FEBRUARY 6, 2013 | VOLUME XCV| ISSUE XXXIX
BROKEN COLLARBONES SINCE 1918

THE UBYSSEY

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

Behind the scenes of UBC Opera's latest production

P7

BUDGET BLUES

Confidential documents show many student services are underfunded

P3

IN SYNC

Underwater finesse leads women's synchronized swimming team to nationals

P6

DON'T FRET Famous folk fiddlers know how to have fun **P7**

GENOCIDE AWARENESS PROJECT Women's Centre wants graphic images gone **P8**

OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD

The new mining institute at UBC is federally funded and expected to pull in millions in corporate donations — can it really maintain academic independence? **P4**

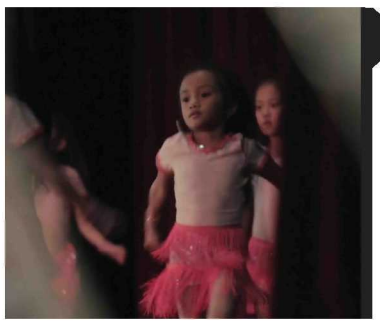
WHAT'S ON // THIS WEEK, MAY WE SUGGEST...

THURSDAY / 6

BREAKING BARRIERS
8–9:15 P.M. @ GLOBAL LOUNGE
Streamed live from the Middle East, three women will talk about the role of female students in the Egyptian revolution and how to start an enterprise in an Islamic country.
Free

FRIDAY / 7

SIBLING RIVALRY
6–8 P.M. @ WAR MEMORIAL GYM
Watch the two UBC campuses compete against each other in both men's and women's basketball. See who scores the most baskets! *Adults $10; youth, seniors and A-Card holders $5; UBC students $2; free for Blue Crew*



SATURDAY / 8

YOUTHFUL EXPRESSION DANCE COMPETITION
3 P.M. @ SUB BALLROOM
Come out and watch dancers of all styles pop, lock, breakdance and hip-hop to purely '90s music. Experience street dance and help raise money for to build fishing boats for the Philippines.
$15

MONDAY / 10

OUTWEEK COMMENCEMENT
10 A.M. @ SUB FLAGPOLE COURTYARD
Pride UBC opens their annual Outweek celebration on Family Day. Come join the flag-raising ceremony to begin Outweek, followed by family time in SUB 207 for some fun and games. Lunch and dessert provided.
Free

ON THE COVER

"You know when you're doing some mundane task and a scene from a movie replays over and over again in your head? This time it was Derek Zoolander down in the coal mines." Illustration by Indiana Joel.

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LEGAL

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OUR CAMPUS // ONE ON ONE WITH THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE UBC

PHOTO GAGE SKIDMORE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Hart Hanson credits part of his success to his time as an MFA student in UBC's creative writing program.

Bones writer Hart Hanson calls Hollywood home

Gregory Pitts
Contributor

UBC will receive a healthy dose of Hollywood celebrity this week when Hart Hanson, creator and showrunner of the popular Fox television series *Bones*, comes aboard as the creative writing department's latest writer in residence.

Hanson received his MFA from UBC in 1987, and also taught as an associate professor for a number of years. Prior to creating *Bones*, he worked on numerous Canadian and American television series, such as *The Finder* and the People's Choice Award-winning series *Joan of Arcadia*.

Hanson's connection to UBC is more personal than job titles and TV shows. He is remembered fondly by both his former colleagues and students. Acclaimed short story writer Zsuszi Gartner described him as "a charming, energetic, amiable and whip-smart guy with a boy-next-door kind of charisma and completely unconceited." He apparently wasn't afraid to be blunt, either. In an interview with *The Ubyssey*, Hanson paraphrased the words of another writer: "Writing is like dragging a rusty chain in one ear and out the other."

He will be on campus all week to participate in a number of activities. Some, such as writing workshops, will only be open to those in the creative writing department. Last night, he delivered a public lecture entitled "From Here to There: A Nice Canadian Boy Goes to Hollywood," at the Royal Bank Cinema at the Chan Centre.

Hanson's education focused on film and screenwriting, but his studies were far from narrow. In most MFA programs, grad students focus on one area of interest, but Gartner noted that, at UBC, "the requirement is that everyone take courses of at least three different genres." Hanson had a lot more contact with — and a lot more impact on — his fellow UBC students than one might have at comparable institutions.

His teaching, combined with extensive work in the entertainment industry, has left Hanson with the experience and skill to articulate informed opinions on the medium of Hollywood writing. For one thing, he doesn't think writing is a skill you either have or you don't.

"I've run into people who were absolutely blessed with an innate talent and others who lacked ... talent but brought all their will and intelligence to bear," he said. However, he also said that TV writing requires a different set of skills than high literature, which "seems to require some otherworldly gift."

And, despite the common mantra that no one reads novels anymore, Hanson ultimately believes in their posterity.

"Alternative platforms and digital story telling [are] already replacing TV, which is still in the process of trying to replace novels," he said. "In the end, I think books will survive everything else."

Despite the upheaval the entertainment industry is undergoing at the moment, and the difficulty for writers — novelists and screenwriters alike — to gain traction in the current market, Hanson is undeterred. "No matter what ... there will always be a need for content, and writers provide that content," he said.

Despite his setbacks and the difficult, sometimes soul-wrenching nature of the job, Hanson is adamantly grateful. "Being a writer is a grand thing to be," he said.

