Senior news whale **SINCE 1918**

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THE UBYSSEY

JANUARY 17, 2011

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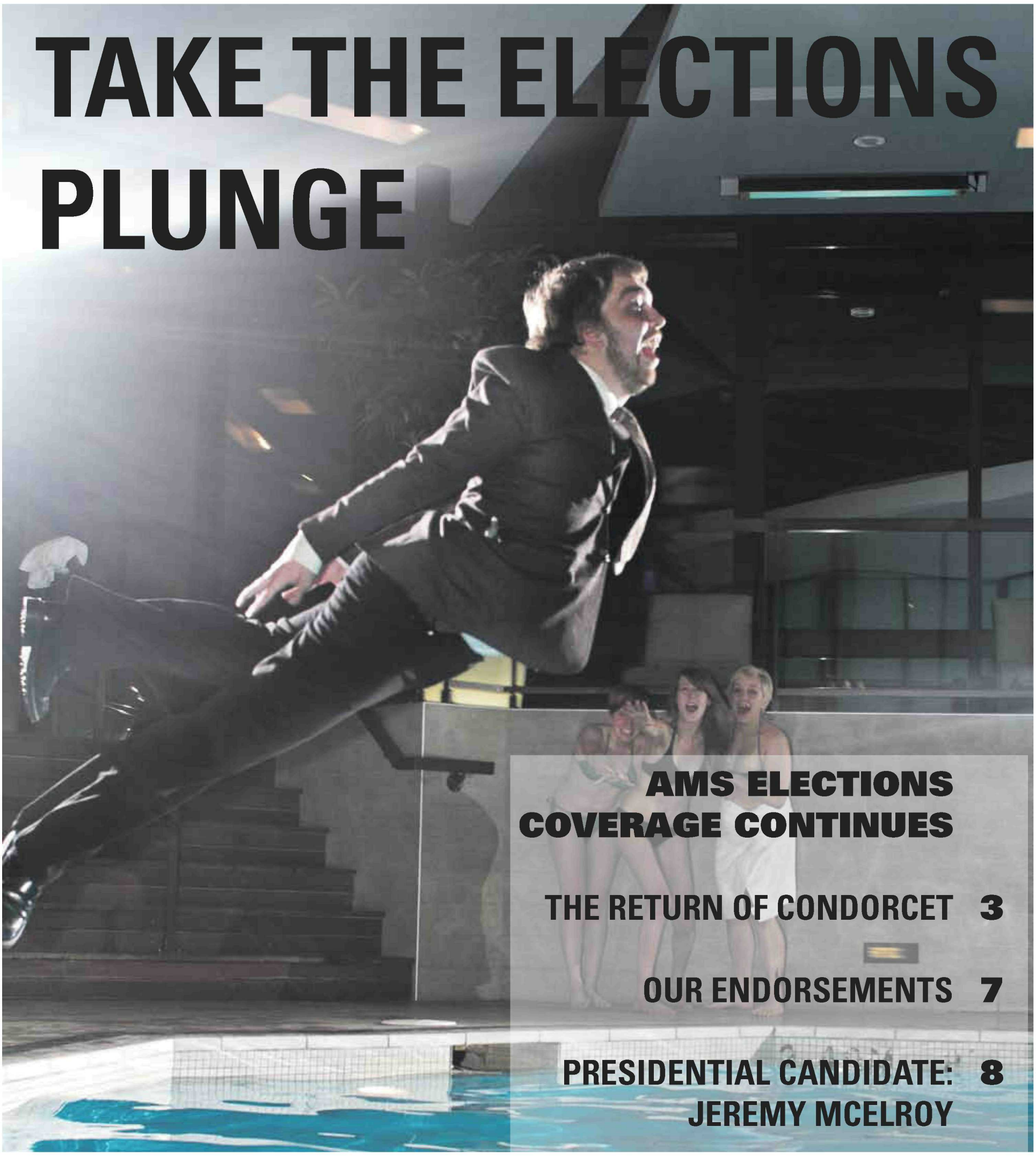
TAKE THE ELECTIONS PLUNGE



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JANUARY 17, 2011
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EVENTS

CORRECTION

VP External candidate Rory Breasail is in 3rd Year Arts, not 2nd Year. *The Ubyssey* regrets this error.

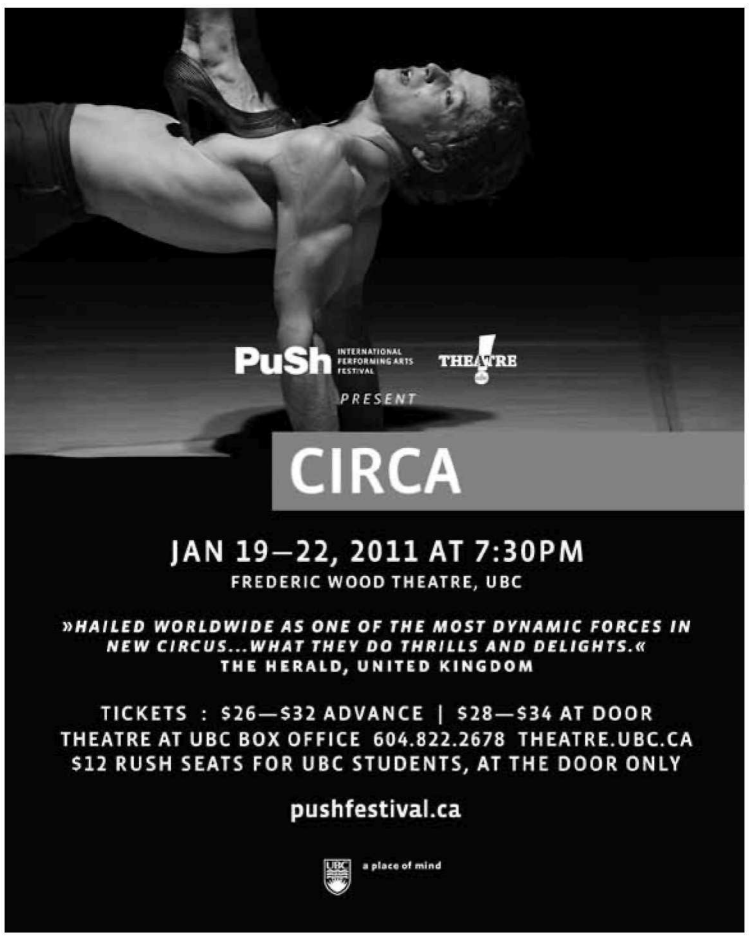
ONGOING EVENTS

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

MONDAY, JAN. 17

BREATH OF THE WORLD • This talk, led by David Prest, Green College Resident Member, addresses how poetry can cross the boundaries of culture, race, gender, sexuality, politics, religion, science and the arts. No matter what your field of study, this interdisciplinary evening will focus on what we have in common through the global language of poetry. • *8–9pm, Coach House, Green College, free event, go to* greencollege.ca *or e-mail* gc.events@ubc.ca *for more information.*

