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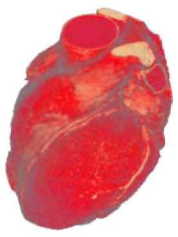
DAY OF ACTION INACTION



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ABORIGINAL HIP HOP

Shortfall projected to be gone in three years

"Deficit" continued from page 1.

said. "I would say that his approach seems to be very team-oriented and he views everyone at UBC as being an important part of the University and he's being very open about the budget."

Omar Sirri, BoG student representative echoed Hunter's views.

"I think he's handled it very professionally and very adequately and...honestly he's done his best under the circumstances," he said.

"Clearly in the past there were some serious structural problems that went wrong that professionals failed to catch."

"The most crucial element that has been present and has benefited everybody involved is the issue of transparency," Sirri said. "There has been a lot of engagement with the affected parties and people are starting to realise there are tough decisions to be made."

While recovering the shortfall, new initiatives directed at improving teaching and quality of the student learning environment may be at risk because of gaps in funding, said Sirri.

"There are going to be advancements needing to be made to areas and faculties and departments that cannot be made because of this deficit," he said.

"We're going to have to wait three or four years to really change and improve places in this University that needs to be improved," he said.

"UBC is going to encounter a lot of pressure, I think, and I hope from the student body in that they need to improve their standing in the student experience area and the student experience area includes academics and the idea of intelligentsia and academia needs to improve."

The budget plan is expected to get approval from BoG during their March 22 meeting.

GSS elections funding 'totally absurd'

"GSS" continued from page 1.

say $500 and they voted again no and then he asked what about $300 and they voted yes," said Durgan, stating that they only used Webvote. "It's totally absurd."

More money needs to be put into the elections, said Noshad, adding they have more money to spend this year. "The financial situation of the society is better."

The election results will be ratified during the February 15 GSS council meeting. It will also decide the fate of the vacant presidency.

According to the constitution, the VP finance should automatically fill the position until a decision is made unless someone else is appointed to the position. This would make current VP Finance Ali Khalili acting president until it is resolved.

"It's a temporary thing right now," said Khalili. "We miss our president and I'm the acting president until the next council so basically I'm under two portfolios right now."

There is also the option of voting for a president in an upcoming bielection.

Durgan is worried that council may not be able to reach quorum to have this crucial motion passed Thursday because this also coincides with the AMS lobbying day in Victoria—the lobbying day that GSS executives and councillors were encouraged to go to.

"Whether we are going to be able decide what to do in terms of the president position on the fifteenth is going to be questionable," he said.

Noshad said otherwise. "They are coming back for council."

'He is iconoclastic. He pushes boundaries,' says UBC official

"Professor" continued from page 1.

course. The course, whose number is inspired by Ray Bradbury's book *Farenheit 451*, ran in the first term of the 2006/2007 year.

Baumann describes (ISCI 451) as "a very different course." He admits that his teaching goes against the grain—"abusive language and all that shit."

George Spiegelman, director of the Integrated Science Program, said, "[Baumann] is iconoclastic. He pushes boundaries."

Baumann said he warned his students about his teaching style, and his course website invites them to visit ratemyprofessor.com to check his rating as a professor. "The students who take the course know I am rude, and know how to take it," he said.

Spiegelman passed down to Baumann concerns from the Dean's office about his teaching. Baumann said that these concerns were based more on his interactions with the Dean's office, including an email sent to Associate Dean Paul Harrison, than on the original complaint from a student. Spiegelman said Baumann misinterpreted this as a situation with "no next step."

The communications spiraled to another level, however, with the aforementioned open letter to UBC President Stephen Toope, which included a call for support from Baumann's own students.

Nineteen responded in support, including a 2005 UBC alumnus. This student writes of Baumann, "Yes, his methods are different, but upon completion of the course I think all students would say they learned something that no other professor taught them...they learned to THINK!"

Since the open letter, two other pieces of writing have been produced.

In a letter sent to Harrison on January 26, Peacock addressed five areas of concern regarding Baumann's teaching, his interactions with the dean's office, and his use of a course website off of the UBC server. In response, Baumann sent Peacock an email which he, in Baumann's own words, "told the dean to fuck himself."

Baumann presumes that he will not be re-hired. Spiegelman maintains that Bauman has not been banned, and that he has merely been asked to make simple changes, as simple as "being nice." He said, "We don't want him to lose his skepticism...that's what makes him a good teacher."

