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THE UBYSSY

NOVEMBER 3, 2000

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I DON'T WANT TO BE ANOTHER SING 1916



TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

It's not just luck

by Trevor Kew

Several of Sian Bagshawe's teammates have suggested that she's just a wee bit superstitious. Well, even 'extremely superstitious' might be a bit of an understatement. Bagshawe, the goalkeeper for the UBC women's varsity soccer team, maintains that her routine is an important part of her consistency.

"Every game day I have this huge routine that starts the minute I wake up. I have my lucky cereal, a banana, my lucky cup I have water from, what I wear on the way to the game, lucky elastic in my hair. I just do everything in the same order, and the routine of it makes me focus, not be so nervous...When I get into the changeroom, I sit down and put my headphones on and no one comes to talk to me."

Anyone willing to tackle the dangers and difficulties of goalkeeping must, of course, be slightly eccentric.

In the high-pressure atmosphere of varsity soccer, a goalkeeper's job

can often be thankless. Playing well goes unnoticed, but one small mistake that ends up in the back of your net turns everyone's eyes towards you. In spite of this, Bagshawe, a fourth-year Human Kinetics student, has anchored the UBC team for the past four years, and has proven to be a pivotal player for the Thunderbirds so far this season.

Bagshawe was fortunate enough to earn a starting position for UBC in her first year, which allowed for her to develop and improve quickly into a high-calibre keeper. "It was great, first year, being able to play all the time," says Bagshawe, "It was a bit rough, though, because I was thrown in right away. I wouldn't change it if I could. It was good for me to know that I had to work hard to do well at this level, because my first year I didn't do very well. Second year was much better."

Bagshawe was born in Zimbabwe, and moved to North Vancouver at an

early age. She attended Sutherland Secondary School, where she played soccer. But she wasn't always the last line of defence.

"I made the BC team in grade eight as an out player, and then in grade nine I started playing goal," explained Bagshawe, "I liked the independence of it, doing my own thing. The coach put me there and I didn't complain."

Bagshawe still makes use of the skills that she acquired playing out. With her foot skills, she complies with the an old soccer adage—just because the goalkeeper is the only player who can use her hands, doesn't mean that she should be the only player who can't use her feet.

The best save that Bagshawe has made at UBC, in her memory, was an acrobatic, full-stretch save against Alberta two weeks ago that preserved a 1-0 UBC lead. When asked about the other side of goalkeeping, the thankless side, she said that dur-

ing the first home game of her UBC career, her first touch on the ball gifted a goal to an opposing player.

Although the first year might have been a bit tough, this year Bagshawe has lead the T-Birds to their (somewhat surprising) best season in recent memory. Despite having seven rookies on the team, UBC has lost only one game all season. "On paper, for sure, last year was the best team, but this year it's more of a team. Everyone gets along. We were supposed to be rebuilding, but now we stand at 6-1-3 and second in our conference...The team chemistry this year could get us farther than our talent last year did."

Bagshawe admits that she is usually a bit distant from other keepers on her team, but has made an exception this year with rookie keeper Claire Lawrence. "Usually I'm not overly friendly to other keepers...but Claire and I get along really well...if she needs help or advice, I help.

With one year of eligibility left, Bagshawe, among other veterans, would love to have a shot at the CIAU national championships this year. UBC's Canada West semi-final against UVic is tonight at 8pm in Victoria, and the bronze-medal and gold-medal matchups are set for Saturday night. Bagshawe says she will be proud to wear the blue and white this weekend.

"When I step on the field for UBC, it's a pride thing. You don't want another school to beat you and your school...you want to be the best. My goal all summer was to make the Canada West All-Star team, but [that] really doesn't matter if our team does well, so I don't even think about that anymore. It would be great if our team won, that's all."