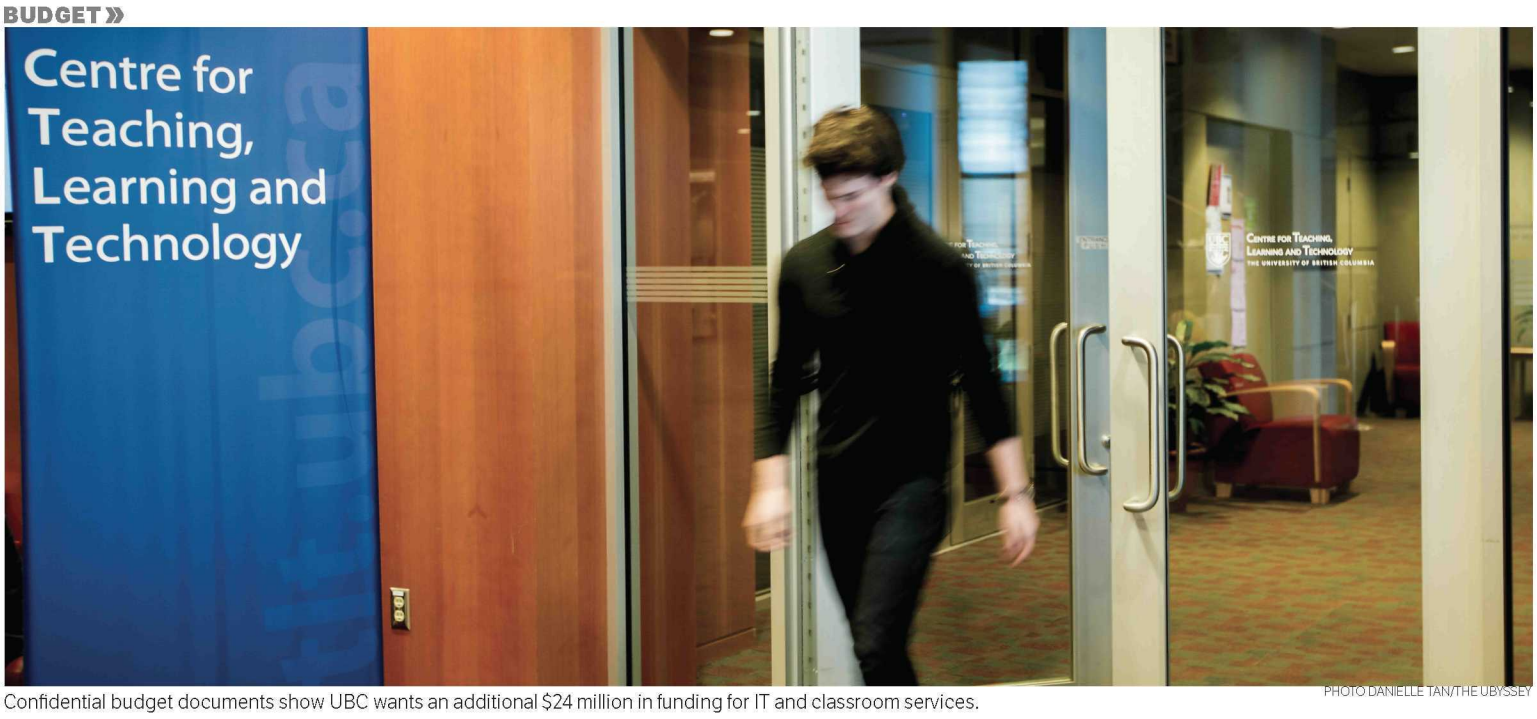
HART TO HART

What Hanson looks for in new screenwriters: "First, I look for writing that pops. Second, I look for great ideas and stories. Third, I look for energy and enthusiasm on the page. Fourth, I look for someone I'd want to spend time with — including personal hygiene. And somewhere in there I do care about spelling and punctuation."

Advice for aspiring writers: "Write and write and write and write and write some more. Writing begets better writing. Using the imagination begets better imagineering. It's like practicing a musical instrument."

Be sure to pick up our Travel Supplement and Sex Supplement next week to figure out where to vacation and how to sex.

BUDGET »



Confidential budget documents show UBC wants an additional $24 million in funding for IT and classroom services.

PHOTO DANIELLE TAN/THE UBYSSEY

UBC classrooms, infrastructure and IT underfunded by millions

Will McDonald
News Editor

UBC's final budget won't be released until March, but after *The Ubyssey* obtained confidential budget documents, the university administration has opened up about some of the numbers.

"I've indicated the two areas that definitely keep me awake at night, one being infrastructure, the other being student services," said Pierre Ouillet, UBC's VP finance, resources and operations.

The documents indicate classrooms, infrastructure and IT are underfunded by $24 million.

"We've got to renew and improve our systems and we know that we need to increase our IT budget quite significantly over the next two or three years," said Ouillet.

Ouillet said UBC also needs to invest more in classrooms and classroom services, especially to support flexible learning initiatives.

"The 20th century version of the classroom doesn't meet the need of 2014 and we need to invest and spend significantly more," said Ouillet.

The budget slides also indicate a lack of funding for student services, though Ouillet and Janet Teasdale, managing director of student development and services, said the numbers on the leaked budget slides are incorrect.

"There is a gap in student services where we are currently operating and where [in] an ideal state we would be operating," said Teasdale.

Teasdale said that while UBC has prioritized student services funding in areas such as counselling and the Early Alert System, there is still a lot of work to be done.

"We've prioritized those and we're engaged in a conversation about how we work to close those gaps. The concerning part ... was turning away students, and we do not turn students away in counselling. We just couldn't ever do that," said Teasdale. "That said, there are some significant gaps."

Teasdale said the numbers on the slides related to WorkLearn and GoGlobal are inaccurate, but both programs could use additional funding to serve more students.

Ouillet said many of these budgeting concerns are connected to a drop in funding from the province. He said that over the past five years, the percentage of UBC's budget funded by provincial grants has decreased from 50 per cent to 43 per cent.

"We need to make up for that gap," Ouillet said. "It's pretty basic math. There are two ways to address that. One is you cut your costs ... and two, you diversify your revenues."

The budget slides list diversification of professional programs and an increase in international students — partly attracted through high university rankings — to make up for the gaps in the budget.

"It's this virtuous circle of revenue diversification and reinvestment back into the academic mission of UBC that I think I was trying to highlight in this document," said Ouillet.

Ouillet said UBC will need to look at provincial funding, increased revenue from students and other revenue sources such as hosting more conferences on campus in the summer to pad the budget.

"We are in a tough base on the provincial side. I think the province is very focused on balancing their own budget, and therefore we're not expecting a lot more support," said Ouillet.

The budget documents also show the university is considering a "tuition reset" for the Faculty of Law.

"The Faculty of Law has made it quite public and has been consulting with its faculty and its students around its budget that it's not sustainable, so that will have to be addressed," said Ouillet. "Clearly they are not in the position of financial sustainability."

The documents also show the university is continuing to look at restructuring the Faculty of Medicine.

"We are talking years rather than months, but there are enough people working together on this issue, and have been over the past couple of years, that I think we see progress," said Ouillet.

Ouillet also said the university will continue to look for inefficiencies in its budget.

"I don't think any of us will have the arrogance of saying that UBC is perfect. There will always be areas of inefficiencies. Any large organization has them. We keep hunting them down, but there is no easy way," said Ouillet.

Although the draft budget document indicates the university was considering faculty buyouts to make up for a $27 million decrease in faculty reserves, Ouillet said the university never actually considered faculty buyouts.

"Buyout was not on the table, and that's why I'm at a great offense unto a leak," said Ouillet. "I think what faculties are doing is, whenever there are budget constraints, managing attrition.

"The first versions are highly incorrect. I can tell you there probably have been ... between 35 and 30 versions of that document and you got an early version that was not for distribution because it was a draft."

ACADEMICS »

Teaching evaluations may be released by department

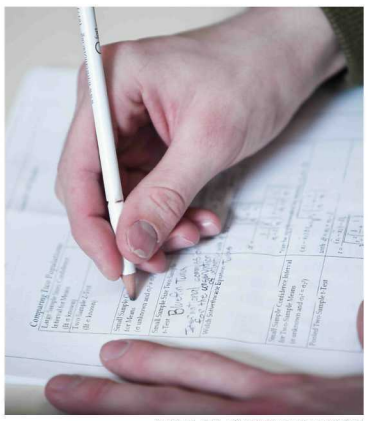


PHOTO JOSH CURRAN/THE UBYSSEY

Currently, results are released by faculty.

Kari Lindberg
Staff Writer

UBC is considering releasing the results of teacher evaluations by department instead of the current system of releasing them by faculty.

The issue came up at Senate two weeks ago when a senator inquired about the possibility.

This change was brought up at the last student Senate caucus, by a senator inquiring either the results of the teacher evaluations could be provided by department. Previous implementation of releasing the teacher evaluation results by department had not occurred before simply because a change in the way the results were released had never been considered.

Anna Kindler, UBC's associate VP academic, said the student evaluation committee will report back to the teaching and learning committee with a recommendation once they examine the proposed changes.

Graham Beales, vice-chair of the student Senate caucus, said the way faculties issue teaching evaluations should be updated.

"The results virtually give no information," said Beales. "If you look at the results, the averages of each faculty with the exception of one is an average of 4.1 out of five. Too disconnected."