Spiegelman's assessment of the situation is that it is "a series of complicated communications."

'tweens

University Singers and Choral Union
Feb. 14, 8:00 and 10:00pm
Chan Centre
The UBC School of Music presents a night of music to set the mood for Valentine's Day, from Tchaikovsky to Beatles John Lennon and Paul McCartney.
Free admission

Israel Lobby Forum
Feb. 14, 7:30pm
Alma Vandusen Room, Vancouver Public Library (350 W. Georgia)
Author Daniel-Freeman Maloy presents a forum on the Israel Lobby in Canada.
Free admission

Freedom, Responsibility, and the World We Live In
Feb. 14, 12:00pm
Alice MacKay Room, Vancouver Public Library (350 W. Georgia)
Alister Browne's speech is part of the Langara College Lecture Series.
Free admission

Kwaday Dan Ts'inchi Project
Feb. 15, 7:00pm
Vancouver Museum (1100 Chestnut)
Alexander Mackie talks about the finding and research of artifacts discovered in 1999 in NW BC. Hosted by the Archaeological Society of BC.
Free admission

UBC Symphonic Wind Ensemble
Feb. 16, 8:00 and 10:00pm
Chan Centre
UBC Wind Ensemble, UBC Concert Band, and Kwantlen University College Wind Ensemble host another night of music with special guest soloists.
Free admission

Sex and Spirit: Together at Last
Feb. 13, 2:00-4:00pm
SUB 205
Attend and check out this Outweek event.
Free admission

CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements

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Employment

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Lost and Found

FOUND. Camera on West 10th Avenue two months ago. Contains photos from Nov grad ceremonies of female graduate. For further information email: fpereira@interchange.ubc.ca

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THE UBYSSEY

TUESDAY, 13 FEBRUARY, 2007
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NEWS EDITORS *Brandon Adams & Colleen Tang* news@ubyssey.bc.ca

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Room 24, Student Union Building
6138 Student Union Boulevard
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
tel: 604-822-2301
fax: 604-822-9279
web: www.ubyssey.bc.ca
e-mail: feedback@ubyssey.bc.ca

BUSINESS OFFICE
Room 23, Student Union Building
advertising: 604-822-1654
business office: 604-822-6681
fax: 604-822-1658
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BUSINESS MANAGER *Fernie Pereira*
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Paul Evans is leaving with that girl who left, Allison Bailey. So sing Isabel Ferreras, Cheata Nao, and Claudia Li in tonight's program, directed by Xiaoyang Luo and Wilson Wong, assisted by George Prior and Jane Lee, with makeup support from Ryan Corbett, Kellan Higgins, and Benjamin Ralston. Backing are Kath Stewart, Trevor Gilks, Mary Leighton, Jesse Marchand, and Allison Bailey. All previously served in the army band with Rebecca McConchie, who famously liberated Eric Szeto, Brandon Adams, and Colleen Tang from the jaws of Jesse Ferreras and his henchman Boris Korby. Momoko Price and Oker Chen watched it all on TV at Andrew MacRae's apartment, where Levi Barnett, Matthew Jewkes, and Champagne Choquer were staying.

EDITORIAL GRAPHIC *Michael Bround*

Canadian University Press

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Students rally for education reform

Low UBC turnout despite close proximity

by Rebecca McConchie
NEWS WRITER

RYAN CORBETT PHOTO

With its throbbing music, cheering crowds, and groups of people dancing or playing hacky-sack, the Day of Action on February 7 resembled an outdoor festival more than a politically-charged rally despite the seriousness of the issues and the constant rain.

"It is very heartening to see," said BC Chairperson for Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), Scott Payne. He added that there was a relatively large, vibrant, and active crowd.

This event was organised by the CFS at the Vancouver Art Gallery as part of its campaign to get the government to reduce tuition fees by ten per cent, to increase funding for post-secondary education, to give grants rather than loans, and to reinstate free college-based secondary education for adults.

The crowd was interested in the protection of future generations' interests as well as their own. "Education is actually the most cost-effective way for a society to raise its standard of living," explained Emily Carr student Rainbow Friberg.