Of course Bagshawe wants to win, but in keeping with her pre-game ritual, she's keeping quiet, staying focused—she doesn't want to jinx it. ♦

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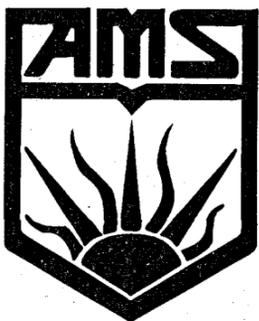
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UPDATE

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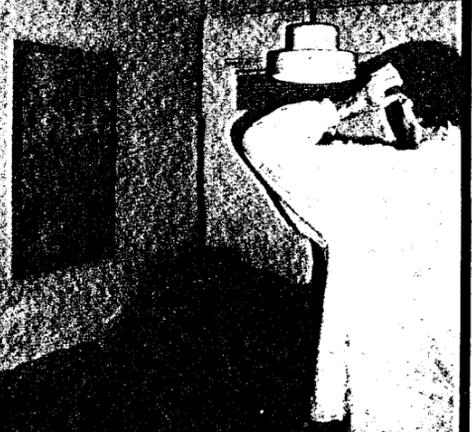
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Strangway still generating questions

by Ailin Choo

Even three years after he stepped down as UBC president, David Strangway is still being criticised for his conduct during his 12-year presidency, and for his current influence.

At UBC's Annual General Meeting (AGM) last week, Joe Sutherland, an electrician with UBC Plant Operations, voiced his concerns about Strangway's role in plans to establish a private university in Squamish.

Strangway spearheaded a campaign to start the private university, which is expected to be a \$100 million project which will serve between 800 and 1200 students per year.

While no plans for the university have been finalised, Strangway recently indicated that he is searching for funding to purchase the land.

Sutherland said that he is worried about the potential loss of UBC faculty to the new institution. He also expressed concern over the lack

of information available about a two-year-old investigation into Strangway's alleged conflict of interest in starting up the new university.

Through a Freedom of Information request to the BC Office of the Ombudsman, the Alma Mater Society (AMS) initiated the investigation, asking for the details of \$10,000 in travel and personal expenses claimed by Strangway while he was on UBC payroll.

"I think we have a right to the information and the right to know what's going on," said Sutherland.

Strangway did not return the Ubysey's calls by press time to respond to the criticisms.

The AMS has indicated that it received its first reply from the Ombudsman last March, stating that the initial request for the information had been received.

AMS Vice-President of External Affairs Graham Senft said that he does not anticipate that the case will conclude soon.

The Ombudsman's Office declined to comment on the

progress of the case, citing that its statute requires that investigations remain kept confidential.

Strangway's appointment as president and CEO of the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) also sparked criticism at the AGM.

The CFI is an independent corporation set up by the federal government in 1997 to distribute scientific research funding to Canadian post-secondary institutions.

"He's got his fingers in so many things that you wonder what his real motivations are," said Sutherland, who worries that this position may also present a potential conflict.

But David Pink, a member of the CFI board of directors, said that he sees no problems with Strangway's numerous commitments.

Pink, who is also a physics professor at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia, called Strangway an "excellent leader."

"Personally, I'm perfectly happy with his commitments and with what he does for the CFI," he said.

Strangway is well-known for suc-

cessfully raising money for UBC, much of which came from corporations.

UBC graduate student Victoria Scott, who actively protested against Strangway during his term at UBC, is particularly concerned by the use of corporate funds on campus, specifically citing the extensive use of these funds in building Koerner Library.

"I think corporations have no place in libraries," said Scott, who added that she believes Strangway is too concerned with profit.

But Mary Anne White, another member on the CFI board who is also a Killam research professor at Dalhousie University, said that the annual renewal of Strangway's contract with the CFI is evidence of his good performance.

"He's been renewed his position by a vote of confidence of the board...I think this speaks for itself," said White, who added that Strangway had competed with other individuals for the position, and that background checks were performed on all of the nominees.



STRANGWAY: Members of the public are questioning his role with the Canadian Foundation for Innovation. RICHARD LAM / UBYSEY FILE PHOTO

"He was the most qualified person for the position and there is no information that leads me to be concerned," she said. ♦

Youth less likely to vote in federal election AMS campaign to promote voting, post-secondary education

by Scott Bardsley

A trend of low voter turnout among young people has led UBC's student union to try to publicise the upcoming federal election.



SENFT

An Elections Canada study from the federal election in 1997 indicates that people under the age of 25 are 11 per cent less likely to vote than older eligible voters.