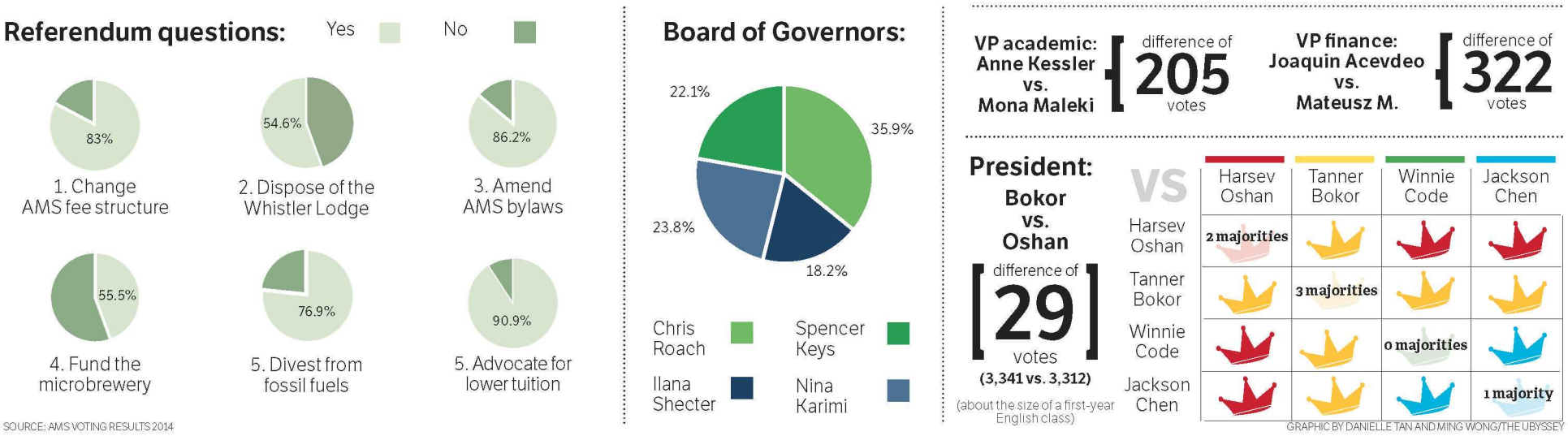
The results from teacher evaluations are used to provide professors with tenure and give out promotions. Low scores are also used as indicator that a professor is not teaching up to UBC's standards.

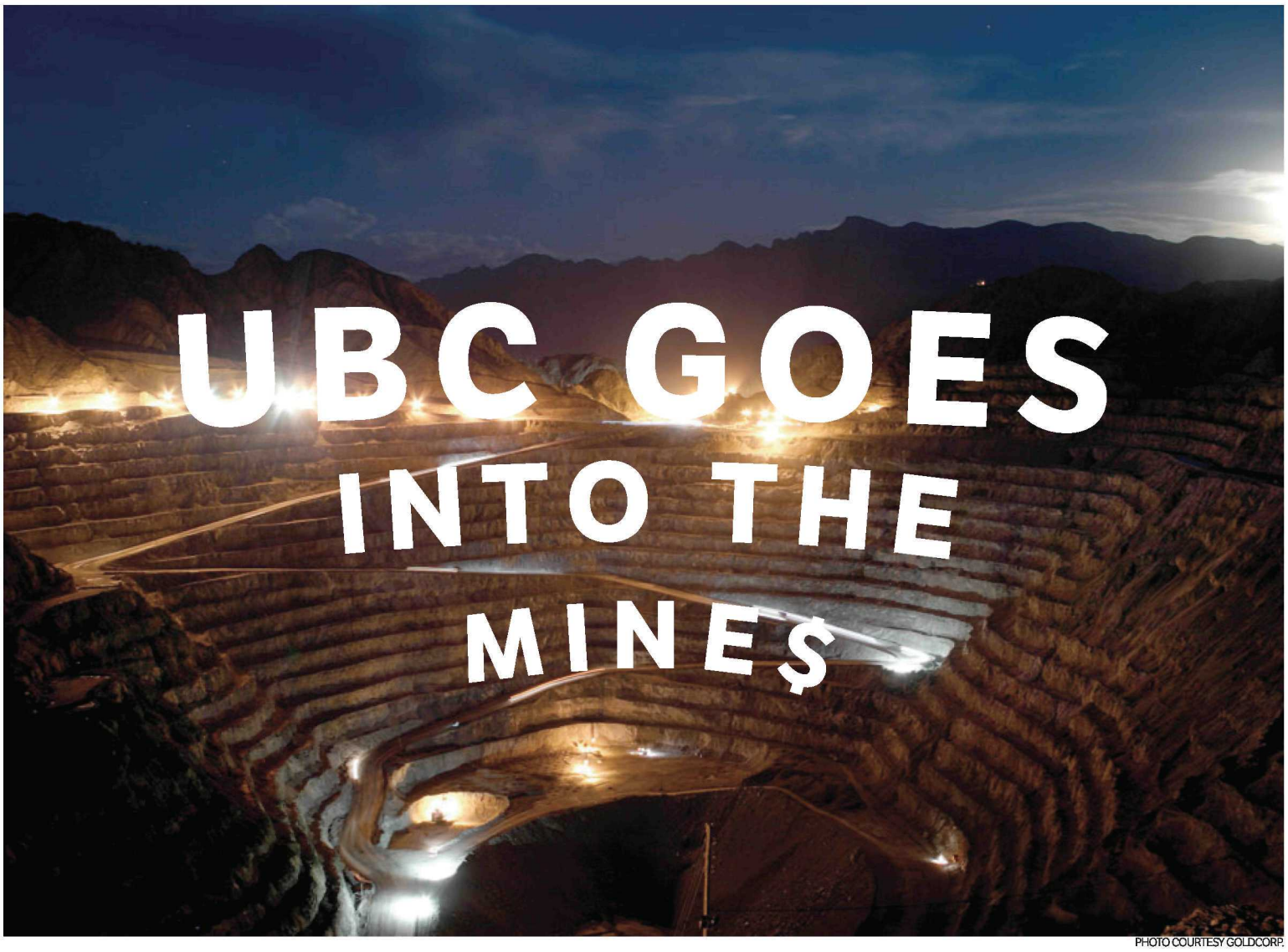
Beales said the goal is to have the new method of releasing teaching evaluations in place by fall 2015.

INFOGRAPHIC »

ELECTION RESULTS

22.4% = VOTER TURNOUT = (~ 10,000 students) = ⇓**21.5 per cent** from last year, which had a U-Pass referendum question





UBC GOES INTO THE MINES

PHOTO COURTESY GOLDCORP.

UBC's new mining institute says their mission is to reduce poverty. But with most of their funding coming from the Canadian government, will they just become Ottawa's trade policy puppets?

By Arno Rosenfeld

The new international mining institute at UBC is bankrolled by a Canadian government eager to promote its trade policy overseas, and both the institute and university expect donations to pour in from mining companies.

Despite critics who assail the Canadian International Institute for Extractive Industries and Development (CIIEID) as a tool of Canadian companies, institute director Bern Klein and others involved in the project insist that while they may be receiving funds from a government and industry that wants to buy influence, they are going to proceed independently whether their backers like it or not.

The institute officially opened its Agronomy Road headquarters on Wednesday. It was conceived by the federal government, which has funded it with a $25 million contribution to be spent over five years. Its official mandate is to improve the governance of extractive sectors in developing countries. Klein, the CIIEID interim executive director, said that means helping various levels of governments in foreign countries understand best practices for drafting regulations on how mining companies can operate.

But, Klein said, the true mission of the CIIEID is poverty reduction among local populations in developing countries. As for whether it is a conflict of interest for an educational institute to receive government funding or work in an industry with spotty human rights and environmental records, Klein is not worried.

"I don't see it as an issue at all," Klein said. "There's no strings attached to it — and there could not be, that wouldn't even be allowed in the university system here at UBC."

However, a *Ubyssey* investigation has revealed deep ties between the CIIEID and the Canadian extractive resources industry, as well as tens of millions of dollars coming from the federal government earmarked for aiding Canada's economic interests overseas.