BC Federation of Labour President Jim Sinclair echoed this sentiment in his speech; he energetically encouraged students to keep fighting "for Canada." Still, many students considered the most important issue to be the need for an immediate decrease in tuition fees.

To show their support, students used Kraft dinner boxes as noise-makers and pumped their red "Reduce Student Fees" signs. Some eye-catching signs featured enormous papier-mâché heads of Steven Harper and other government officials with embellishments such as devil's horns; the exuberant artistry was most likely due to the large Emily Carr contingent at the protest.

Many students from Capilano College, Kwantlen University College and Vancouver Community College went to the event. However, not many UBC students were in attendance. Among them included Alma Mater Society (AMS) VP Academic Jeff Friedrich and VP External Ian Patillio.

Adair Harper, a UBC student at the protest, wondered why Payne did not shout out UBC's name when addressing all the other schools. When informed that UBC is not part of the CFS, she seemed confused asking, "Why not?"

Even though both Friedrich and Patillio support the Day of Action, the AMS is actually part of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) and not CFS, which may explain the low UBC student attendance.

Pattillo explained that although both organisations are concerned with improving post-secondary education, "the way it's developed over time is that the two organisations have differed in their approach in that CASA has got a more, I guess you could say, involved kind of approach to lobbying where we frequently meet with politicians and bureaucrats," he said, adding, "and rather than simply criticise the status quo and call for a radically different educational system, we develop policy that works at a more gradual, what we would call realistic, implementation of change over a time period."

According to Pattillo, protests and rallies do not fit into the repertoire of CASA's annual campaign, which Pattillo described as "unsexy." In response to the question of why CASA did not organise anything for the Day of Action, Pattillo said, "Because the CFS wouldn't let them is sort of the answer. There's a lot of animosity between the two organisations that everybody thinks is awful and hurting the student movement but nobody can seem to figure out a way to get past it."

Pattillo regretted not organising a means for UBC students to participate in the Day of Action.

Strange complaints coming from Strangway

Rainwater leaks and ventilation problems concern building employees

by Momoko Price
NEWS STAFF

Ongoing employee complaints about poor air circulation, rainwater leaks and stifling heat have highlighted the need for ventilation system repairs in UBC's Strangway building, a number of which are scheduled to begin this week.

Jon Waplington works as human resources secretary in the development office on the fifth floor of the building. Soon after moving into the office last year, he came down with an undiagnosed illness, which forced him to leave his job for four months. He suspects the illness was brought on by poor air circulation in the new building.

"At first they were treating me as a neurological case in the hospital," he said. "I had impaired speech, motor skill issues, stuff like that."

"I was just like a zombie," he continued. "They were treating me as if I had a brain tumour or something, but then they started ruling things out...they could tell me everything I didn't have, but nothing that I did have."

Waplington contends that he was not the only one suffering chronic discomfort in the building at the time. "I got sick quite quickly. But certainly after I got back I heard people hadn't been feeling well," he said. "And I think that's a pretty common thread throughout the whole building."

Bob Woollard, head of the UBC department of family practice, is also seriously concerned about Strangway's air quality. His office, as well as the rest of the UBC department of family practice, is located on the third floor of the building.

"It's been a very real problem," Woollard said. "It's been pretty thoroughly investigated in terms of its status by the WorkSafeBC compensation board, and the air quality reports that have come in have basically confirmed [our] concerns."

"In my personal opinion, there's virtually no air circulation. We've measured it; there really isn't. When the system is up and running, the air doesn't circulate at all in my office."

Woollard said the department brought in consultants from Siemens, the original installers of the air management system, to assess the situation. When the engineers shut off all the side channels between the main plenum and his office, Woollard said even with maximum output they could only get 40 per cent of the minimum required standard for air movement in the area.

He added that the lack of air circulation is contributing to soaring temperatures within the building. "Routinely, if it's a sunny day, even with low ambient air outside, [the] temperature goes up to 33 degrees in my office, which is, needless to say, challenging. Even my IT people tell me it has an adverse effect on the computers."

He went on to say that the conditions have affected office productivity and even forced some employees to work from home.

Dan Leslie, associate director of UBC Plant Operations (Building Operations and Maintenance), has been helping to deal with the problem since the building was turned over from UBC Properties Trust to Plant Operations last September.