MOVIE SCREENING: INSIDE MECCA AND THE LEGACY OF MUHAMMAD • The UBC Muslim Students Association is presenting two film screenings as part of Islam Awareness Week on campus: *Inside Mecca* and *The Legacy of Muhammad.* • *1–2pm and 3–5pm, Woodward 1, free.*



TUESDAY, JAN. 18

LA MAREA • *La Marea* is an outdoor, site-specific performance conceived by artist Mariano Pensotti of Buenos Aires. Made up of nine different scenes, audience members move freely from street corners to illuminated store windows, creating their own narrative. A man lies on the ground following a motorbike accident; an insomniac tosses and turns; a couple has their first kiss. Projected subtitles reveal the intimate thoughts of the characters in these poignant vignettes showcasing the beginning of love, the end of love and everything in between. • *Runs until Jan. 22, 7–9pm, Gastown, Zero hundred block Water St, free admission.*

JABULILE!–A MONOLOGUE • An accomplished young storyteller gives life to the struggles and secrets of four market vendors from Swaziland. Transforming herself into a dozen different characters, Kemiyondo Coutinho finds the humour and resiliency in these women who seek a way past loss and brutality to the future. • *6:30–8pm, Marine Drive Ballroom.*

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 19

CIRCA + 46 CIRCUS ACTS IN 45 MINUTES • Presented with PuSh International Performing Arts Festival, *Circa*, created from the Brisbane, Australia-based troupe Circa's most acclaimed works, is an extraordinary performance that is breathtaking, beautiful and sexy. Impossible to forget, the company is hailed worldwide as one of the most dynamic forces in new circus. • *7:30–9:30pm, Freddy Wood Theatre, rush tickets $12 for students, 2pm matinee $12.50 adult/$5 under 12 years/$25 family of four, buy tickets online at* ubctheatre.universitytickets.com *or call (604) 822-2678.*

DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE • An incessantly ringing cell phone in a quiet café. A stranger at the next table who has had enough. And a dead man—with a lot of loose ends. So begins *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, a funny, affecting and often otherworldly exploration of modern life from American playwriting sensation, Sarah Ruhl [The Clean House]. • *Runs until Jan. 29, 7:30–9pm, Telus Studio Theatre, $22/$15/$10, book tickets online at* ubctheatre.universitytickets.com.

ISLAM AWARENESS WEEK DISCUSSION PANEL • The UBC Muslim Student Association presents four different discussions as part of Islam Awareness Week on campus. The discussions include: *Pillars of Islam and Articles of Faith, the Prophets and the Scriptures, Women in Islam: Oppressed or Honoured?, What is Jihad?* and *Are all Muslims Arab? A Glimpse into the Multiculturalism in Islam.* • *3:30–6pm, Woodward 2, free.*

THURSDAY, JAN. 20

I-SLAM: EXPRESSED • Part of Islam Awareness Week. Come by for an evening of talent and breaking misconceptions through art, featuring spoken word artist Boonaa Mohammed and local talents. • *6:30–9pm, Woodward 6, $5.*

WATER WARS • Water Wars features an array of water-themed activities. With classics including joust, inner tube water polo and water basketball, this year's events promise to be a splash! • *6:30pm–2am, Aquatic Centre, $80–175, register by Jan. 13, go to* rec.ubc.ca *for more information.*

FRIDAY, JAN. 21

ISLAM AWARENESS WEEK KEYNOTE EVENT • Feature Lecture: The Legacy of Muhammad: Terror or Greatness? Featuring guest speakers Sheikh Navaid Aziz and Dr. Syed Ibn Iqbal. • *6:30–9:30pm, Woodward 2, $10, $5 student discount.*

SIKILIZA: A TOAST TO MAMA AFRICA • An Afro-fusion night with performances, entertainment and a DJ celebrating the end of Africa Awareness Conference Week. • *7:30pm, Abdul Ladha Centre, $10 non-members, $7 regular members, $5 premium members.*

SCIENCE WEEK CARNIVAL • Love the carnival? Love happy clowns? You don't? We don't either. No clowns will be there. However, we do have your favourites like a bouncy castle, popcorn and cotton candy. If you love to bounce or watch other people bounce, come stuff your face and join us for a rip roaring good time. • *12–4pm, in front of Ladha (inside in case of rain), free.*

MONDAY, JAN. 24

SCIENCE WEEK KICKOFF • The opening ceremony for Science Week 2011. It will feature the talents of the Burnaby North Vikings (marching band), the UBC Cheerleaders, a flag ceremony, free food (and cake) and high spirits! Join at any time by falling in step with the parade that will be travelling around campus starting from the Rose Garden. More festivities will be held at Abdul Ladha Science Student Centre (where there will be face painting and food). • *11am–2pm, UBC campus, free.*

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NEWS

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Condorcet reinstated as AMS voting system

Campus wide logins will not be used for voting

KALYEENA MAKORTOFF
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The uncertainty surrounding the voting platform in the run-up to this week's AMS elections has been cleared up: the ballot will be using the Condorcet ranking system.

However, due the last minute push to prepare online voting, students will not be able to use their campus wide logins (CWL), but instead will be issued individual ID and password combinations Monday morning. Elections Administrator Erik MacKinnon said that there was not enough time to integrate the CWL with the voting platform in the two business days after Council made the decision to keep Condorcet ballots.

Last week, the AMS was approached by MacKinnon, who informed Council that the Condorcet platform was not ready, leaving AMS to debate suspending code to allow for a back up first-past-the-post (FPTP) system.

A two-hour debate by Council ended with a motion to allow the Elections Committee to decide the process for voting within 24 hours of the start of the voting period. MacKinnon was able to confirm the Condorcet platform was up and running on Sunday evening, ready for the ballot boxes to open Monday morning.

The decision to employ the Condorcet system over FPTP was backed by arguments regarding potential elections appeals if the voting system were to be changed. It was under this pretense that candidates sitting as voting members on Council were not allowed to vote on the motion, as it was deemed a conflict of interest.

UBC Insiders editor Neil Yonson tried to give an example of the difference in voting outcomes with FPTP and Condorcet by taking a sample double-sided ballot from councillors during the meeting that had different winners for most races. VP External candidate Rory Breasail agreed that the chosen voting system will have an influence on results.

"It certainly does influence results... if there was no difference, people wouldn't have chosen to adopt the Condorcet system in the first place," he said. "Obviously it particularly affects my race, people have been pretty vocal about that. But whatever happens, a race is a race. So we'll see."

However, Breasail said he was not happy that the decision was made so close to voting opening. "I find it kind of distressing." An alternative choice proposed at Council was to delay the voting period by one week, which found little support and did not pass.

While debate continued, it was suggested that candidates may have based their campaigning strategies on their understandings of the Condorcet voting system.

"I think [FPTP] will change some people's campaigning styles," said VP External candidate Katherine Tyson. "Probably less for those on Council who are used to doing things, but for those who weren't even here on Council and are candidates, it really puts them in a bad position, because they don't even know that this discussion was happening.

"It's mostly affecting my race because I don't know what's going on," Tyson said. "[But] I would hope that no matter which style you did, the best candidate would win."