At least three institute directors, including Klein, have extensive experience working for private mining companies and have been the recipients of millions of dollars in research grants.

Additionally, though the CIIEID describes its mission as improving "governance of extractive sectors in developing countries" with an eye toward ending issues such as "conflict and corruption," the core of the institute's funding comes from government dollars aimed at improving Canada's economic interests abroad.

AID AGENCY OR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE?

UBC's joint bid with SFU and École Polytechnique de Montréal, the three partner universities that now make up the CIIEID, came after the Canadian government solicited ideas for an international mining institute. The agency overseeing the bids was the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), which has also agreed to provide $24.6 million in funding over five years.

While UBC has contributed $6.69 million in cash and in-kind services over five years, the CIDA funds make up the bulk of the institute's budget, and the CIIEID would not exist without the federal government conceiving of it and providing the financial backing. Given the federal government's recent pivot toward using international aid to developing countries as a strategic foreign policy tool, some have questioned what the true mission of the institute is.

Since its founding in 1968, CIDA worked to administer Canadian foreign aid to developing countries. However, under Stephen Harper's Conservative government, the agency — which was folded into the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) over the summer — turned its eye toward furthering Canadian economic interests abroad.

Nipa Banerjee — who worked for CIDA for 35 years, including as the agency's mission leader in Afghanistan — was surprised the government had put its development funds toward an academic mining institute.

"My God, I mean, $25 million is substantial," Banerjee said, calling from the University of Ottawa where she is a professor focusing on international aid and development.

During her time with the agency, she said, there was no conception of its work as blatantly promoting the country's strategic interests.

"It was Canadian values and it was the benefit that Canada gains from a peaceful and developed world," she explained. "But certainly it was not directly and clearly mentioned that it would focus on Canada's economic interest."

While CIDA was not shuttered until last June, when international aid moved into DFATD's portfolio, there is clear evidence the agency had already shifted its focus to promoting Canadian corporate interests abroad. In a confidential CIDA report compiled last spring, before the agency's folding into DFATD, the factors deciding whether Canada should continue delivering foreign aid to various developing countries were laid out in stark terms.

The number one factor determining if CIDA should continue spending money in a country was whether a country benefited Canada's "commercial" interests.

"This indicator is ... to determine which developing countries would offer Canada the greatest potential for trade expansion," a section of the report read. Commercial factors were followed second by "security" and finally "values," which included "human rights" interests.

The report, obtained by *The Globe and Mail* through an access-to-information request and shared with *The Ubyssey*, highlights the potential for expanded mining opportunity as a reason to continue administering aid on par with severe humanitarian need.

"Bolivia is the poorest country in South America, with some of the worst maternal and child mortality rates in the Americas," the entry on that country reads. "Bolivia also has mineral resources."

The use of humanitarian assistance to open markets to Canadian mining companies is also on display in the Bolivia assessment.

Writing that Canadian mining companies could operate in the country "should the regulatory context improve," the report adds, "Canadian technical assistance also supports the improvement of Bolivia's regularity environment of the extractive sector."

"The main critique I have is that it's really not humanitarian assistance anymore, it is directly linked with Canada's economic interests," Banerjee said.

DFATD spokesperson Charleen Bortot said the government simply realized the private sector had a role to play in administering international aid, and the government was responding accordingly.

"Canada has been increasing its effort to work with the private sector, including the extractive sector, to help improve the lives of people living in poverty. Supporting responsible extractive sector development can reduce poverty and create sustainable economic benefits for developing countries," Bortot wrote in an email.

AN AMBASSADOR FOR INDUSTRY?

Speaking at a June meeting of the Mining Association of Canada, the federal international cooperation minister told mining company representatives that the CIIEID "will be your biggest and best ambassador."

"Your industry is a leader, internationally, and we want to help you succeed," the minister, Julian Fantino, said.

Indeed, despite his adamance regarding the institute's independence, Klein recognizes that CIDA probably funded the CIIEID because it believed that would help the interests of Canadian industry.

> **The work that this institute is going to do will follow industry and government money. Based on previous experience that we've observed of CIDA investment ... it's really been devastating.**
>
> **Jennifer Moore**
> MiningWatch

Government has "been very clear that they're trying to link ... trade to development," Klein acknowledged. "So that's their goal. From the point of the institute, we are not influenced by their agenda, by their goals."

Malcolm Scoble, director of advisory services for the CIIEID and former head of UBC's mining department, seemed more open

The new mining institute is housed on campus in the

to the possibility that the institute's financial backing could lead to problems.

"We recognize the fact that in five years' time, the federal government money ceases to be flowing into this institute to support it, so we have to ... look to that future," Scoble said. "Our plans for sustainability at this point in time are not really shaped in any sense of form to deal with that, but we're consciously aware of that."

Scoble said it was likely the institute could reapply to DFATD for more federal dollars after the CIDA money runs out, which means balancing the maintenance of academic integrity while keeping the future financial health of the CIIEID in mind.

"It's a question of compromise between ensuring that we really get to launch some high quality projects and interactions, but at the same time, keep in mind developing the capacity so that eventually this is something that is sustainable without, if you like, giving up [the CIIEID's] central objective and, in a sense, its independence," Scoble said. "As you can see, that's fraught with some contradictions along the way that we're going to have to negotiate."

Some outside the institute, such as Jennifer Moore of the Canadian NGO MiningWatch, are skeptical that the institute will be able to effectively manage that tricky situation.

"The work that this institute is going to do will follow industry and government money," Moore said. "Based on previous experience that we've observed of CIDA investment in policy and institutional change in foreign countries, it's really been devastating."

Moore specifically referred to what she said was the work of CIDA and the Canadian diplomatic mission in Honduras to sideline the country's civil society activists and rewrite Honduran mining laws in the aftermath of a government takeover by the military in 2009.

But Klein dismissed all such concerns, saying the institute is independent of government interests and would only provide information to governments — from the national level down to individual communities — if asked, and would not make proactive policy recommendations.

"It's about informed decisions, and if a country decides that it's not in its best interest to have extractive activities, that's completely up to them," he said. "But if they want to find out what are the opportunities and benefits that would come from that, as well as what are the negative impacts, we can provide that information."

WAITING FOR INDUSTRY DOLLARS

While questions over CIDA funding for the CIIEID revolve around the federal government's desire to use its international aid budget to promote Canadian trade, mining corporations themselves are expected to fund the institute and pour money into the coffers of UBC.

PHOTO DANIELLE TAN/THE UBYSSEY
Technology Enterprise Building.

An April 2013 report given to UBC's Board of Governors described three potential sources of future funding for the institute: fundraising "primarily from mining, oil and gas industries," charitable grants and fees charged for services.

"Right now we actually don't have funding from industry, so we are hoping in the years to come that we will be able to access their funding," Klein said, clarifying that it would be made clear to any potential donors that the CIIEID had a clear mission and would not deviate from it due to financial contributions.

Accessing those funds will be important for the university, which along with SFU has committed to supporting the institute for 10 years even though CIDA money will last for only five. UBC seems abundantly confident, though, that mining companies will be eager to donate not only to the institute but to the university as well, as the CIIEID boosts UBC's image as a centre for mining-related academia.

"Reputational benefits will lead to new development and fundraising opportunities from industry (mining, oil and gas) for the institute, but also more broadly for UBC," the BoG report read.

The institute has tens of "institutional partners," including NGOs, foreign governments and mining companies. Seven mining corporations, such as Vancouver's Goldcorp, will be offering "knowledge sharing and collaboration on specific objectives" of the institute, according to the CIIEID's contribution agreement with CIDA.