"There are various things that [UBC Properties Trust] is doing right now to address the problem," he said. "It's a holistic issue, if you will, with the heating, ventilation and air conditioning. There's no one specific area that has been identified as causing the issue. There's a whole pile of related pieces of equipment and so on and so forth that they're trying to adjust and fine-tune."

According to Leslie, UBC Plant Operations and UBC Properties Trust are currently working together to address the problem through a series of adjustments to the ventilation and heating systems.

"The engineers are involved, it's not strictly trial and error; they do have their engineering behind them," he said. "The technical term is they're trying to do 'commissioning of the building.' That means you do something, see if it has the desirable outcome, if not you go back and do it again."

In addition to ventilation problems, employees in the development office have noticed numerous leaks in the ceiling, resulting in several brown stains lining the ceiling tiles on the fifth floor.

Greg Hashimoto, consultant for UBC Properties Trust, has not heard of leakage on the fifth floor, but said that water infiltration has occurred before on the lower floors, caused by rainwater from storms getting sucked into the air intake mechanism on the roof. "Where the intake of fresh air comes into the building, the design of the opening by the manufacturer was incorrect," he said. "We've done a recall on it and they're re-manufacturing that particular location, and that will be modified probably [this] week."

With regards to the "stuffiness" on the third and fifth floors of the building, Hashimoto said that just before Christmas, it was determined that the speed of the ventilation fans were "maybe a bit on the low side." He also said that the complaint registered by WorkSafeBC was not confirmed by their own air quality assessments. In any case, he stated that it's a minor concern that will soon be rectified.

"We haven't got the fan speed quite right yet," he said. "It's being looked after and dealt with right now, but there's nothing of a serious nature in there."

Both Leslie and Hashimoto contend that structural and systemic adjustments are common issues for new buildings.

Rent too high for minimum wage: study

by Norman Ed Baskerville
THE MARTLET (UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA)

VICTORIA (CUP)—The minimum hourly wage in BC is not enough to pay the rent, according to a recent Canadian Housing and Renewal Association (CHRA) study.

The study found that an hourly wage of more than $10 is required to afford a bachelor suite in ten of Canada's largest cities. A $10.79 hourly wage is needed for a bachelor suite in Victoria, while a single parent would need to earn double the current minimum hourly wage of $8 to afford a two- or three-bedroom apartment.

Rent has risen in all 28 Canadian metropolitan areas, making housing unaffordable for minimum-wage-earning employees working 35 to 40 hours per week. Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary top the list of cities for highest minimum wage required to afford housing.

Employment in BC grew by nine per cent between 2000 and 2005, while the number of minimum-wage earners increased by 36 per cent. British Columbia currently has the second highest number of people working for minimum wage in the country, with Newfoundland topping the list.

"The [CHRA] minimum wage study is another example of how totally unaffordable housing is becoming in British Columbia," said Martha Lewis, executive director of the Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre, a provincial non-profit housing rights organisation.

Although the minimum wage hasn't increased since 2001, the provincial government still guarantees rent increases at the inflation rate plus two per cent each year, according to Lewis.

"Housing should be a basic right, yet we're getting to a point where even full-time employment is not enough to keep someone from becoming homeless," Lewis said.

Rob Fleming, NDP provincial representative for Victoria-Hillside, said the provincial Liberal government's neglect of affordable housing for low-income earners is a big part of the problem.

"Unfortunately, the government's new housing plan took six years to start and only offered a timid rent supplement and no restoration programs like the 1990s' Homes for BC program that had a hands-on, brick-and-mortar component," Fleming said.

The new strategy, Housing Matters BC, unveiled in October, promises to provide $40 million in rental aid to working families with annual incomes below $20,000.

Jim Sinclair, president of the BC Federation of Labour, has suggested that the provincial government introduce legislation where increases to minimum wage are indexed annually in relation to the rate of inflation, similar to the system used in Washington.

Fleming said there is some merit to indexing minimum wage to inflation but said the best approach is to set up an all-party commission consisting of economists, labour market forecasters and others qualified to do a proper minimum-wage survey, as was done leading up to the last increase.

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UBCTV, PART DEUX

Goodbye to the clip show, hello to creative student content

by Cheata Nao
SPORTS WRITER

UBC REC is bringing back UBCTV and this time you're going to want to check it out.

Launching under the slogan "Fresh," this era of UBCTV plans to engage students and more importantly, entertain them.