"Nobody goes around... with the 'make me your number two' platform, and that's the only difference between Condorcet and first-past-the-post, is that theoretically everyone's second choice candidate could win," said presidential candidate Jeremy McElroy. "So unless that was your strategy, which of course is a dumb strategy, everyone's trying to get top spot anyway, so I don't see the difference.

"I should hope that people are campaigning for the same reasons in either race, trying to get the most people to pick them. That's the basic principle. Strategy should be entirely based on selling yourself as the best candidate."

EA Erik MacKinnon said that the effects of the change in platform wouldn't have been as consequential as many councillors were proposing, and ultimately what matters is that students stay engaged with the AMS elections during the voting period.

"As long as we get voters out there, I'm happy."

Elections Administrator Erik MacKinnon at the All-Candidates Meeting.
GEOFF LISTER PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

Condorcet Ballot

1	Candidate A
3	Candidate B
2	Candidate C
4	Candidate D

FPTP Ballot

	Candidate A
X	Candidate B
	Candidate C
	Candidate D

Student court remains inactive

Court no longer integral to elections appeals process

MIKE DICKSON
Contributor

The AMS Student Court has effectively been shut down for the year, putting it in a state of limbo that is likely to continue—at least for the time being.

Following the court's decision to invalidate the Arts Undergraduate Society's elections in March of last year, the AMS voted to restrict the power of the court in election-related matters.

With three consecutive court rulings rejected by the Council since 2006, it was decided that since the Court was no longer truly functioning, there would be no judges appointed.

"Student court, on paper, sounds great," said Dave Tompkins, speaker of Council and head of the Secondary Appeals Committee set up in lieu of student court. "But in the past we've had rulings, like the AUS election, that make you go 'WTF?' This is more streamlined, as appeals have often dragged on in the past, which was one complaint about student court."

Previously the primary functions of the court were election appeals, discipline, interpreting bylaws and rewriting referendum questions. In light of the recent string of rejected rulings and election appeal difficulties, AMS Code was revised to remove the court as an election appeals body, with other court functions being redirected to alternative channels.

AMS VP External Jeremy McElroy agrees with the changes. "In principle I support the idea [of student court], but functionally it doesn't really fit with the AMS," he said. "The chief justice overturns every year and the decisions coming down from elections have been questionable."

The Elections Committee oversees the first stage of appeals in the current arrangement. The second stage is arbitrated by an election appeals tribunal consisting of one plaintiff, one person from the Elections Committee, and Tompkins. It is a temporary alternative to the court which Matthew Naylor, chief electoral officer of last year's invalidated AUS election, considers archaic and tiresome.

"I find it to be an illegitimate and ineffective organization that has outlived any strategies of usefulness it once had," Naylor said. "In order for the student court to have some kind of authority, they should first demonstrate that they have the capability to make rulings taking into account all the facts, which didn't happen this year and past years."

McElroy echoed those sentiments. "More recently, interpretation of AMS bylaws has been taken to real lawyers. I believe having the arm's length speaker of council is a good basis for the second point of appeals."

NEWS BRIEFS

HOSPICE LOCATION ONCE AGAIN FACES OPPOSITION AT UBC

Plans to build a palliative care facility near the Promontory condominiums on UBC campus have been postponed. A petition started by condo owners last week protests the proposed hospice, claiming cultural sensitivities—taboos surrounding death and dying—associated with Chinese culture.

The hospice, which is a joint venture between the Order of St. John, Vancouver Coastal Health and the university, was previously slated to be built between first-year residences Totem Park and Place Vanier. However, consultations with community residents and students reported enough negative feedback to cancel the proposed site for the hospice.

Critics of the petitioners have said that residents are more concerned with property values than cultural ones.

According to *The Globe and Mail*, the university has decided to delay the discussions on the hospice location that were planned for February. "There are a variety of claims against the project and we want to systematically go through them," said Campus and Community Planning Director Joe Stott.

BC UNIVERSITIES GET SURPLUS IN RESEARCH FUNDING

(CUP) Students in BC will be seeing slightly more flexible funding thanks to a few major research grants awarded by the government to provincial institutions.

The BC government recently approved $2.9 million in funding for 21 different research infrastructure projects at seven universities through the Knowledge Development Fund, an initiative laid out to ensure post-secondary institutions and teaching hospitals stay competitive.

Of the institutions involved, the University of British Columbia will see the biggest funding boom, with over $2 million of the total government awards going toward its programs. Among the 11 UBC-dedicated grants, $800,000 will establish a new Centre for Applied Neurogenetics at UBC, with a focus on research to accelerate drug development for Parkinson's disease and other neurological disorders. Another $398,950 will go toward a low-temperature microscope for atomic scale opto-electronics and $96,951 will be spent on researching consumer behaviour.

PEDESTRIAN FATALITY IN KITSILANO

A 30-year-old woman died after being hit by a car on Sunday morning in Kitsilano. Vancouver police have said that she was hit on 10th Ave. and MacDonald by a BMW sedan around 3am. The driver stayed on the scene and was cooperative, according to authorities.

While investigators are not able to confirm where the woman was walking when she was hit, witnesses have stated that she was walking a few feet behind a friend before the accident.

CULTURE

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UBC's Got Talent well worth the price of admission

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The inaugural staging of UBC's Got Talent was warmly welcomed at the Chan Centre on Friday.

Pieces like Erin Crockett's deft boogie-woogie piano stylings, Kaine Newton's exquisite violin performance or Faisal Al-Alamy's ear-blistering guitar shreddery must have taken years of dedication to master. Which makes it entertaining that the single standing ovation of the evening went to an invidual who claimed, prior to the show, that he spent only two years of half-hour-a-day practices to master his talent.

Sittinon Sukhaya was modest, well-dressed and didn't really seem to enjoy being onstage. He didn't speak more than ten words the whole time he was up there. He began his performance with a peeled banana in one hand and a Rubik's cube in the other (the puzzle had been scrambled by a random audience member). Sittinon nonchalantly inspected it for a few seconds before his fingers went to work.

Everything was fine for a moment. Then members of the audience began shrieking as if in terror. Sittinon's fingers were impossible to follow, and the fluidity of their movement was almost freakish to behold. The audience's howling increased as the cube's six constituent colours started to form. Less than 20 seconds later, it was finished and the crowd surged to its feet, applauding wildly. Sittinon looked mildly nonplussed by their reaction and after acknowledging the applause with a small bow, silently left the stage.

UBC's Got Talented featured the Pentatonics and drew some 1000 attendees. **CHARLES TO PHOTO/** THE UBYSSEY

The Rubik's cube act dominated the first half the show. After the intermission, it reached its peak with Stephen Toope and Bijan Ahmadian's performance of "Sweet Dreams," by the Eurythmics. Ahmadian is a controversial figure with many detractors, but he deserves credit for getting UBC's President onstage and in fine form. Toope performed in earnest. His movements displayed a good sense of rhythm, his singing voice was surprisingly deep and well-rounded and his sleepy-eyed smile was nothing less than charming. Ahmadian, for his part, capered impishly about and did his best to match Toope's vocal talents—but for naught. UBC's big man on campus has big chops on the mic.

