said Lichtman. "If it was, I think you would have seen a lot of other buildings damaged at the same time, but there was nothing damaged on campus except us." Lichtman was informed of the incident by a phone call from a staff member Monday morning. He said there was no further damage of property beyond the shattered windows.

"It's a form of intimidation," Lichtman said. "It's not so much the damage as it is the psychological attacks. The students try to put a good face on it. Some of the students [are] experiencing for the first time at a much greater scale a level of anti-Semitism."

The *Jewish Independent* reported in November 2005 that large rocks damaged two windows at the side of the building.

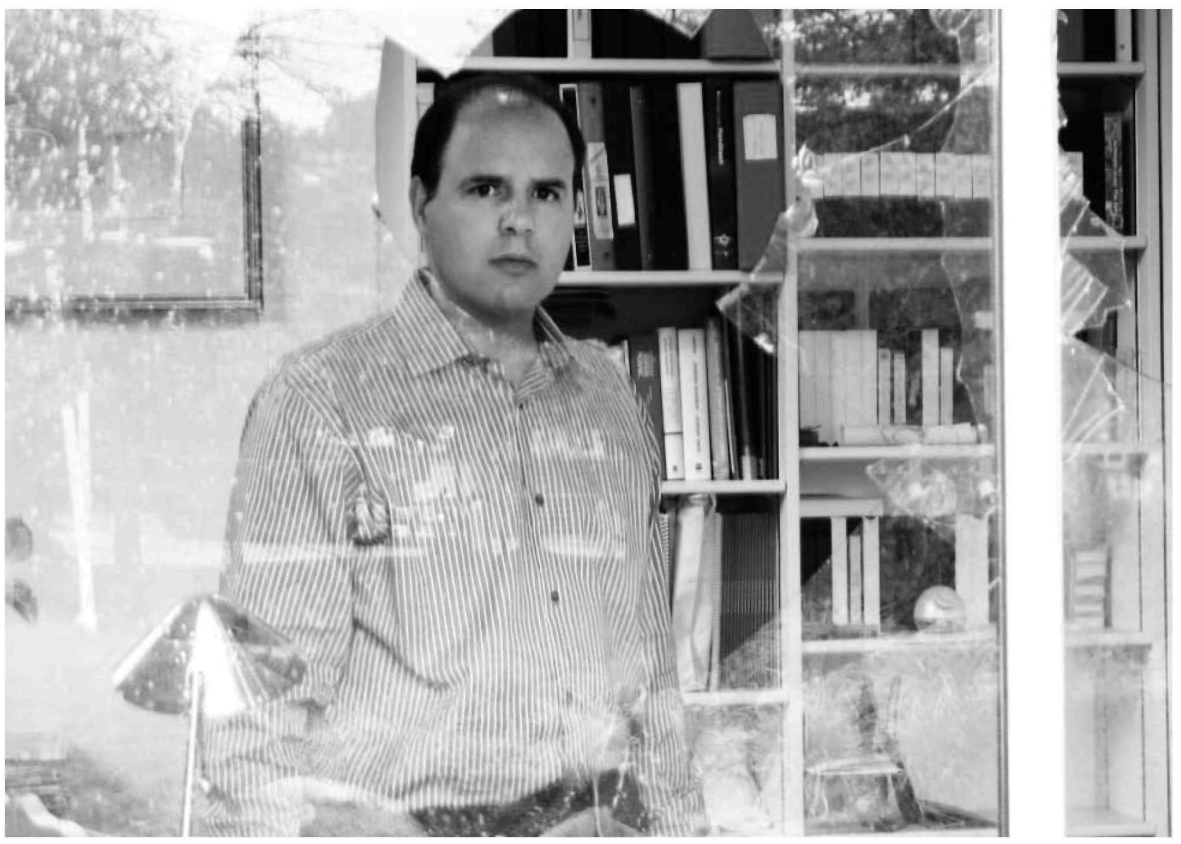
The report stated that the incident took place hours after ambassadors from Israel and Jordan took part in events at UBC to promote peace and trade.

Lichtman, meanwhile, connected the removal of the building's sign in 2007 to members' opposition to AMS sponsorship of a talk featuring Noam Chomsky, an academic heavily critical of Israeli military policy.

"We don't believe student governments should be sponsoring these types of things. Individual groups should," he said.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak has been scheduled for an engagement in Vancouver on December 3, but Lichtman has not confirmed whether it has a connection with the vandalism.

"It's really the only thing that we think might have a link," he said. "It always happens to be connected to something to do with the Israel programming that we put on in Vancouver."



BROKEN GLASS: Eyal Lichtman stands in his Hillel House office. PHOTO COURTESY OF PAT JOHNSON

Hillel Development Coordinator Pat Johnson recognised a degree of activism at UBC surrounding the Middle East conflict. He did not, however, see a direct correlation with the incident.

He likewise recognised significant psychological effects on Hillel members from incidents directed at Jewish students.

"One of the students said to me, 'why do people hate us so much?'" he said. "We've had campuses in Canada in the last five years [with] students who are taking off their kippahs. If a student doesn't feel comfortable wearing something that identifies them as Jewish, we need to talk about the atmosphere on campus. An incident like this shakes us all."