"When UBCTV officially launched in 1990 there was a lot of energy behind it," said Mike Tan, the associate director of UBC REC.

But with a decrease in resources and lack of creative content, Channel Two became the lacklustre 24-hour UBC REC clip show we have come to know, and want to forget about. Which was why a complete overhaul of the programming was needed.

Say goodbye to the clip show and hello to original, creative student content.

"The programming will be dictated by what students want to see. We want them to submit content that's relevant to them because it's their submissions," said Tan. Any students, faculty members, coaches, or alumni looking for a new way to reach out to the UBC community can simply submit their programming ideas via e-mail.

UBCTV is looking to air a wide range of content including short films, music videos, and events organised by alumni, students, UBC REC and UBC Improv. "Anything and everything," said Tan.

One of the brand new shows that students can look forward to watching after reading break is UBC *Sportsdesk*, the University's very own version of *Sportscentre*. *Sportsdesk* will be the place to get all the info on the UBC Thunderbirds including upcoming game times and dates, injury reports, athlete profiles, pre-game and post-game interviews, and highlights.

UBCTV is also re-launching their website to provide 24-hour on-demand video. The website will provide students who don't live on campus—and therefore don't get Channel Two—the opportunity to access UBCTV and to pick and choose what they want to see. "Anyone from UBC can watch it, whether they're at home or on campus. Now all 40,000 students can access it," said Ahad Bhai, assistant director of media for UBCTV.

When UBCTV first launched in 1990, it was in hopes of building a bigger community for UBC students and to give students an outlet to find out what was going on around campus. This time around, that idea hasn't changed. Instead, there is simply a bigger emphasis on entertaining students and getting them involved.

"UBCTV is very much a medium that can embrace everyone, engage everyone, and give them the opportunity to get involved," said Tan. "By engaging students we can build a bigger community on campus."

Overwhelmed!

UBC Rubgy lost to the Bayside Sharks Saturday, by a final score of 29-12. The sheer size of Bayside's players may have contributed to the loss. Heated tempers on both sides threatened to erupt into fighting at several points throughout the match. LEVI BARNETT PHOTO

UBC EDUCATES UCFV IN OFFENSE

by Eric Szeto
SPORTS STAFF

The comment from the crowd said it all.

With the CIS No. 5 ranked T-Birds up 20 at the mid-way point of the first half during their final game of the regular season Saturday, a fan from the bleachers heckled University College of the Fraser Valley (UCFV) Cascades centre Kyle Graves while he took a pair of free-throws.

"Hey, need a respirator number 22?"

He didn't need a respirator, but his team could have used a defibrillator to keep their hearts pumping.

Emotionless and sloppy, the Cascades's lifeless act in conjunction with UBC's stalwart offense provided a less than memorable affair, one that lacked any real intensity. Throw in some inconsistent Cascade shooting—24 per cent from the field in the first half—and you've got yourself a snoozer.

If there was any indication that the game was going to be more of a tune-up than a competitive bout you need look no further than the opening tip-off.

Casey Archibald—who afterward celebrated seniors night alongside departing T-Birds Jason Birring, Sean Stewart and Adam Friesen—drove the ball past the entire Cascade starting five off the opening tip-off for the easy lay-up two seconds into the contest.

And UBC never looked back.

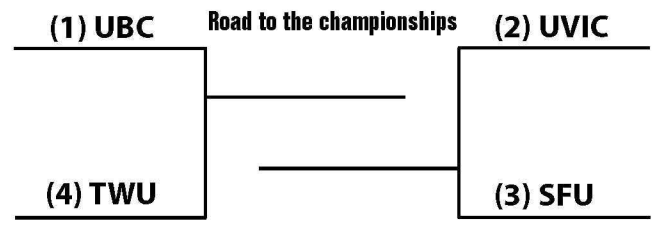
The first ten minutes were enough to show why the rest of Canada West won't be shedding more than crocodile tears when Archibald departs at the end of this season. The fifth-year guard managed six points and made two huge blocks in the opening minutes; one of which led to a steal and then a hail-Mary pass to streaking guard Adam Friesen who put in an easy lay-up.

Shortly after, Archibald made guard Chris Dyck the recipient of a slick outlet pass. Dyck took the pass, circumvented two Fraser Valley players and converted a tough reverse lay-in.