Another highlight of the evening included the show's MC, *CBC*'s Fred Lee, whose flamboyant audience-goading and occasionally catty remarks kept the viewer's attention during often tedious set changes. Whether commenting on his fondness for Siri Williams' heels, or making risque remarks about a capella group The X Guys' ability to "perform," he kept the show energetic and good-natured.

A mid-show "message from our sponsors," a video from the University Neighbourhood Association, fortuitously cut off two seconds before it was supposed to end. Windows Media Player crashed, meaning the commercial's announcer ended his narration on "The UNA is a proud sponsor of UBC—." At an event as rife with PR calculation as UBC's Got Talent, sometimes it takes a technical error to reveal certain fundamental truths.

In the end, though, it was a free show, one which managed to raise more than half a million dollars for the United Way. It's hard to knock charity, especially when it's this entertaining.

Taboo: sex ed for grown ups

SEX

MIKE DICKSON
Contributor

The wild, the tame and the kinky were all on full display at the 10th annual Vancouver Taboo "Naughty but Nice" sex show this weekend at the Vancouver Convention Center.

From flavoured lube and holistic alternatives to Viagra, to a coffee table that turns into a bondage table, the products and seminars showcased at the event highlighted why Vancouver is the crown jewel of Taboo shows.

"It's definitely our flagship sex show," said spokesperson Mistress Sarah Moanies. "There's a little bit of everything for everyone, but if you're into bestiality you gotta go to the Agricom."

The convention center was packed with booths featuring dominatrix attire, a vast array of self-pleasuring devices and an Air Canada vacations table right next to the *xxxchurch.com* group who were handing out stickers that read "Jesus loves porn stars."

The show was intended not only to entertain, but to enlighten the public about sex in general and open peoples' eyes to sexual frontiers to which they might not ordinarily be exposed.

"The purpose of this show is to entertain as well as educate," Moanies explained. "People often think they're going to get hit with a full frontal, but hey, we're not selling gum here."

I sat in on one of the show's many diverse seminars titled "Totally Anal," presented by Jim Deva of Little Sister's Bookstore on Davie Street. Talking to Jim afterwards, I learned that Vancouver's culture of acceptance is a more recent development than most people think.

Originally a distributor of gay and lesbian literature only, the store was bombed by concussion grenades three times in the 1980s and suffered ostracism as a symbol of the GLBT community. Little Sister's won a lengthy Supreme Court case against Canada Customs in 1996 which arose after customs agents seized books, videos and merchandise intended for the store. The Taboo show has provided a venue for them to gain exposure not only in the gay community but the straight community as well.

"This show has probably saved our business," Deva said. "We aim to create a safe environment for people to explore their sexuality, and we try to replicate that at this convention. It's the straight community keeping the gay and lesbian bookstore open now."

Taboo is an opportunity for couples to push the sexual envelope, one of Moanies' favourite aspects of the show.

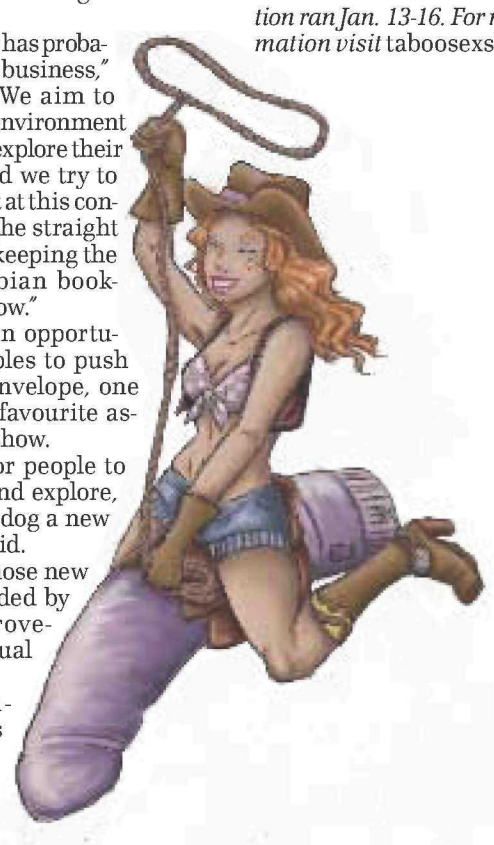
"It's fun for people to come here and explore, teach an old dog a new trick," she said.

Some of those new tricks are aided by recent improvements in sexual technology.

"The internet has helped hugely with the availability and marketing of toys," Deva said. "Technology is enhancing toys and making revelations all the time. My vision of the future is a sexual version of the Holodeck from *Star Trek*, because that's the direction we're headed in."

Pole dancers, including local girl and Miss Pole Dance Canada Krystal Lai, took to the main stage and wowed the crowd with their prowess and flexibility, capping off a weekend of fun, fetish and education about fornication.

The Vancouver Taboo exhibition ran Jan. 13-16. For more information visit taboosexshow.com.



Cameras were not allowed at Taboo. This is an artist's representation. **VIRGINIE MENARD ILLUSTRATION/** THE UBYSSEY

PuSH preview

THEATRE

GINNY MONACO
gmonaco@ubyssey.ca

"Let's talk about the city," said Martin Kinch.

"I just love the notion of being able to have a kind of look at the city that is not what you're getting when you get the 'Official Vancouver Guidebook' at the Olympics."

Kinch is co-creator of *PodPlays*, one of the performances at the 2011 PuSH Festival. PuSH is a celebration of local and international performing arts. Going into its seventh year, the 2011 incarnation of the festival will be a celebration of Vancouver's 125th anniversary.

PodPlays is among several other city-themed pieces that Assistant Curator Dani Fecko hopes will offer, "an opportunity for Vancouverites to express what Vancouver means to them and what the city actually is becoming.

"We're such a young city," Fecko said, "and these are questions that other cities may have already figured out."

The festival has tasked itself with an intense mandate. It is the hope of PuSH, said Fecko, "to bring genre-bending and boundary-pushing and top class interdisciplinary arts to Vancouver to help promote artistic exchange... We really want to foster lots of dialogue between international artists and local artists [in order] to infuse the Vancouver arts scene with new energy."

The festival is sure to get followers of Vancouver theatre talking. PuSH is set apart from traditional arts festivals in that performances take mostly non-traditional forms. Fecko sees this emphasis on atypical mediums as reflective of a larger movement in the theatre community. "We wanted to bring the best of performing arts, and so much of what's happening in the contemporary theatre world is multidisciplinary."

In Kinch's *PodPlays*, for example, the listener is given a headset and asked to walk a predetermined course around Vancouver. Through the headset, four radio plays narrate the surroundings. "What this does is to hopefully open our eyes and ears to a unique perspective on a particular part of the city," Kinch said.

> In *PodPlays*, the listener is given a headset and asked to walk a predetermined course around Vancouver. Four radio plays narrate the surroundings.

For Fecko, the process of curating PuSH is an exhausting, sleepless experience. However, her dedication to PuSH "comes from a place of honest-to-goodness passion," and a commitment to maintaining a plurality of artistic voices in the Vancouver arts community.