UBC was not oblivious of the fact the CIIEID might taint the university's reputation. The institute's work being "perceived to primarily respond to Canadian industry needs vs. developing countries" was listed as a potential risk if the board approved the institute.

Moore, of MiningWatch, said concern was well-founded — while the federal government and corporations may view an independent academic institute as lending legitimacy to their economic goals, the institute itself could well come under fire for accepting contributions from those entities.

"Direct government support is facing some issues in terms of credibility and legitimacy," Moore said. "I think the academic institute, by virtue of latching itself to those interests, will also carry with it some credibility issues."

Klein said that so long as the institute prioritized transparency, which he says it will, observers are free to come to their own conclusions.

"Anybody can look at us and criticize us for anything that we're doing in light of that potential conflict of interest," Klein said. "That doesn't mean that you don't proceed, it just means that you acknowledge it and make sure you have transparency."

NO STRANGERS TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR

In addition to federal and potential industry funding for the institute, several CIIEID directors have extensive private sector experience.

Klein's official CIIEID biography mentions that he "spent eight years as a consulting process metallurgist" and touts his work with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization helping limit the impact of the use of mercury in artisanal mining. A more detailed history of Klein's work was on display in a copy of his CV on file with the university, obtained by *The Ubyssey* through an access-to-information request. The document shows that since 1998, Klein has been party to approximately $6.5 million in grants from private corporations — often through the federal government's NSERC program, which partners industry with academic experts.

> **Anybody can look at us and criticize us for anything that we're doing in light of that potential conflict of interest. That doesn't mean you don't proceed, it just means that you acknowledge it and make sure you have transparency.**
>
> **Jennifer Moore**
> MiningWatch

The corporations funding Klein's research, the subject of which was redacted on the documents, include companies with spotty environmental and human rights records such as Placer Dome, Teck Resources and Vale.

Vancouver-based Teck was sued in 2002 after a group of Eskimo villagers in Alaska claimed water from Teck's Red Dog mine was poisoning their drinking water. Teck was found liable for 824 violations of the U.S. Clean Water Act in a pretrial ruling before the company reached a settlement with the villagers in 2008, agreeing to spend $120 million to build a 52-mile pipeline to divert waste from the mine. The *Alaska Dispatch* reported that as of 2014, Teck had yet to build the pipeline and was once again dumping pollutants into a local creek after receiving state approval.

In 2004, the company was sued by the Colville Confederated Tribes and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for intentionally polluting the Columbia River as far back as 1896. Teck would eventually admit to dumping millions of tons of mining waste into the river. Additionally, last Tuesday Teck spilled between 12,000 and 25,000 litres of sodium hydroxide into a sewage line near Trail, B.C., the company said.

The company has spent $1 billion mitigating pollution and improving the environmental conditions of its Teck mine, a CBC report last week said.

David Parker, senior adviser to the CIIEID, worked at Teck for 21 years, according to his institute biography. Parker served as VP sustainability for Teck from 2008 to 2012.

Placer Dome, which was headquartered in Vancouver but acquired by Toronto's Barrick Gold in 2006, has a raft of alleged human rights violations.

At Barrick's Poregera gold mine in Papau New Guinea, a 2011 Human Rights Watch report described "a pattern of violent abuses, including horrifying gang rape ... carried out by members of the mine's private security force.

"For years, local activists have alleged that mine security personnel carry out extrajudicial killings and other violent abuses against illegal miners and other local residents," the report read. "The mine has also been widely condemned for discharging six million tons of liquid tailings (mine waste) into the nearby Porgera River."

HRW also credits Barrick with taking "some meaningful steps" to address issues raised in the report. Prior to Barrick's takeover of the mine in 2006, however, the security force was even less disciplined and had not joined onto agreements like the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights.

In 2004, Klein received a $45,000 grant from Placer Dome for unspecified research.

According to another HRW report, titled "'What Is a House Without Food?': Mozambique's Coal Mining Boom and Resettlements," coal mines operated by Vale and Rio Tinto have displaced local residents and forced them into new villages where they "have faced significant and sustained disruptions in accessing food, water and work."

In 2006, Vale — whose corporate operations are based in the Cayman Islands, a notorious tax haven — acquired Inco, then Canada's second-largest mining company. Klein recorded $322,592 in grants from Inco from 2007 to 2008, following its acquisition by Vale.

In 2012, Vale received the Public Eye award for being the company with the most "contempt for the environment and human rights" in the world.

Marcello Veiga, another faculty member at the institute, consulted for Placer Dome from 1999 to 2000 and previously worked for Vale studying "new opportunities for the mining and chemical sector," and "ideas to expand markets of the CVRD [Vale] group."

Klein defended his and his colleagues' industry-commissioned research, saying it was essential to helping mining companies improve their operations. Noting that all the research was publicly available and did not exclusively benefit the supporting corporation, Klein said his research specifically focused on how companies could become more environmentally friendly through improved waste management and the use of green energy.

PHOTO COURTESY GOLDCORP.

"We are the group of people, the universities are, that can conduct that work in Canada," Klein said. "Partnering with industry, if you're going to have impact, is critical. I couldn't do this work without partnering with industry and then [hoping] they would adopt the technologies that we're working on."

When it comes to working with companies with especially bad environmental or human rights track records, Klein made the comparison to the CIIEID operating in a corrupt country, and said that was all the more reason to get involved.

"We wouldn't want to work in a country unless we thought we could have an impact," Klein said. "A lot of our work will reflect onto the private sector and it will influence them to change."

Klein also noted that in the past 15 years, mining companies have begun focusing on improving their environmental records, meaning that much of the research he and other faculty at the institute participated in was aiding in that mission.

Place Dome, Klein said, was the first mining company to produce a sustainability report, now standard practice across the industry.

Still, critics point out that Canada's mining industry has a uniquely bad record when it comes to human rights. A 2009 report on the impact of Canadian mining companies in the developing world by the Canadian Centre for the Study of Resource Conflict was suppressed by its industry funders, but later leaked and published. The report found 171 incidents from 1999 through 2009 where Canadian extractive industry companies were involved in "community conflict, human rights abuses, unlawful or unethical practices, or environmental degradation in a developing country."

"In comparison to their closest peers, Australia and the United Kingdom, Canadians were involved in more than four times as many incidents," the report found.

POTENTIAL FOR GOOD

Despite ties to industry, which are to an extent inevitable when working in the world of extractive industry research, the CIIEID has impressive goals. These include aiding disadvantaged groups in developing countries, including women and aboriginals; assessing the needs of local populations where extractive resources are located and training government officials; and graduate students from the developing countries where the CIIEID will be active.

CIIEID spokesperson Sara McIntyre pointed to a program for artisanal miners in Ecuador as an example of the institute's work on poverty alleviation. CIIEID is assisting independent, small-scale miners stabilize their livelihoods and training them in proper environmental practices, how to effectively negotiate with large mining corporations and how to turn their operations into functioning companies.

Scoble, the director of advisory services at CIIEID, said the line the institute was walking between cooperating with and perhaps aiding industry and working toward the more benevolent goal of poverty alleviation was similar to the mission of UBC's mining department.

"We graduate people who are going to enter the mining engineering industry, but as a consequence of what we hope their educational experience will be, we're hoping they're going to contribute to positive industry practices," Scoble said.

Scoble added that while Canadian government-funded efforts to affect the governance of extractive resource industries in foreign countries have been criticized in the past, the CIIEID is uniquely situated due to its interdisciplinary nature. Bringing together SFU's Beedie School of Business and UBC and EPM's diverse engineering and education experience will allow the institute to approach difficult situations in innovative ways.

"We've got an inherent belief in the nature of this kind of assistance to the developing world and we want to try and make it succeed," Scobel said.