Archibald finished with 17 points and seven assists.

The T-Birds were up 28 at the end of the first and nearly doubled the cellar-dwelling Cascades 96-55 by the end of the match.

FIVE GOOD YEARS: Casey Archibald finished with 16 points in his final regular season contest as a Thunderbird. KELLAN HIGGINS PHOTO



Pacific Division Playoffs

"I was a little bit worried that they would take it a little bit lax tonight but I'm happy with the way we played intensively tonight in the first half," said T-Birds coach Kevin Hanson.

The Cascades did nothing to help their cause, shooting an anemic 27 per cent from the field all night. Their counterparts scorched the hoop shooting almost 50 per cent from the field.

The play of the younger T-Birds, in particular third-year guard Chris Dyck was among the bright spots during a pretty uneventful night. He was among the five T-Bird players to finish in double figures.

"I'm pretty happy with the progression that our younger guys have had," said Hanson, recognizing the contribution his younger players had been making recently.

With the win, the 20-3 T-Birds claim the Pacific Division title for the second straight year, and are one of the favourites—along with perennial powerhouse UVic and upstarts Brandon Bobcats—to come out of Canada West.

But before they do that they will have to face last year's demons. Even with their unbeaten record and the deadly Pasha Bains/Casey Archibald combo, UBC lacked a low-post presence necessary for any team to succeed on the national level.

Hanson knows their success will be determined by the play of his low-post players after bowing out early in the CIS national tournament in consecutive years.

Hanson hopes that third-year guard Bryson Kool, who came out of the weekend on a tear—25 points on Friday and an 11 point 11 rebound double-double Saturday—can ride this wave come playoff time.

"Our post-guys will have to be solid come playoffs," said Hanson. "I'm glad Bryson had a good weekend."

The T-Birds quest for a national title now gets underway as they welcome rivals Trinity Western to War Memorial Gym in Pacific Division semi-final action this Friday and Saturday, with game three on Sunday if necessary.

T-Birds clinch division with win over UCFV

by Jesse Ferreras
SPORTS STAFF

A night after destroying CIS sophomores Thompson Rivers 84-32, the UBC Thunderbirds waved a sweet goodbye to the regular season careers of graduating players Kelsey Blair, Kim Howe, and Julie Little by defeating CIS newcomers the University College of the Fraser Valley (UCFV) Cascades 86-65 at War Memorial Gym in women's basketball action Saturday night.

Though the outcome was decidedly in favour of UBC, it was not without a hard fought game. The Thunderbirds put up a strong defensive effort that ultimately saw its greatest results in the second half.

"We were really crashing the boards," said T-Birds forward Kim Howe. "It really sets the tone when someone plays defense for like 20 seconds and then you have to get the offensive rebound and then they have to set up and play defence again."

UBC was focused on grabbing offensive rebounds but struggled from the floor in the third. Yet they managed to widen their lead to 10 points after an Erica McGuinness three with four minutes left in the half.

The Cascades clearly studied the strong points of their opponents before the game and ensured that much of the defensive pressure was focused on star forward Kelsey Blair, who was kept at only five points for three-quarters of the game before finishing with 11.

Blair, however, was undaunted by an uncharacteristically low point total.

"I might have been kept low but my team beat them by 20, 25 points," she said. "So if I don't score at all and my team wins by 20 then I don't care in the slightest."

UCFV should have concentrated more effectively on the rest of the team, however—Howe delivered her best performance of the season, registering 16 points, while every team member that hit the court managed to get on the scoreboard.

The score was less evenly-distributed for the Cascades, who relied heavily on the scoring prowess of Michelle Buhler. The third-year guard penetrated UBC's strong defences often enough to register 17 points to lead all players.

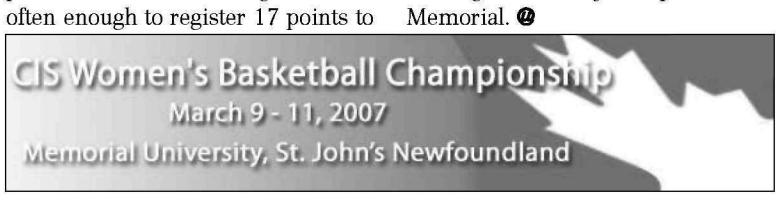
UBC's victory clinched their first Pacific Division title in three years. The T-Birds will now face the Cascades again in the first round of the playoffs this Friday and Saturday at War Memorial Gym.