As a result, the Alma Mater Society (AMS) External Commission plans to run a \$2600 campaign encouraging students to vote using a combination of poster advertisements and events, including forums for local election candidates and election-themed beer gardens.

Graham Senft, the AMS vice-president external affairs, said that many students who are living away from home are simply unaware of how to vote.

"We just have to take the initiative to inform students [and] it will be really effective," he added.

According to the Elections Canada study, voters are seven per cent less likely to vote if they are unaware of voting options.

However, the AMS' strategy may not address the major cause of low youth voter turnout, according to a UBC political science professor.

"Voting turnout is something that is greatly assisted by integration into a stable community," said Richard Johnston, a specialist in elections and polling. "In general, people under 25 haven't yet hooked up with those kinds of networks."

Johnston also said that because UBC is a commuter campus, only a fraction of students will be around during the planned events. He asserted that a more direct campaign, such as distributing information to students in classrooms, would be more effective.

In addition to promoting voter turnout, the AMS plans to spend \$26,400 to advocate post-secondary education as an election issue by running ads in local Vancouver newspa-

pers and radio stations. The student union is hoping to raise the profile of post-secondary education among the general public and influence party opinion and public policy.

"A cynic might say that's a total waste of money, but that fund was created by the students and I think we need to make the case for education," said Senft, referring to the AMS' External and University Lobbying Fund, which is financed by a \$3.50 levy paid by every student.

"The parties haven't really raised this [issue of education]. What we're trying to do is start the debate."

Johnston, however, said that the political parties set the election agenda and that the Liberals and the Canadian Alliance—which he considers the two major parties in the election—do not likely have much incentive to talk about post-secondary education because issues like health care currently have more resonance with the public.

"Education is a very long-term kind of social investment [that] trains skilled personnel for the next half-century, and it's very hard for politicians to focus on that," he said.

The AMS campaign will span the last three weeks of the federal election. ♦

Liberal platform weak on substance, say student groups

by Alex Dimson

As the Liberal Party opened its Red Book policy statement for the upcoming federal election this week, student groups criticised its promises for post-secondary education.

The Red Book—a 32-page document which lists the party's primary goals if elected to govern Canada for a third consecutive term—has devoted two pages specifically to education.

But this fact has disappointed student groups, including the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), which lobbies on behalf of over 40 universities across Canada.

CFS national chairperson Michael Conlon said that the election statement "shows that post-secondary education is really not a major priority for the Liberals."

Mark Kissel, national director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, another national student lobby group, added that he would have preferred to see "more concrete initiatives and more solid proposals" in the policy booklet.

But Stephen Owen, Liberal candidate for Vancouver-Quadra—the riding which includes UBC—defended

the policy, saying that education is a priority for the party.

"You've got a party that's been in government for the last seven years and it has to be seen as additional items on top of what they've done," said Owen.

The new statement contains three specific promises related to education, including establishing a Registered Individual Learning Account, which the Liberals intend to be an incentive for Canadians to put money aside for education. The plan sees the government topping up the funds, with more going to lower income earners.

In addition, the booklet promises to improve the loan system for part-time students, and to add to tax supports for learning, but does not give details on how the Liberals would implement these proposals.

Conlon said that the Red Book fails to reflect the importance of education for Canadians.

He cited a recent Ipsos Reid poll commissioned by the CFS, which found that 76 per cent of Canadians believe that Ottawa should increase current spending to post-secondary education.

Ted McWhinney, the retiring Liberal MP for Vancouver-Quadra,

also said that education has been a priority for his party.

"For education, the two Liberal governments have demonstrated concretely we're there," he said, adding, "Everything in this period of surplus is going to build on what we've done or forgotten."



McWhinney cited the introduction of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, a national system of loans for students with financial needs, as one way the Liberal government has benefited post-secondary education.

He also named the recent expansion of the Canadian Health and Social Transfer (CHST) from Ottawa to the provinces, and the Liberal's emphasis on research funding as signs of the party's commitments.

But some groups have taken the party to task over its track-record on

post-secondary education since the Liberal's took power in 1993.