Klein demurred when asked if the federal government would be pleased with CIIEID's work.

"In their request for the proposal, there [were] specific goals that the institute needs to address," Klein said of the three universities' original pitch to CIDA. "If we're able to achieve those goals and demonstrate poverty reduction, they should be satisfied that we've done what we've been asked to do." ᵘ

SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING »

More than a dance routine in the pool

UBC Synchro Club headed to nationals in Ontario this weekend, hoping for competitive club status

Reyhana Heatherington
Senior Lifestyle Writer

To hear Jacqueline Tiplady describe her sport of choice, you might think she was discussing football, soccer, or even mixed martial arts.

"You get beat up a lot," she says. "Obviously your legs are going everywhere. It can get kind of violent."

Tiplady, a fifth-year English literature major, is the treasurer of the UBC Synchro Club.

While ladies in frilly bathing suits are the stereotypical image of synchronized swimming, Tiplady says people don't realize how physically demanding the sport can be.

"It's kind of funny when I come home with bruises on my legs and people are like ... 'Did you get that from soccer?' [I say,] 'No, synchro,'" Tiplady laughs.

She began swimming at age 10, has been on the advanced synchro team at UBC for five years and is now the oldest member of that team.

> It's kind of funny when I come home with bruises on my legs and people are like ... 'Did you get that from soccer?' [I say,] 'No, synchro.'
>
> **Jacqueline Tiplady**
> Treasurer, UBC Synchro Club

Like many other UBC sports teams and clubs, UBC Synchro president Melissa Chiu and the team's coaches filled out an application in the hopes of being granted competitive club status next year.

PHOTO STEVEN RICHARDS AND RHIANNE LANZ/THE UBYSSEY

Members of the UBC Synchro Club practice one of their routines in preparation for the national championships.

"We're not sure how realistic it is for us to expect varsity status, so our goal is to hopefully get competitive club status," Tiplady says. "It would certainly help us attract more high-performance athletes, and become a stronger team in general."

"We will do whatever it takes to get the support that our athletes deserve from UBC," Chiu wrote in an email to *The Ubyssey*.

The club has advanced and novice-level teams totalling about 24 swimmers. The "up-and-coming" novice program has doubled in size in the past two years, and one of the novice teams has won gold at the Canadian University Synchronized Swimming League (CUSSL) Western meets for two consecutive seasons. Since the advanced team often competes against schools with more funding and former national team swimmers, Tiplady says for now, the UBC team is just "in it for fun." This year, through fundraising efforts including a pub night, bake sales and a Kickstarter campaign, the team raised $1,800, which goes towards pool time, coaches' salaries and travel to the national competition in Ontario.

Rebecca Molnar, a third-year anthropology major and vice-president of the Synchro Club, is in her second year with the novice team. She became involved with synchro when her best friend, the head novice coach, convinced her to give it a try. She was soon a convert.

"I realized how much I loved it really quickly," Molnar says. "I danced and did gymnastics before, so it was a fairly good transition for me."

One key element in synchronized swimming is coordinating patterns in close proximity to each other. This year, the team found a new way to remind themselves about this rule.

"If you put out your arms, bent at a 90-degree angle, your elbow should be touching your neighbours, so we've come up with a term: 'elbros,'" Molnar says. "So if [we're] not close enough, our coach yells at us, 'Find your elbro!'"

For Molnar, the Western meet was nerve-wracking. Fortunately, having home pool advantage as event co-hosts was helpful for the team.

"This competition was really great because it was at home — we were able to have our friends and family there, cheering us on," she says. "So that was really special."

Molnar took home gold for her solo event as well as gold with her novice team. Like Tiplady, she thinks the sport doesn't get the credit it deserves, despite being an Olympic sport since the 1984 Games in Los Angeles.

"It's important for people to recognize that synchronized swimming is a sport," she says. "You'd see the flower caps and diving into the water one right after another, but it's an extremely athletic activity and I think that it would be nice for people to recognize it as such."

The UBC Synchro team will head to McMaster University this weekend to compete in the nationals.

T-BIRDS 5-ON-5

WATER BABIES

	LUKE PEDDIE	BRITTNEY HARLEY	KAYLA JOHNSTON	KIRSTEN LEE	ROBERT GAGE
	Swimming	Swimming	Alpine skiing	Track	Rowing
1. What aquatic activity do you do most often and what's the best part about it?	Swimming. I can't get enough of the water. It's such a foreign but fun medium to play with, as long as I'm in the comforting confines of a pool.	Swimming. The best part is celebrating success with my team.	Scuba diving. I love the feeling of defying nature and breathing underwater.	I spend three mornings a week pool running to get in some non-impact mileage. [It's] pretty dull, but if you're lucky the swim team is there and that is never a bad sight.	Rowing takes up most of my time. Since you face backwards, there is something innately pleasing about watching the crews you 're beating.
2. Describe the UBC Aquatic Centre in three words.	Grungy, humbling, home.	"It's a mess," like Marty Huggins from *The Campaign* says it.	Wet, moist and damp.	Needs a waterslide!	Damp youth hostel.
3. What's your favourite energy/sports drink?	Concentrated Gatorade.	I drink nothing but water — seems to do the trick.	I like to keep it simple so it's actually just water.	Starbucks coffee.	Nothing gets me up for a 5 a.m. row like the caffeine in MusclePharm, or its street cousin Hyphy Mud.
4. What was your most memorable encounter with an aquatic animal?	None. I'm so terrified of open water that I have never had one.	The fat rat that came from under the pool bleachers and graced us with its presence after practice one day. We named him Templeton.	The time I went scuba diving and came face to face with the legendary Okanagan Lake serpent called Ogopogo.	My sister Robyn is actually part fish. She spends more time in the water than on dry land, since she's a competitive swimmer.	Joe Forte has a really nice sable fish and risotto.
5. If you won a yacht, what would you name it?	*Poseidon's Trident.*	*Frank the Tank*, because that would be legendary.	*Hope She Floats* — because when it really comes down to it, thats what we should all pray for.	*Titanic* — because no one should ever trust me with a boat.	*Knotty Adventures*, for obvious reasons.

OPERA »

Beneath the mask

What it takes to walk the stage in UBC's rigorous opera program

Rebekah Ho
Contributor

Il cappello di paglia di Firenze (*The Florentine Straw Hat*) is the type of opera where the appropriate response to a horse eating a hat is for the cast to spiral into *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*-esque theatrics. UBC Opera is the first Canadian group to present this farcical story about an affair gone wrong, a chaotic wedding and the universal experience of having irrational family members.

"The thing to keep in mind about this opera is that it was based out of a silent movie story ... so the acting that is appropriate for this opera is very grand and very physical and very exaggerated," said Kevin Guiman, a third-year opera major who plays Vezinet, the deaf uncle.

"I still laugh out loud on stage sometimes," said Geoff Schellenberg, who plays Beaupertuis, the jealous husband. "It's really a lot of physical humor.... People are always in the wrong spot or are mistaken for someone else."

The cast promises a non-stop show that will keep the audience laughing. They themselves cannot predict what may happen on stage.

"The action never really stops for someone just to sing a song about how they're feeling," said Deborah Blakesley, who plays the dramatic baroness. "There [are] so many possibilities for things to change or go wrong or for costumes to explode. [We could have] feather boas everywhere ... like birds died on stage. You just never know what's going to happen, and that's part of the fun, because you can't stop."

First premiering in 1955, *The Florentine Straw Hat* was written by famed Italian composer Nino Rota, who also created the renowned soundtrack to *The Godfather*. The UBC cast received their scores in November and have been working on it everyday since.