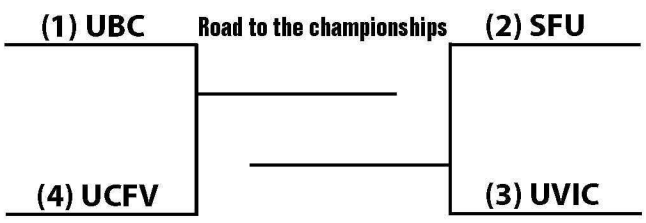
Following the win, the game was capped off by an emotional ceremony for starters Blair, Howe, and Little, who will all be graduating at the end of the season.

It was no coincidence that coach Deb Huband took them off the court for the final minutes of the game.

"We brought them all off towards the end of the game so that they could be acknowledged by their teammates and fans."

Now, the thunderbirds quest to repeat as CIS champions begins, starting this Friday at 6pm at War Memorial.





Pacific Division Playoffs

KELLAN HIGGINS PHOTO

CIS MEN'S VOLLEYBALL
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
MIZUNO

CIS Women's Volleyball Championship
March 1 - 3, 2007
University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta

CHAMPIONNAT FÉMININ DE HOCKEY SUR GLACE DE SIC
2007
CIS WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

UBC

UBC

UBC

Haikus from the Heart

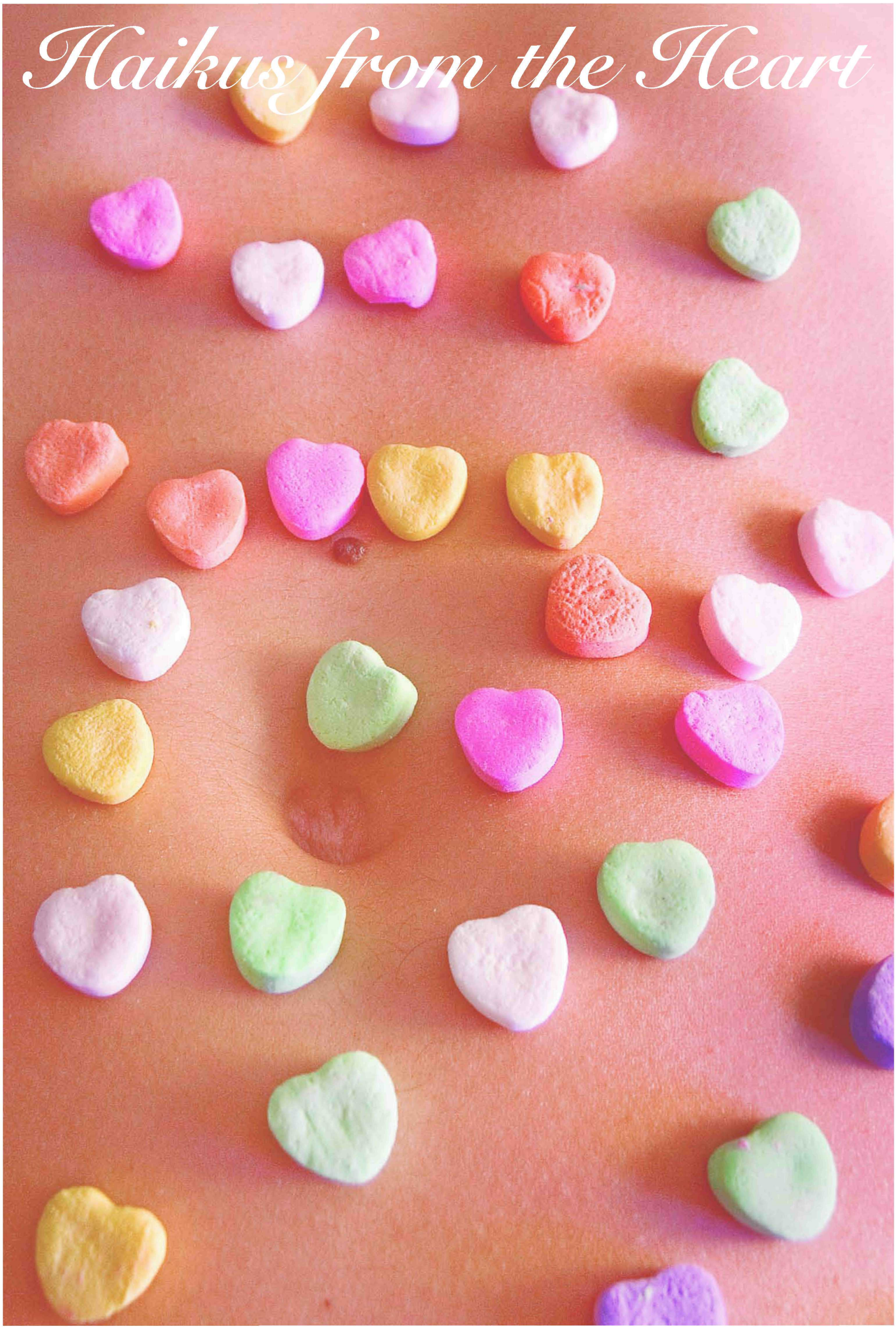


Photo exhibit tells visual stories

THROUGH OUR EYES
at the Talking Stick Festival
February 11th

by Jane Lee
CULTURE WRITER

Originally started as a way for Christine Germano, a professional documentary photographer, to establish a teaching job, *Through Our Eyes* has since become an inspiration to multitudes of aboriginal youth.

Through Our Eyes, a gallery exhibit as part of the Talking Stick Festival, is a photo documentary project that began four years ago, in which students of over eight First Nations communities across BC and Alberta reflected on "what their community means to them" through visual art.

Students would photograph a chosen topic, write text to accompany the image, and thereafter compose their stories for visual and audio presentation.

"Photography helped [the students] write a story with something visual," said Germano. "Writing is an important component of the photograph."

She hopes this project will "foster in them an interest in continuing to seek similar artistic opportunities throughout their lives."

Britannia Outreach School, an alternative high school that allows students to work at their own pace, is one of the schools funded by sponsors such as the Vancouver Foundation, Art Starts, and Vancouver School Board Artist in Residence. Students participating for the first time this year spent all summer on their projects, and in addition, spent the last four weeks matting and framing each photograph to be displayed at the Roundhouse Community Centre.