Between 1993 and 2000, the Liberals have cumulatively cut CHST payments by \$7 billion.

But McWhinney said that the cuts were necessary given the high-deficit budget the government faced in the 1990s, but also noted that the government is restoring the funding. In February, the government announced its plans to restore CHST funding by \$2.5 billion over the next four years.

The CFS chair for BC, Anita Zaenker, said that since the Liberal government has been in power it has been a "wolf in sheep's clothing" because of its massive cuts to the CHST.

Conlon also added that this year's increase to the transfer has not gone to education. The provinces and the federal government agreed that recent increase to CHST would primarily go to health care.

And until universities are actually compensated for the cuts, Conlon said that the Liberal Party's intention to increase research and development funding is misdirected.

"It's like the want to renovate the

kitchen while the roof is leaking," he said.

Meanwhile, Jim Turk, executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, which represents 30,000 university teachers—said that the Liberals have taken steps towards creating a two-tiered university system in Canada by developing the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) in 1997.

The CFI is a federally-funded initiative which provides \$1.9 billion in federal funds to universities and colleges for research infrastructure.

Turk complained that the way these grants are distributed allows only some universities to flourish, while other institutions which are smaller or emphasise the liberal arts are being left behind.

UBC received CFI funding for 19 projects last year, compared to one project funded at Toronto's York University.

But Owen said that the Liberals recognise the importance of supporting research initiatives at all universities.

"I think different universities have different strengths and emphasis," said Owen.

The federal election will be held on November 27. ♦



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ALL DOLED UP: The New West Dolls rock out. CHANTILLE VAUD PHOTO

DRESSED-UP DOLLS

THE NEW WEST DOLLS
at the Picadilly Pub
Oct. 31

by Matt Whalley

"Who are the New West Dolls?" the handbill read. A Vancouver super-group, including members of the Black Halos, Spitfires and the Nasty On put together to pay tribute to the New York Dolls. Who were the New York Dolls? The New York Dolls were simply the greatest band ever to wear women's clothing. They didn't buy into that alien-in-drag foolishness that Bowie called glam. These guys weren't from space—they were from the streets of New York.

Inspired by the MC5's ground-breaking album, *Back in the USA*, the Dolls brought rock back to the basics and laid the foundation for CGBG's era punk rock. Their first two records, full of Stoney rock clearly defined themselves through subject matter. For all of their lack of success, people still buy their records and even pay tribute to them.

The Picadilly Pub was filled with costumed rock revivalists on Tuesday night to see New York punk brought back from the dead. With Lester Bangs, Andy Warhol, and Dee Dee Ramone walking around, it became clear that this event was not just a tribute to a band but to an era. It was as if CGBG's had thrown a costume ball.

The evening began with the Filthy Rockets' set of Ramones-inspired rock that was pale and only incited the crowd's interest when they actually covered Ramones' songs. The other opener, Bubble, gave an inspired set of unique and catchy '70s punk. The female lead singer bashed away at her guitar and bantered with the audience, complaining about the trouble crossing the border.

"Turns out I'm in a band with three convicted felons. Don't laugh, I'm fucking serious," she said. Bubble was an interesting mix of glitter and punk, making for a perfect opening act for the New West Dolls.

The Dolls pranced onto the stage and immediately demanded booze. These local rockers had obviously done their homework. Every member of the band was dressed meticulously like each New York Doll he was supposed to emulate. The lead

singer, in red bell-bottoms just barely gripping his hips brushed, the feather boa from his face and began speaking into the mike as if he really were David Johansen. The whole band struck their poses then asked what we wanted to hear. Sounded like a test to see if anybody had actually ever spun any New York Dolls records. One of the two Hunter S. Thompsons present demanded to hear "Its Too Late," and their set began.

Johnny Thunders bobbed around knocking into things just like the junkie icon would have. Killer Kane stood like a giant over the rest of the band in beautiful knee-high boots and stared.

The boys ran through a slick set of the Dolls' most famous songs, sounding more like the Dolls of records than that of live concerts. Hearing "Subway Train" and "Babylon" live was incredible and helped eliminate any nervousness that the band wouldn't be able to pull off a decent tribute to the bizarre and influential New York band.