"I was probably putting in ... at least two [or] three hours a day trying to memorize the music," said Schellenberg. "That was just learning it and not singing through it and finding out how it sits in your voice, and then having to add the staging to it and remembering what it means in English."

Perfecting the craft of opera is not as formulaic as just practicing for four or five hours a day. On top of that, UBC opera majors have to take three years of languages — French, Italian and German — and other academic courses such as English, music theory and history, all while rehearsing for shows.

"We're here from morning to evening, either doing our homework, doing our classwork or rehearsing, and then lessons every week with our professors," said Guiman. "It's getting into that mentality that you need to know all these things in order to prepare for your role."

"[Your voice] an organic instrument, [and] you just have to keep building on what you have," said Schellenberg. "Once you have your foundation of technique, you have your music, [and] you learn your words. You coach with piano, [and] you learn what the orchestra is doing beneath you and what the other characters are doing and then you start singing with other people."

> **You're on stage with all your music memorized, which means you understand what the music is supposed to represent and [you also know] what every word means and [are] trying to express it with your characterization and your poise. Everything comes together to create a complete story and put that all together.**
>
> **Geoff Schellenberg**
> Third-year opera student

Opera singers face the challenge of playing the role of musician, actor and linguist all at once, and additionally, they have to do it without a microphone.

"We have to compete with this [30 to 60] piece orchestra, and not everybody can be that loud to cut through that orchestra," Guiman said. "That's a unique thing about opera."

"The orchestra in most operas are telling their own story and you're heightening it with the words and you're enhancing the melody as the singer," said Schellenberg. "[It's] different type of work and tends to have more emphasis on a larger ensemble."

Even though the UBC music program is intensive and a career in opera is demanding, these young singers still want to share what they are passionate about — because they are able to understand the meaning behind the music.

"You're on stage, with all your music memorized, which means you understand what the music is supposed to represent and [you also know] what every word means and [are] trying to express it with your characterization and your poise," said Schellenberg. "Everything comes together to create a complete story and put that all together."

Guiman stays hopeful and wants to people to recognize the fruit of an opera singer's labour.

"Once you've done the work, you appreciate the art form more, and I believe that it gives nourishment to the mind and soul when you truly understand and truly appreciate opera, because it's been here for a very long time and there's a reason why," said Guiman. "For us young people who are trying to make opera as a career, it's depressing to see that there are opera houses that are closing and the art form is slowly dwindling, but as young people who are passionate about opera, it's our job to show people that there is a reason why this art form is still here and why it's important."

The Florentine Straw Hat will play at the Chan Centre from Feb. 6–9. Tickets are available at ticketmaster.com for $37.

Brent MacKenzie, left, will share the role of deaf uncle Vezinet with Kevin Guiman in UBC Opera's production of *The Florentine Straw Hat*. He is shown here both before (right) and after (left) application of makeup and a wig.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION GEOFF LISTER, STEVEN RICHARDS AND MACKENZIE WALKER/ THE UBYSSEY

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MUSIC »

Fretless folk foursome to fiddle at Point Grey

Alex Meisner
Staff Writer

Ten days and a great deal of tea.

That was all that was required for three fiddlers and a cellist to create the arrangements for their first album. The Fretless, made up of Ivonne Hernandez (fiddle), Karrnnel Sawitsky (fiddle), Trent Freeman (fiddle) and Eric Wright (cello), got together on Vancouver Island for the first time in November 2011, and quickly became known for taking string music to new and exciting places.

"There's nobody else that does what we do. A string quartet often is in a classical setting, and we don't play classical. So, I think that in itself is very unique," Hernandez explained. "We utilize the different things each instrument can do in its range, and then we expand on that and we add other elements that classical music doesn't really add."

The Fretless released their first album, *Waterbound*, in early 2012. They begin the debut tour of their newest arrangements on their latest self-titled album on Feb. 6.

"More so than an inspiration, it's trying to move this traditional music that we've all grown up playing, and move that in a different direction," said Freeman. "So it wasn't just coming from a particular event or emotion, but just a general expansion of what we already know. We're all coming at it from that same perspective ... which made it easy to push the music."

Freeman first started his musical career at UBC, before becoming Hernandez's roommate at Berklee College of Music. "I had an awesome time at UBC. I was in the music program, I was studying classical music there," said Freeman. "Just being able to rehearse every week in the Chan Centre [was] pretty inspirational."

Having competed against Hernandez and Freeman in folk competitions across Canada, fellow fiddler Sawitsky agrees the new album showcases diversity and new sounds for fiddle lovers. "When I mean diversity, we live in the fiddle world, so our diversity isn't really diverse to someone who doesn't know the fiddle world. We didn't want just a straight album with a lot of fast reels.

"We're trying to reinvent something that's been around for a really long time."

What sets the Fretless apart from other string quartets? "Between the four of us, we all have a very diverse musical taste," said Sawitsky. Wright, who was living in L.A. when he joined the band, enjoys playing as a dubstep artist and rock band drummer; Fernandez likes mainstream pop music; and Freeman is drawn to the jazz scene.

"Myself, I'm more like the songwriter — my biggest passion is writing music, and just creating," said Sawitsky. "So I think the combination of those four different worlds is what helps to create our sound."

The Fretless are scheduled to perform in an album pre-release show in Point Grey on Feb. 9. "We're just having fun with it, with festivals, and different concerts and different cities. I'm really looking forward to it," said Hernandez.

The Fretless will perform at St. James Hall, located at 3214 West 10th Ave., on Feb. 9 at 8 p.m.

ILLUSTRATION JETHRO AU/THE UBYSSEY

While teams such as men's hockey and women's soccer await the decision on their future varsity status, other clubs hope to raise their status as well.

LAST WORDS // PARTING SHOTS AND SNAP JUDGEMENTS FROM THE UBYSSEY EDITORIAL BOARD

MOVING ON UP?

While we don't like seeing current UBC varsity teams in danger of losing their status, we applaud the university for offering AMS sports clubs to become competitive clubs under the UBC Athletics umbrella. Members of these clubs put considerable time, effort and money into their training and competition schedules, without much support from the university.

In some cases, their sports are contested in the CIS and NCAA and other university-level leagues. But perhaps most importantly, these clubs offer quality instruction to novices, which allows for participation by many UBC students. We hope increased funding and support for these clubs will benefit the student body as a whole, and encourage more people to get involved with UBC Athletics.

BUDGET BLUES

According to documents obtained by *The Ubyssey*, UBC has a funding shortage of approximately $25 million. While these numbers are not yet finalized, UBC VP Finance Pierre Ouillet says the funding problems in infrastructure and student services keep him awake at night.

Considering that many of these funding problems are the result of a decrease in provincial funding, UBC shouldn't be hopeful that the province will change their tune and make up the shortfall. And while hosting more conferences on campus during the summer should help, it's not going to raise $25 million — which could leave students to fund the difference.

UBC is considering raising tuition for the Faculty of Law, whose domestic students already pay over $10,000 annually (international students pay twice that). Tuition increases in other faculties were not on the documents, but Ouillet said UBC is looking for increased revenues from students.

UBC is also looking at restructuring, as is already happening in the Faculty of Applied Science and the Faculty of Medicine. We hope the university can weed out enough inefficiencies there that the weight of the deficit doesn't fall too hard on students.

RELEASE RESULTS EARLIER

The AMS elections are over, and for the most part, they went off without a hitch. There were no voting scandals and no one put together a Rick Mercer-esque video decrying other candidates.

But things could have run smoother. One problem was the code that governs the elections. It's a thick document full of contradictions and quick fixes to address online voting. The appeals system still references Student Court, which hasn't convened for years. It sets very specific timing schedules that aren't necessarily best for the society, and it needs to be updated, badly.