"As artists, we are inspired by other artists. We need to support each other, but further than that, we need to learn from each other."

SPORTS

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Hayley Wickenheiser raises CIS women's hockey profile

DRAKE FENTON
Contributor

This weekend the UBC Thunderbirds women's hockey team welcomed Hayley Wickenheiser to their arena. She visited UBC not as a guest speaker, nor as a coach. Instead, the 32-year-old three-time Olympic gold medalist laced up her skates as an adversary. Wickenheiser led the Calgary Dinos to a weekend sweep of the 'Birds, winning 8-5 Friday and 9-2 Saturday. She generated eight points in that two game span.

The losses dropped UBC to 4-11-1, last in the Canada West standings. Calgary improved to 12-4, good for second place in the standings. Last year Calgary finished the season 7-15-2. Their leading goal scorer, Elana Lovell, had 12 points in 24 games. With Wickenheiser in the line-up, Lovell already has 19 points in 15 games. Wickenheiser herself leads the Canada West with 37 points in 13 games. The next leading scorer in the league has 30 points—and she has played five more games than Wickenheiser.

Calgary is poised to make a serious run at winning a national championship. That is a serious turn around for a team that didn't make the playoffs last year. Thus, for obvious reasons, Wickenheiser's inclusion in the CIS is marred with controversy. Is it fair to have a player of her quality included in the CIS? The answer is complicated.

Does her presence give Calgary a decided advantage over other teams? Yes. Would the Dinos have national title aspirations without her? Probably not. This season Calgary is 11-2 with Wickenheiser in the line-up. Without her in the line-up, they are 1-2. Their sole victory, sans Wickenheiser, came against Manitoba. They won 2-1 in overtime after being outshot 32-19. CIS eligibility rules state that in regards to women's hockey, they do not designate any leagues as being professional. For the men, a season in the NHL and European pro leagues takes one year away from a player's eligibility.

Wickenheiser played three seasons in men's European pro leagues. Throughout her career she has also played multiple seasons on women's club teams. In Canada, these club teams are the closest thing to a women's pro league, though without allotted salaries. Other than national competition, it is the highest level of women's hockey in Canada.

Due to the lack of stipulation in CIS rules, though, Wickenheiser has not lost a single year of eligibility. The Shaunavon, Saskatchewan native is a rookie. Yet UBC head coach Nancy Wilson chuckled when asked whether Wickenheiser's presence was fair.

"After teams play her, they probably won't think so." Wilson, more seriously, spoke about the positive aspects of having Wickenheiser in her league.

"The CIS has changed dramatically in the last five years; the skill level has considerably increased. As coaches we try to showcase that with our teams' play, but having a player of Hayley's skill in the CIS really highlights it."

Wilson didn't see Calgary's transformation from bottom feeder to contender as being 'unfair.' "She's helping develop the sport for Calgary. Their team game is much better than it was last year, and Hayley is at the center of it."

Wickenheiser's presence and leadership ability has not only benefitted Calgary, it has helped the development of her opponents. To contend with her, players are forced to raise the level of their game. This couldn't have been more apparent in UBC's Friday night loss. The five goal offensive output was the highest of the season for the 'Birds. They played with intensity, confidence and energy, and at no point did they quit competing. Wickenheiser forced them to raise their game, and they did.

Friday night's game also saw an attendance of 300 fans. This number may seem small, but it is three times more than last week's attendance. If the Dinos go on to win a national title, fans of the sport may question its 'fairness,' but in their hearts they will realize that a Dinos national title may be the best thing that could happen to CIS women's hockey.

Her presence in the CIS has generated buzz about the sport, put more fans in the seats and elevated the profile of a sport that has been battling to captivate the casual hockey fan. If the CIS is a good enough league for Wickenheiser, it stands to reason that quality prospects will see it as a viable option for themselves.

When questioned about the 'fairness' of her being a Dino, Wickenheiser was quick to point out that a variety of national team members have played or play in the CIS. She recognized the debate stems from her high profile and hockey resume, but contended that her inclusion was beneficial.

"I think that you have to look at it from the standpoint that it's good for the league, and if it raises the profile and gets more fans in the building, how could that be a bad thing? This should be about the best level of hockey...we should want to keep our best players in Canada, so if a few more stay because I'm in the league and give it credibility, then that's a good thing."

Wickenheiser is a firm believer in keeping players in Canada. The NCAA, with its substantially larger budget, routinely takes prospects out of Canada. Wickenheiser related how this played a substantial factor in her decision to complete her degree here.

Hayley Wickenheiser's presence evokes emotion. **CHARLES TO**/THE UBYSSEY

"It's tough [to build competitive rosters] when the NCAA takes the best players away. I've never gone to play in the US. I've never believed in it. In my entire career I've had many opportunities and I think that I've stuck by it and now I'm here playing. For me it's a positive thing and I hope people see it that way."

The presence of Wickenheiser also has a personal side. Her family is based out of Calgary and by playing there she is not forced to uproot them. Further, Wickenheiser is completing her degree. If she was deemed ineligible by the CIS, the captain of Canada's Olympic squad would be left with very few options to play competitive women's hockey in Canada while completing her studies.

In 2014, Wickenheiser will once again lead Canada at the Sochi Olympics. If playing in the CIS allows her to keep her game sharp while getting an education, if it raises the profile of women's university hockey and if it allows her family to stay rooted, should there really be a question about 'fairness'?

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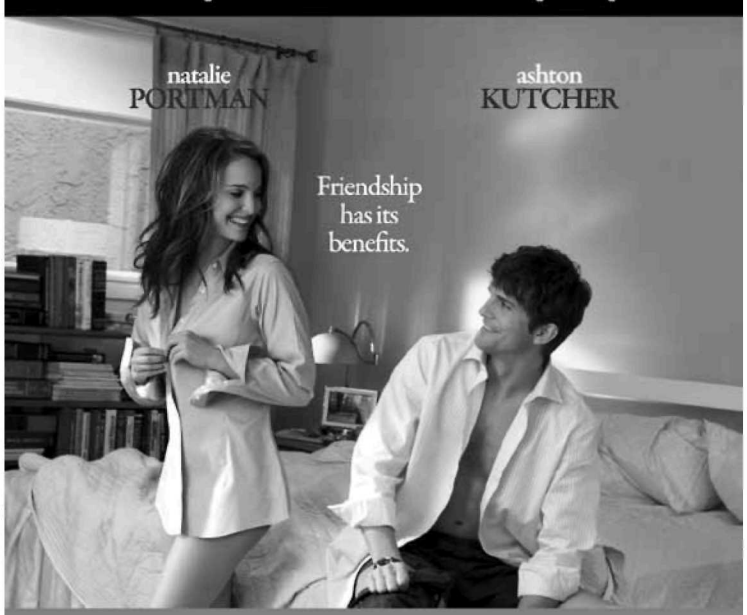

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UBC leads CIS West

Brent Malish drives the hoop. **JOSH CURRAN PHOTO**/THE UBYSSEY

NOAH BURSHTEIN
Contributor

Conference matchups are always tough games full of grit and determination, and when the struggling Calgary Dinos rolled into War Memorial Gym this weekend, the Thunderbirds knew they were in for a battle. Sitting in the last playoff spot in the Canada West Division, the Dinos knew they would have to force their frenetic style of play upon UBC, as it was clear from tip-off that the Thunderbirds were bigger, faster and more athletic than Calgary. But the Dinos held tough all weekend, and both Friday and Saturday night's games remained close throughout—with both games a matter of three or less points at halftime.