The Dolls put on a great show, perfectly mimicking the real New York Dolls, but the acting between sets became tired. The lead singer, David Johansen, did a great imitation, but listening to Thunders whining about wanting some beer in a fake Bronx accent was boring.

The band had great energy that got the crowd hopping up and down and screaming along with the lyrics. Near the end of the set they pulled two girls on stage from their ring of friends and played a Shangri-Las cover, "Great Big Kiss." This was preceded by Johansen's attempt to have a kissing contest that the audience appeared not to take seriously. He had a bottle of champagne for a prize, but with a lack of participants, the band ended up drinking it.

After a short set, the band left the stage, Johnny stripped his wig off, and Andy Warhol joined the band onstage. They encored with what sounded like a Black Halos tune that simply didn't stand up to the Dolls' glam rock. The strong material that the New York Dolls provided made this event a wonderful reminder that rock and roll is still great music to hear live. ♦

TREMBLAY'S TRIALS

BONJOUR, LA, BONJOUR
at Telus Studio Theatre
until Nov. 11

by Samantha Tse

To fully appreciate Michel Tremblay's plays, it helps to have an understanding of the political climate surrounding them, since it is a key thematic device in his writing.

Tremblay's *Bonjour, La, Bonjour* was originally produced in the mid 1970s—a time of political tension in Canada, with Québec struggling to define itself. The Québécois playwright, one of Canada's most prominent, considers it his best work.

Bonjour, La, Bonjour deals with complex issues of one family's quest to find love and understanding. Serge (Jesse Cadotte) has just returned home from a three-month trip to Europe. He must confront his family members, who are all dependent on him for love and sympathy.

Each of his four sisters needs and wants Serge differently. Lucienne (Meghan Gardiner), the eldest of his sisters and Serge's mother figure, hides behind a façade. She has betrayed her francophone identity by marrying an anglophone doctor. However, she is unhappy in her marriage and is having an affair with one of Serge's friends.

Lucienne wants Serge to help her hide the affair and bribes him with an apartment. When Serge refuses the offer, she threatens to expose the incestuous relationship he is having with his sister, Nicole (Nicole Braber). Monique (Eva Lau), Serge's pill-popping sister is trying to lure Serge into bed as she is hopelessly lonely and in a constant drug-induced daze. Monique is also in a failed marriage and looks to Serge for the love and support her husband never gave her.

Finally, Denise (Jessica Clements) is the sister who suffers from weight and self-esteem problems. Denise has had previous sexual relations with Serge and although she tries to force herself upon him, he rejects her. There are also his two elderly aunts (Jessica Brunt and Lori Kokotailo) whose are more concerned with food, pills, and TV than with love. In the end, Serge refuses everyone but Nicole and his father (Alex McMorran).

Theatre does not often touch the heart the way this masterpiece succeeds in doing. *Bonjour, La, Bonjour* is difficult for actors as they are onstage for the entire play, but the UBC cast met the challenge well.

What really made the performance work was the timing of the actors. In a play where there is continuous action, timing is crucial to making the play work. The cast was very well rehearsed and their delivery was smooth and perfectly synchronized.

Many of the performances were memorable: Jessica Clements plays the vulgar, crude Denise with much audacity but without diminishing the importance of Denise's conflict, the ever-comical Eva Lau's portrayal of Monique was another highlight, as was Meghan Gardiner playing the grande chienne, Lucienne.

Another strength of this production is the use of sparse sets. The Telus Studio Theatre is an intimate space, and larger sets would have been overwhelming. The few chairs and the round, plush centerpiece served this production well. The minimal props were sufficient in defining each of the characters.

Bonjour, La, Bonjour is a great production. Not only is the content strong, but the individual performances are outstanding. ♦



—Carmen Desormeaux



BUTOH MEETS BALLET

X-ROADS
at the Performance Works
Nov. 3, 7, 8, 11

Stillness preceded movement at Kokoro Dance's *X-Roads* on Sunday night.

Thirteen dancers stood in darkness, silently breathing in the last stillness they would experience before a grueling one-and-a-half hour performance.