What did that mean for this election? It meant that if the elections administrator wanted to, say, interpret that code very conservatively, you get late election results, a weird schedule, a narrow period of time for nominations (because let's be honest, no one's thinking about the elections cycle during exams) and a plethora of violations and accusations that amounted to posturing. It didn't help that the rules were poorly communicated to candidates, either.

Luckily, AMS Council is going to have to address this document to rejig the election for next year, when the elections will take place later in the term. So this is a request: don't just make a cursory edit to the election rules — fix them.

Ban abortion graphics

JANE SHI
Op-Ed

Every year, the Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) puts on a campus display created by the Centre for Bioethical Reform and endorsed by a UBC pro-life club. This display consists of a series of magnified images of what the group claims are appropriate visualizations of abortion, placed next to images of historical genocides. This pairing is done to convey the message that abortion is comparable to genocide, and that people who receive abortions are morally equivalent to those in power who allow and commit genocides.

This school year ushers in the AMS Women's Centre's 40th anniversary. Speaking as its current coordinators, we find ourselves as dedicated as ever in our endeavours to end anything which compromises the safety and well-being of women (and everyone else who experiences gender-based oppression) in the UBC community. The ongoing presence of GAP at UBC concerns us because of its capacity to trigger, traumatize and shame the same bodies for which the AMS Women's Centre exists to provide safety.

About a week ago, we sent UBC President Stephen Toope a letter requesting a ban on the public presence of GAP imagery on campus. Rather than asking to prohibit the opinions, voices or bodies which promote these images, we asked Toope to simply stop GAP's graphic imagery from being displayed.

The signs contain images of bloodied bits of fetal flesh, dead babies, emaciated children, bloody corpses of people killed in genocides and wars, as well as victims of animal testing. UBC is comprised of people from diverse backgrounds including people who have experienced abortion, and survivors of genocide and war. These groups are especially vulnerable to being triggered from the violence these images depict, and it is unjustifiable to make them relive traumatic experiences they have endured.

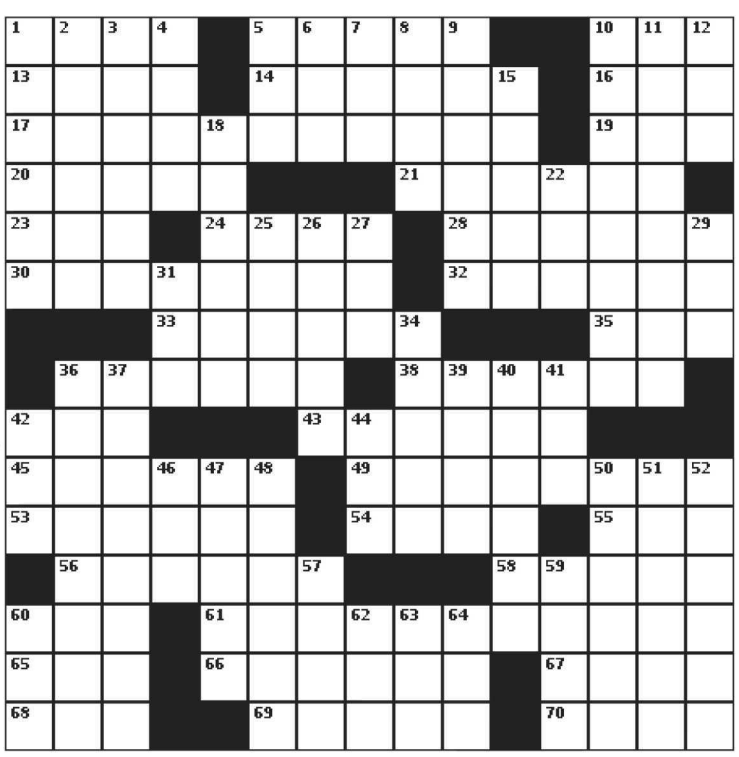
These images are displayed outside in areas of high traffic; sometimes these locations are particularly inappropriate. For example, last year the GAP display contained images of Holocaust victims, and was displayed in front of the Hillel House, an organization for Jewish students.

GAP states that anyone who gets an abortion is as blameworthy as people who incite war and commit genocide. One example of this shaming was visible last year, when a woman associated with GAP donned a grave facial expression and stood in front of the display with a sign around her neck reading "I regret my abortion." Such statements moralize against women who get pregnant even as a result of rape. Given the recent reports of sexual assaults on campus, and knowing that most acts of violence against women go unreported, we find this shaming unconscionable.

The claim that abortion is in any way equivalent to genocide is unwarranted. Genocide is defined as the systematic extermination of a specific group of people. Saying people who support or receive abortions are doing so to deliberately commit mass murder is blatantly illogical. Abortion is a surgical procedure performed for a variety of complex reasons, such as in the case of one's health being jeopardized by a pregnancy. GAP uses occurrences of genocide to promote their message, and in doing so they devalue the past and present horrors these events carry in the world. This is especially unacceptable considering the colonial history of the land UBC occupies, and the genocides committed here and across Canada against First Nations peoples.

The AMS Women's Centre respects all opinions regarding abortion and takes no specific stance in the life-versus-choice debate. However, we cannot accept the university's allowance of GAP displays given their potential to traumatize and harm our peers. Our student body is clearly disturbed by the GAP signs. Petitions, protests and narratives follow the display year after year, but these appeals are continuously ignored by the university administration. If the university cares about student safety, these voices ought to matter enough to be listened to and taken seriously.

We hope to highlight the AMS Women's Centre's awareness of GAP's longstanding presence on campus; in fact, UBC was the first post-secondary institution in Canada to display the signs. We stress that lack of action taken by Toope and administration galvanizes us as a Centre to take further action to hold the university accountable.



PUZZLE COURTESY BESTCROSSWORDS.COM. USED WITH PERMISSION.

ACROSS

1- Narrate
5- Eagle's home
10- ___ Tafari (Haile Selassie)
13- Space
14- Beats me
16- CPR expert
17- Perturbation
19- Salary
20- Trunk
21- City in S Arizona
23- Man-mouse connector
24- Actor Beatty and others
28- Protects
30- Inflammation of bone
32- Greek goddess of the hearth
33- Angel of death
35- Chang's twin
36- Coarse sieve
38- Within
42- RR stop
43- About
45- Book boo-boos
49- Observer
53- Gasoline
54- Scandinavian capital
55- Hail, to Caesar
56- *Fiddler on the Roof* setting
58- Jabbed
60- Born in the ___
61- State of the NE United States
65- Beverage made with beaten eggs
66- District
67- Church recess
68- Before, of yore
69- Colorado resort
70- Midday

DOWN

1- Body art
2- Mistakes
3- Ogle
4- Drinks (as a cat)
5- Assist
6- Writer LeShan
7- Furrow
8- Monogram ltr.
9- Adequate
10- Made known
11- Prepared with almonds
12- Pigpen
15- When prompted
18- Remove an electron, say
22- KLM rival
25- French 101 verb
26- Roman goddess of the moon
27- Compass pt.
29- Droop
31- Musical gift
34- Big cats
36- Job change or marriage, psychologically speaking
37- Ancient city-state in N Africa
39- Invalid
40- Busybodies
41- Altar words
42- Equinox mo.
44- Aussie hopper
46- Singer Garfunkel
47- It's human
48- Gibson of tennis
50- Flightless parrot of New Zealand
51- Be that as it may
52- Blush
57- Records
59- Pearl Buck heroine
60- Article in *Le Monde*
62- Immerse
63- Fair-hiring abbr.
64- Hotel offering overnight accommodation

FEB. 3 ANSWERS