"I thought Calgary, being with nine healthy players, that they played an unbelievable game. Some guys stepped up, made plays and probably had their best games of the season," UBC head coach Kevin Hanson said after Saturday night's affair. "Give them credit for fighting hard all the way down to the end, but I think our depth really helped us when they started to get into foul trouble and a little tired."

Depth certainly was the key for UBC this weekend, as both games were back and forth until the fourth quarter when key reserves stepped up for the T-Birds. Josh Whyte, UBC's leading scorer, was held off the score sheet on Friday, but sixth man Nathan Yu stepped up once again for UBC, pouring in a clutch 19 points off the bench to power the Thunderbirds to victory. Yu "hit a couple crucial ones" from beyond the three-point arc and UBC pulled away for good, winning 74-63.

Saturday's game had an oddly similar feel to it, as UBC led by only three points at halftime, but thanks to senior guard Melvyn Mayott's 11 fourth quarter points, UBC managed to finish off the sweep of the Dinos 91-82. Luckily for UBC, Whyte was much more effective in the second game of the weekend, managing 14 points in 31 minutes of action.

"Fifth-year guys aren't going to get shut out two nights in a row," Hansen said confidently, "We knew Josh was going to come out and have a better game."

UBC's depth and size were both on display this weekend, two aspects of the team that will be very difficult to contend with come the playoffs. The Thunderbirds out-rebounded the Dinos by 17 over the weekend and seemed much fresher later in games, which bodes extremely well for the T-Birds as they approach the stretch run.

With a mere eight games remaining until the Canada West playoffs, UBC must continue to battle through the end of their schedule and not look ahead to the playoffs. Currently tied with the Trinity West Spartans for first place in the division at 14-2, the Thunderbirds head to Manitoba for a pair of games with the 4-10 Bobcats, a team with little to play for other than hopes of spoiling UBC's hope for a first-place Canada West finish.

BIRD DROPPINGS

VOLLEYBALL WOMEN LOSE FIRST GAME SINCE OCTOBER

UBC Women's Volleyball are now in second place in the west after dropping their first game since the opening weekend series behind Trinity Western University. The 'Birds split the two weekend games with the University of Calgary's Dinos 3-2 and 2-3.

"Despite the loss, I think it was a much better match this evening. Clearly we're not showing the consistency that we had before the break and we need a little bit of work to reset things with adding Jen and Kyla back into the rotation," said UBC head coach Doug Reimer.

Reimer is referring to the return of Canadian National Team members Jen Hinze and Kyla Richey, who both made an impact in their first two matches back with 15 and 32 kills, respectively. Perhaps their first match back was the cause of the lack of chemistry on Friday night, which they managed to recover.

"There [was] certainly a litany of errors tonight and it looked like the first weekend back from the break," said Reimer. "Obviously we're happy to emerge with the win but we have a lot of work to do. We especially need to reduce our errors from the serving line and attacking."

UBC came out of Friday's match with the victory after a slow start, but could not recover the same way on Saturday.

"We had our chances tonight and I thought our level of competion was very high. Down the stretch, our defense and passing kind of escaped us, but we'll learn from this weekend and get better as we prepare for the rest of the season and playoffs."

SOUND DEFENSE PROLONGS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL EIGHT-GAME WINNING STREAK

UBC women's basketball swept the Calgary Dinos 68-57 and 66-42 at War Memorial Gym this weekend, bringing the Thunderbirds into a tie with Victoria for fifth.

The 'Birds began the 2011 calendar year with a 7-0 run and then another 12-0 run late in the first and early second quarters. Zara Huntley had a game high of 14 points, with 13 rebounds and three blocks.

"I was really happy with our defence in the first half," said UBC head coach Deb Huband. "Later on we tried to extend the bench and get more players some game experience."

UBC head coach Deb Huband credits her team's effort on defense as a big reason for their current streak.

"I think that defensive intensity is the key to our success. It's something that has the potential to separate us from some other teams. We've really been focusing on trying to take some teams out of what they want to do and make sure to do our best not to give up the easy basket."

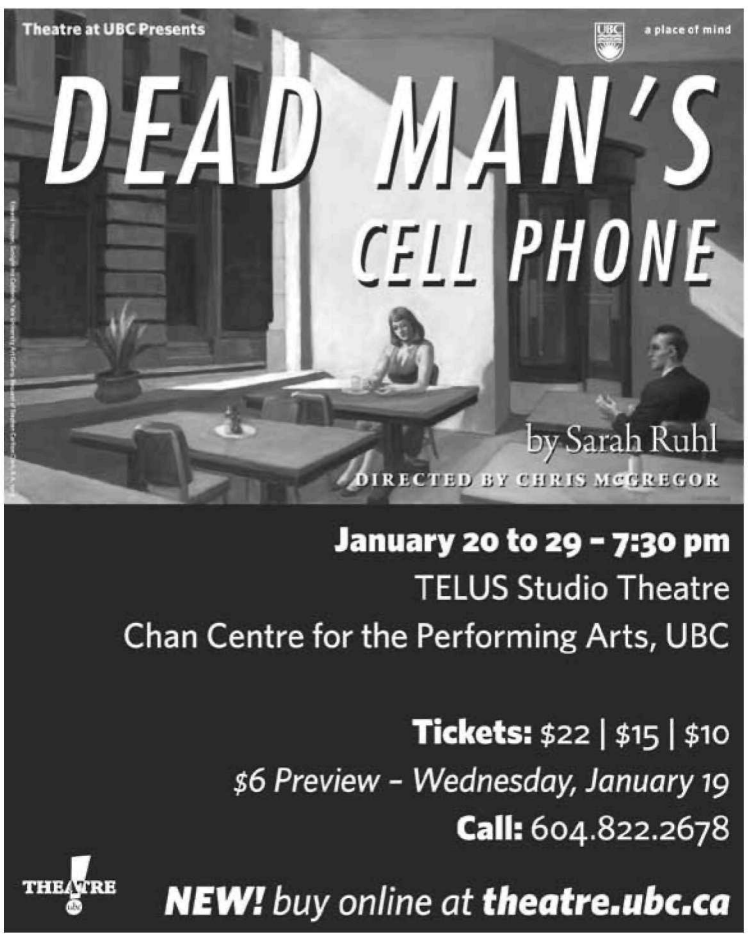
A Toronto native making a splash. **JOSH CURRAN PHOTO**/THE UBYSSEY

Thunderbird Athletic Council

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

MARTHA MCCABE

A women's swimming senior, Martha McCabe is 2011's first athlete of the week for her impressive finish as a member of Team Canada at the 2010 World Swimming Championships held in Dubai last month. McCabe, who competed at the Commonwealth Games in October, placed fifth overall in the 200m breaststroke in a time of 2:21.45, an all-time personal best and the top performance for Team Canada. We look forward to more stellar performances from this T-Bird on the world circuit this coming season and to domination at the CIS level.