In the beginning, music, light, and movement were absent, a blend of the Hindu and Judeo-Christian beliefs that sound and light were the first things created. Gradually, light filtered in, creating shadow, and revealing dancers robed only in sarongs, chastely covered in white chalk powder. At the same time, music punctuated the stillness, and the dancers began to move. They moved as if pulled out of their standing posture by some unseen force that sometimes allowed them to return to their original position before calling them to a different one once again. At first, movements seemed individual to each dancer, until closer observation revealed a "shadow" dancer somewhere in the ensemble, mirroring the same, seemingly random movements—impressive because of the non-melodic drone of music.

The tableaux integrate elements from the East's

avant-garde-style of Butoh, and the West's ballet tradition. Sometimes the dancers demonstrated the controlled precision of ballet, other times they moved with savage, abandoning ballet postures, especially in one "Rite of Spring"-esque dance. A woman shouldered another woman with extreme strength and lithe while a quartet of males struck poses of aggression. But this was all done with a light tone, as if sharing with the audience the delightful secret that they were indeed having fun.

This theme carried through into the choice of music. A velvety flute and violin—arguably instruments closest to the human voice—played. The rest of the music, composed by Robert Rosen, featured synthesised music and percussion. Dancers also provided music. They stomped, and breathed audibly, articulating their internal rhythm.

The one-and-a-half hour program was very long, especially in a culture where a live show without an intermission is rare. But if anything, the length of the performance served as a testament to the supreme athleticism of the dancers. At the end of the night, their energy left etchings of chalk and sweat on the floor, a lasting art left by their spent bodies. ♦

—Lee-Ann Siu

GET SOME ACTION

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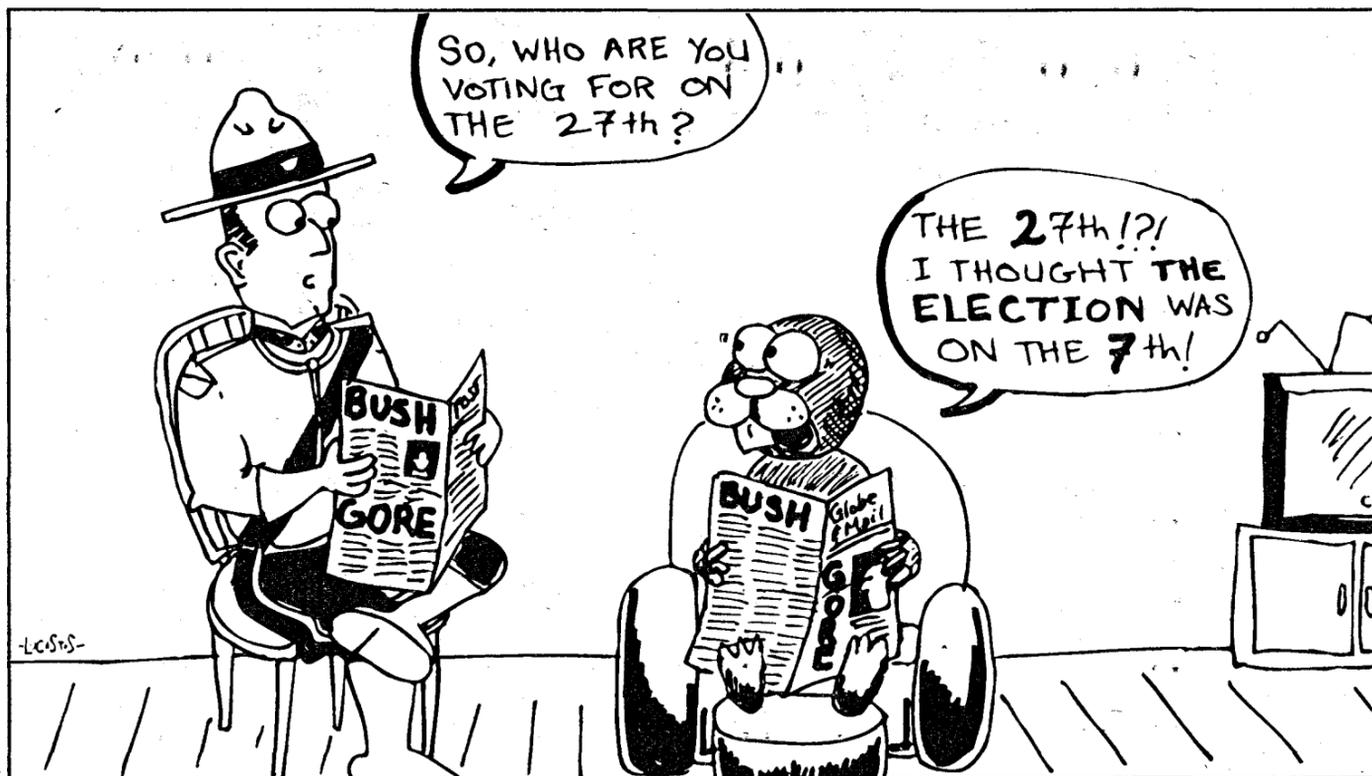
Shalene Takara