Jewish Students Association president Elysha Ames said that the vandalism was more of an imposition on the space of Jewish students than a threat.

"The overall impression is that everybody feels violated," she said. "We feel fairly safe on the campus, so to speak. On a day-to-day basis we don't run into any trouble, so more of a violation of our space. You get a little bit more jaded with each one."

The university detachment of the RCMP has opened a file on the incident and is currently investigating.

Expectations determine math performance

by Victor Liang
NEWS STAFF

A recent study by UBC researchers found that women who believe their math skills depend on their experience performed nearly 50 per cent better on tests than women who believe their math skills are determined by their genes.

"The significance of our study is to serve as a warning sign for both scientists and the media, as a call to pay more attention to the way scientific evidence is being portrayed to the public," said Ilan Dar-Nimrod, lead author of the study and a doctoral student in the Faculty of Psychology.

Dar-Nimrod and Steven Heine, co-author and psychology professor, conducted a study over three years in which women were given a test after being told that their performance would either hinge on their gender or the way they had been taught math.

The results had much to say about the way we perceive genetic explanations of human attributes and behaviour, and the significance of where we receive information that influence stereotypes about our differences.

"We seem [as a society] to have genetic essentialism, an assumption that if it's in my genes I can't overcome it," said Dar-Nimrod.

Genes, he said, seem to have a much stronger effect than experiential theories on a person's perception of ability and behaviour; therefore, scientific messages about the involvement of genes should be portrayed in a much more careful way.

Heine added that the study showed that having ideas about where behavioural differences come from can influence the way you behave, something many scientists and the media tend to forget when presenting their findings, often with destructive consequences.

MATH CLASS: Women believing their genes determine their math skills score significantly lower on tests. OKER CHEN PHOTO

"Relations between genes and behaviour are enormously complex. Yet they are simplified to make the material more accessible," said Heine. "It should be emphasised how genes and environment interact to produce who we are; that's a very complicated story and it's usually not described in that way. We think if it was described in that way people wouldn't view genes to have such a fatalistic influence on their behaviour."

For Rachel Kuske, UBC math professor and one of eight female faculty members in the department, the impact of misconceptions and stereotypes can be direct.

"What is it saying to people coming up in the system if they look at the faculty and don't see a lot of [female] role models? They might not see themselves continuing in math. [The question then becomes] how do we overcome these subconscious biases?"

The biases against females do surface occasionally, according to a female student.

"As a female I sometimes feel the need to prove to my professor and classmates that I can generate more creative methods of solving problems than the males in order to be taken seriously," said Saren Arielle Deonarine, a first year applied science student.

"It is a very important issue that needs to be exposed to show that the assumption of females being poor at math is very false. Personally this stereotype has never stopped me from enjoying math," she added.

The next step for Dar-Nimrod and Heine will be to investigate if there are ways of communicating genetic accounts that do not have this destructive impact. Until then, they emphasise the need of the media and scientists to be very cautious about the way that genetic findings are being presented to the public.

RCMP breaks up Western Business Games party

by Brandon Adams
NEWS STAFF

A student was taken to hospital, another arrested and many more evicted after the RCMP broke up a party at the 16th annual Western Business Games (WBG).

More than 200 university students attended the WBG, which were billed as "one of the best networking opportunities available for students attending universities in Western Canada" and was intended for business students aged 18 to 25.

The games, which were held at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise in Alberta's Banff National Park, took a turn for the worse when Fairmont Chateau staff had to call the Lake Louise RCMP.

According to Corporal Mark Key of the Lake Louise RCMP department, the responding officer called in an additional three off-duty officers, a K-9 handler and three Parks Canada wardens.

"As a result of incidents, five rooms were evicted...there was one arrest for uttering threats, one individual taken to [the] hospital, and there was minimal damage done to the hotel," said Lori Grant, regional director of public relations at the Fairmont Chateau.

It has been widely reported that a UBC student was sent to the hospital after falling down two flights of stairs, but RCMP haven't confirmed the student's identity.

Despite the incident, Kevin Collins, co-organiser of the WBG, defended the event.

"[The WBG] are a chance for people to go out and have a good time—it's not a business conference where they go out to represent any specific business schools—it's just a party and the Fairmont knew that before we came out there."

The games outlined in the *WBG Delegate Package* included "Beer Pong," "Creative Bootlegging," and "Master-baiter." The schedule included with the package had games such as "Drilling For Oil" starting as early as 11am.

But the future of the WBG is now uncertain, according to Collins.

> "IT'S JUST A PARTY AND THE FAIRMONT KNEW THAT BEFORE WE CAME OUT THERE."
>
> *–Kevin Collins*
> *WBG co-organiser*

"After all the media and stuff we've gotten and after the unfortunate press that the schools have gotten I don't think we'll have it next year. Certainly not under that name," he said.

According to Mike Woodward, president of the Commerce Undergraduate Society (CUS), "In the past the CUS has been a supporter. This year we decided to pull our funding and evaluate the conference as there was a new organising team...we decided to use this as an evaluation year."

Funding for the event, added Woodward, was raised by the 42 students who attended.

"I attended to gauge whether or not we would be supporting it in the future," he said.

Woodward later stated that the CUS would not be supporting the WBG in the future.