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OPINIONS

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ENDORSEMENTS

PRESIDENT: MCELROY

Controversy tends to follow Omar Chaaban, who has on more than one occasion made waves in national media. However, what worries us much more are some of his mistaken beliefs about the AMS. Chaaban seems to be unaware of the difference between tuition and student fees. He also doesn't appear to have the necessary sense of urgency regarding the AMS's current financial crunch. During the debates he also said that if he's elected, he will essentially not work with Council if they disagree with his plans.

There is similarly little good to say about Michael Moll. The only thing he seems to want to discuss is engagement, but despite his long-windedness, his plans remain vague and he doesn't seem to understand the issues plaguing the AMS.

Our vote goes to Jeremy McElroy, who has the experience and temperament to be at least a better AMS President than the last two. As VP External, McElroy has made significant headway on creating a provincial tuition lobbying organization, a major step forward for students. He has been less successful on student loans, which was one of the biggest priorities he outlined earlier in the year.

However, McElroy could have used his campaign as a platform to talk about important issues that are off the radar of the average student, like governance and changing to a trimester system. In order to be a truly successful president, he would need to push big picture issues that could truly impact students.

But unlike the last two presidents, we are reasonably comfortable saying that he will not be a divisive force on campus. He's likely to play it safe politically and is unlikely to make any disastrous mistakes.

Disclosure: Justin McElroy, *The Ubyssey*'s coordinating editor, is Jeremy McElroy's cousin. He was not permitted to contribute to our elections coverage, nor was he given a vote in our endorsements.

VP FINANCE: TAYYAR

At the debates, Ehteshami talked about what he would do with Translink and U-Pass, neither of which fall under his portfolio. He also frequently admitted that he didn't know how to respond to questions and deferred to Tayyar's superior familiarity with the topic.

Tayyar failed to produce a balanced budget this year, but a lot of that was due to lower-than-expected business revenues. We don't think he's been a star executive, but he's aware of the problems with his portfolio and is in a better position to do something about them than Ehteshami. He also seems to be more willing to make cuts to Block Party and the Welcome Back BBQ this time around. Given the amount of criticism he has received, we hope he will be more willing to put his foot down when it comes to executive spending as well.

VP EXTERNAL: TYSON/WRIGHT SPLIT

The Ubyssey's VP External candidate vote was split between Katherine Tyson and Mitch Wright. Rory Breasail got poor marks for his debate performance—he had weak talking points beyond lowering tuition.

Both Tyson and Wright's platforms are quite similar. However, Wright would prefer to have student loans relocated to Ottawa offices to lower interest rates, while Tyson wants to keep them in province. Beyond this, Tyson claims that she has a heavier focus on tuition support for international students, although Wright disputes this.

Wright has the benefit of working as AVP External, and will be more familiar with what is going on with the portfolio. Tyson, on the other hand, has been around council and has served as the UERC chair. A vocal critic of Bijan Ahmadian's approach to land use, she has also been a strong voice in campus politics for increasing student involvement in UBC governance.

VP ACADEMIC: YANG

Justin Yang, a current student senator and AUS VP Finance, receives our endorsement due to the student government experience he holds over his contenders. While in debates he seemed too optimistic about communication and dialogue with the university, his understanding of the political system at UBC and his moderate political stance make him a safe choice. However, his focus on academics during a year where the university affairs aspect of the portfolio is likely to dominate his time worries us.

As such, Matt Parson might be a decent alternative—he seems to have a good handle on governance, and has been talking about improving the summer semester at UBC, an often neglected area that has received some attention in the Senate. Jennifer Wang gets last place: she seems unaware that many of her talking points actually fall outside of her portfolio.

VP ADMIN: SILLEY

Michael Silley came out only slightly above Katic for the endorsement, due to Silley's experience serving on AMS Council and the Business and Facilities Committee. Both candidates had similar platforms regarding clubs support and though Katic hasn't officially received our endorsement it was a hard decision. Katic has provided the most concrete examples of how to use the Admin portfolio to push forward some left-leaning political items.

Disclosure: Kath¥ Yan Li, running as a joke candidate pushing glitter and fun in every political issue, has previously worked for *The Ubyssey* and is currently employed in *The Ubyssey*'s business office. Katic has also previously written for *The Ubyssey*.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: HEISLER & SHARMA

With the upcoming debate about governance approaching this year, the student representatives on the UBC Board of Governors have an opportunity to have a truly permanent impact on this university.

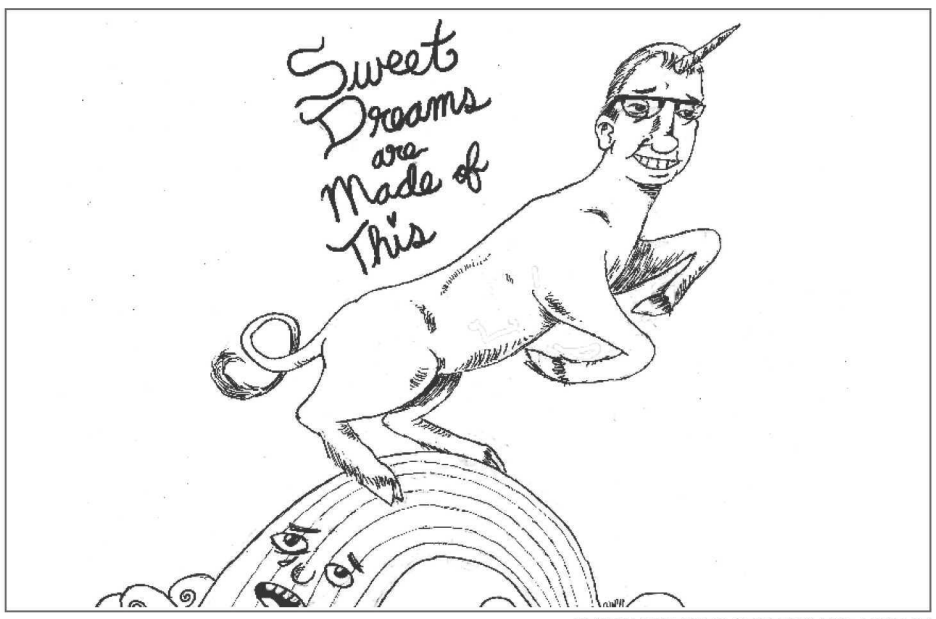
AJ Haijan appears to have little idea about what any of the major issues are or even what it is that the Board does. And although some might find that SuperSexySass Sangsari's education in "fecal studies" to be an asset on the Board, it's unlikely any of those old stooges would get the jokes.

During his time on BoG, Heisler has come to gain the respect of the other Board members and fought passionately on important issues. We're certain that if elected to a second term, he will be an even more effective advocate for students. SUS President Sumedha Sharma appears to have a basic, but not robust, understanding of issues such as land use and governance. If elected, she would have to learn quickly.