Allie Choo was the last woman into space. Cynthia Lee wept quietly as she and Scott Bartley watched Alex Dimson's rocketship explode. In a twist of fate, Trevor Kew, Helen Eady, and Tom Peacock were saved because of a car accident. Karen McCann had put them on the roster. Jen Dolan and Matt Whalley had trained them, and Carmen Desmoreaux had personally selected them, but Lee-Ann Siu and her green Toyota took them out of the running and onto spacelands. Lisa Denton and Samantha Te's ambulance was first on the scene and Dr. Michelle Mossop and Dr. Laura Blue worked long into the night to save them. No problem—for them. But Graeme Worthy, the flight engineer and Helen Eady, the deckhand on the world's first and last corporate space flight, were dead in milliseconds. The reactor that Chantille Viard had worked so hard to miniaturise was now strewn across the upper atmosphere, and the logo that Tara Westover had spent months designing, tweaking and perfecting was now and forever to be associated only with death, tragedy, and the end of the human race. Tristan Winch cried; he had been so sure that it would be safe. Holland Gidney and Lucas To's shuttle-anti-explode-formula was foolproof. They didn't count on Hywel Tuscano and Nicholas Bradley's acts of blatant terrorism. And they sure as heck didn't count on Daliah Merzaban.



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Day's a-wreckonin'

By the end of this month, both Canada and the United States will have new leaders—or, north of the border, we might have the same leader all over again. With the two elections being held so close together, it's hard not to compare the two electoral systems, which differ dramatically in the ways in which they target their respective electorates. (Okay, it's not that hard not to compare them, but we have to do a point-keep reading.)

Elections Canada has limited campaign spending for this federal election at roughly \$65,000 per candidate per riding, and approximately \$12 million dollars for each party running a candidate in every constituency in Canada. That's around \$8 million (US) total in allowed expenditures for any one party.

This is a far cry from the \$99,848,724 (US) that Vice-President Al Gore has spent on his election campaign so far. And the only thing worse than Gore spending almost \$100 million (US) to advertise himself is that George Bush has already spent over \$166 million on his campaign. Both have spent enough money to wipe out the debts of several small developing countries.

The US presidential candidates are banking on the fact that a greater media presence will bring them greater chances of winning the election. So, the deeper the pockets you have, the bigger the media exposure you can buy.

Whether this increased exposure actually informs voters more fully is highly debatable. MTV creates uninformed voters, too, and they don't pay Kurt Loder nearly that much. Rock the vote, yo. Encouraging such a system effectively excludes any candidate who isn't able to raise enough money to compete.

So when people call for the Canadian electoral system to become more Americanised, as the Canadian Alliance Party recently has, there is reason for concern.

While Canadian rules on party spending are clearly articulated, the Court of Queen's Bench in Calgary recently granted a request by the National Citizen's Coalition (NCC) to suspend several sections of the two-month-old Canada Elections Act, which had set a cap on the amount third parties may spend on elections campaigns to \$150,000 nationally.

The suspension means that individual or special interest groups may spend as much as they like to support a party.

This clearly gives the wealthy more power to have their voice heard. The government has a responsibility to protect and promote public debate, and this can only be done by limiting the amount people are allowed to spend on advertising. And limiting it to a reasonable amount. Far from "irreparably harm[ing]" people's right to free speech, as NCC head Stephen Harper has related, placing limits on electoral

advertising fosters the equality that is missing south of the 49th parallel.

In the US, lax regulations allow a single contributing corporation to donate, oh say, \$233,425 to the campaign of the candidate of choice. That's what MBNA America Bank contributed to the Bush campaign. Average citizens don't have that kind of cash to have their voices heard.

But beyond the fact that this spending is unfair, it doesn't even seem to be making a difference. Even though it seems like the American campaigning goes on forever, only 49 per cent of eligible voters in the US exercised their right to vote in the 1996 presidential election. Nevada embarrassingly wins the award for the lowest state voter turnout at 38 per cent.

Compared to the Americans, Canadian voters turn out in droves. The last federal election hit 67 per cent turnout, albeit down from roughly 75 per cent about a decade ago.

This Canadian federal election, however, allows parties only 37 days to campaign officially. There's no sense in rushing something as important as an election for the leader of a country, but there's also no sense in changing a system that seems to be working. After all, if Stockwell Day wants to be involved in an American-style system, he's more than welcome to head south... ♦

letters

Men assault women because they don't know any better?

In the Ubyyssey of Oct. 27, I read with outrage that some people think that "there just isn't enough information out there for men to know what is and is not appropriate" ["Sexual assaults at UBC go unrepeated"]. Translate: *Men don't know what constitutes sexual assault.* Poor men! How can they help growing up in a sexist society having been taught over and over again that women are inferior? How can they know what is appropriate when they never see a woman suffer under sexist behaviour (because they turn a blind eye on it)? We can't expect these poor men think about and change their own sexist behaviours. We have to tell them what they did wrong. Every time. Over and over again. And forgive them, of course, because they didn't know any bet-

ter. Poor men. I pity them. (Please note the sarcasm.)

—Katja Cronauer
graduate student,
Interdisciplinary Studies

BC government responsible for not stopping construction of Washington state power plant

During an election, politicians often inundate us with rhetoric and vague generalities about issues. So let's look at something concrete, like the plan to build a new power plant just south of the BC-Washington border.

I am opposed to Sumas Energy's plans to build a new gas-fired power plant in Sumas, Washington. The plant will burn natural gas imported from Canada to produce electricity. Waste water used to cool the exhaust gases will

be exported to Canada, to be treated in Abbotsford and dumped into the already polluted Fraser River. The plant will discharge undetermined amounts of oxides of nitrogen. The prevailing southwest winds will blow the noxious air emissions across the border—located conveniently one mile away—adding to the high levels of smog in the upper Fraser Valley. Fish in the Fraser River and Canadian people will suffer.

I am appalled that the federal Minister of the Environment David Anderson, and predecessors such as Christine Stewart did not stop the project. Anderson, who was also the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, should know better. He is a long time environmentalist and resident of BC. At one time, he was even on the executive of the BC Steelhead Society. As a prominent member of the Federal Cabinet since his election in 1993, he had every opportunity to act.

The provincial government is

also to blame. Joan Sawicki, the minister of Environment, Lands and Parks, has worked as a consultant dealing with land-use issues that the Sumas power plant presents. Yet neither she nor her predecessor, Cathy McGregor, stopped the project. The MLAs in the NDP government talk about a "Green Economy." Why do they just talk? Why do they not act?

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, too, loves to talk. Chrétien talks: fight, fight, and fight! How many times have we seen him since he called the election, standing on a podium—fists clenched—talking fight? Well let's take a look at our "street fighter's" record. With Paul Martin, he beat up on Canada's poor, sick, aged, children and disadvantaged. With the help of Anderson, he beat up on the environment. Like most street fighters, Chrétien is a coward at heart.

—Eimer Wiens
UBC Alumnus

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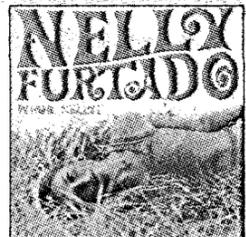
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