SENATE: YANG & RASMUSSEN

Both Yang and Rasmussen have demonstrated that they're able to be effective within the Senate and may be able to push along widely shared student concerns if allowed a second term.

The rest have relatively small differences between them. In the debates on Friday, candidates supported reforming the academic advising system and making information regarding specializations more readily available to undeclared majors. Rasmussen and Yang both currently serve on the UBC Senate and would continue to work on these issues.



BRYCE WARNES GRAPHIC/THE UBYSSEY

UBC INSIDERS: SEPARATING THE TRUTH FROM THE CHAFF

ALEX LOUGHEED & NEAL YONSON
UBC Insiders

UBC Insiders is a news site that has gone through many incarnations since its founding by Gina Eom and Tim Louman-Gardiner in 2007. We are known for the quality and insight of our posts—*UBC Insiders* is exclusively written by those who have been "in the trenches" of UBC politics.

Jokingly known as the investigative arm of *The Ubyssey*, our goal is to provide extensive coverage of the stories that matter the most, but get covered the least. Most of all, we believe in doing extensive research to ensure our articles are relevant and robust.

Did you hear that athletics fees were reduced significantly in 2009? That was the end result of an investigation that showed UBC's athletic fees were the highest the country. Were you aware that the RCMP is unfairly enforcing liquor rules on students but not UBC departments? We catalogued two years' worth of campus liquor licences to prove it. We were the first to expose UBC plans to build a hospice next to Vanier and condos on Gage South, the site of the current bus loop. In every instance, our coverage changed the course of each of these events.

We also offer, year-by-year, the most exhaustive elections coverage. We've exposed front groups that try to steal your student fees, provided polls and electoral projections and in conjunction with our partners we annually present the presidential debate, UBC's first-ever candidate debates organized without the elections committee. This year's edition takes place January 17 at 5:30pm in the UBC Centre for Student Involvement. We hope to see you there.

However, when we ask for your vote in the annual Voter-Funded Media contest, it's much less about what we do during the two weeks of AMS elections. It's about what we do during the other 50 weeks of the year. We're currently investigating uncompetitive practices amongst campus businesses and how an upcoming court case may rewrite BC's freedom of information laws for universities.

We're still growing into something bigger and better than ever before. With a wide alumni support group and new website platform, we're changing to better suit what students care about. We can always use some help. If you'd like to help, get in touch at *www.ubcinsiders.ca/wp/contact.*

AMS CONFIDENTIAL: THE TIGER BEAT OF UBC

TAYLOR LOREN & KAI GREEN
AMS Confidential

Hello, *Ubyssey* reader, you sexy thing, you!

We're *AMS Confidential*. Our favourite colour is pink, and our favourite animal is the unicorn. We like pretty much anything shiny, rainbows, Sean Heisler, and bringing you the best damn news ever in the form of comparing everything—governance included—to pop and movies for tweens.

AMS Confidential is the Tiger Beat of UBC—the pinnacle, the penultimate, the hostess with the mostest, the awesomest, "Issues? What Issues?" photoshoppinest blog around. We are also the cutest, which is a legitimate fact that we did not just make up.

We hunt down embarrassing photos of AMS politicians and we MS Paint the shit out of those suckers with our Lisa Frank aesthetic, because we firmly believe that scandal is for sharing and politics is fun and even the people who care about these things can't keep track of or keep serious about all of them. Our surveys ask the real questions you, voter, want to know: What are the BoG candidates' spirit Pokémon?

Already devoted readers probably want to know how it all started. Just one year ago, we developed a theory that everyone in the AMS was sleeping with each other. So we made a blog. Scandalous. Interbred, nepotistic, incestuous—all that fun stuff.

We're exposing the down and dirty of UBC politics. This election is missing SEX. Last year everyone was sleeping with everyone else, candidates were breaking into steam rooms and getting naked together and we even made a chart to track it all. This year, everyone is monogamous and dating, like a certain BoG candidate and a VP Finance candidate.

In the last year we've made quizzes to find your AMS hottie, injected memes into everything, ridiculed campaign posters and sat through every single AMS Council meeting (next President: please do not wear argyle). In case you're not convinced, Toope told us he reads our blog and prefers unicorns to rainbows. Best President ever? Quite possibly.

For the *Confidential*-critical, consider the following: was *Bring It On* great art? Debatable. Did it change the world? Doubtful. But, damnit, it was the best at what it did, it was fun, it made you hate cheerleaders a little less and today it still brings joy and light into our lives. And awesome cheers.

That's basically what we do.

PRESIDENT PROFILE: JEREMY MCELROY

GEOFF LISTER PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

ARSHY MANN
news@ubyssey.ca

Jeremy McElroy likes to say that he's been fighting the War on Fun at UBC since 2006.

The boisterous and bearded presidential candidate first made a name for himself in the AMS when he ran as "Kommander Keg" for VP Administration two years ago. Forged of steel and filled with malty courage, the Keg was McElroy's first foray into electoral politics.

"Kommander Keg had a really solid platform on fortifying the SUB...[into] more of a bunker [and] on redistributing GPA," he said.

Having played the part of a beer keg and having helped revive the Radical Beer Faction, McElroy feels a great attachment to the malted beverage. Despite UBC's lack of classes on beer science—something he publicly bemoans—he hopes to someday have his own microbrew.

But for now, he's a fifth-year political science student and a candidate for President.

McElroy has held a variety of positions on campus, including first-year rep and social coordinator for the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS), AMS councillor and the AMS's current VP External. He said that the reason he decided to run for president was because he felt that his experience enabled him to do the best job for the society.

"With all of the issues facing the AMS going into this new term, I feel that somebody with experience and knowledge of the organization is going to be really needed," he said. "There's going to be no time for learning the rules of Council, for learning everyone's name and catching up on projects."

As VP External, McElroy has spent much of his time trying to launch a provincial lobbying group in BC, and following through on this would be his top priority as President.

"We're in the final stages of it," he said. "With prospective members right now, the total membership would make us the largest provincial lobby group in Canada, which would be really exciting and a great thing for the AMS."

Although he has sometimes publicly disagreed with current AMS President Bijan Ahmadian, McElroy credits him with making the AMS more professional and would like to continue that legacy.

"[Ahmadian] tried to change the face of the organization. He definitely tried to bring in an air of professionalism...and it's something I'd like to carry on."

However, he said that he will ensure that the VPs will have more freedom with regards to their portfolios than they've had the past two years.

"The President has to work at the behest of the VPs. It's not the other way around and that's something I definitely think I could do."

As an incumbent VP and the only presidential candidate with AMS experience, McElroy is the candidate to beat. He believes that students will vote for him because of his experience and his moderate approach.

He describes himself as a pragmatist and believes that this is what best suits him for the top job.

"I'd like to believe that I've always been the middle ground, the voice of reason and tried to aggregate everyone's interests, everyone's views," he said. "[And] the president really needs to be voice of reason."

ams student society | Insider weekly
a weekly look at what's new at your student society 17.01.11

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