Their efforts were undoubtedly evident through their work.

"[This project] kept me busy and out of trouble," said Mike Martin, a student artist. "There's a lot of other stuff I could [have] done in the summer."

When asked why it was important to showcase their artwork at the exhibit, Kevin Conroy and Courtney Wilson, upon exchanging guilty looks, whispered, "[We're] hoping somebody will buy it."

In the past four years some students have been quite successful in the sale of their pictures to magazines, newspapers, and individuals. All the profit from sales of the photographs go directly to the students, which in itself is a motivation for students to present their hard work to the public.

The student artists' photographs cover a wide range of topics, from joy of family to a captivating moment in their lives.

> "[THIS PROJECT] KEPT ME BUSY AND OUT OF TROUBLE... THERE'S A LOT OF OTHER STUFF I COULD [HAVE] DONE IN THE SUMMER."
> *–Mike Martin*
> *Student Artist*

A photograph of an adorable smiling baby in particular caught my eye. It was titled "My Cute and Adorable Niece" by Kehew Crowe McCallum from Stride Avenue Community School. The accompanying text to the photograph ended with, "I will teach her to love all of our family and respect others."

Another particularly moving work was put together by Rainbow, a student of the Aries Project, called "Confessions of a Broken Heart." It began, "Hey dad, I wait for the postman to come but I don't get a letter from you, it feels like you don't love me. But, why did you leave?"

Some photographs captured the essence of reality, like the one titled "Downtown Eastside" by Charles Pronteau of the Aries Project. In the picture are two men living in the Downtown Eastside community, and words cannot do justice to all of their amazing artwork. Some will definitely make you smile, some will make you nod along, and all will leave you with the feeling of awe. Perhaps a few will make you shed a tear.

Through Our Eyes was a very worthy that helped one reflect on what your community means to you. Its organisers hope to eventually show the exhibit across Canada.

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Contest closes February 16, 2007.

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1.	Stereo equipment — CD players, amps, speakers, subwoofers
2.	CD's
3.	Personal items — Clothes, sunglasses, bags, briefcases
4.	Coins — parking change
5.	Registration papers
6.	Garage door openers
7.	Cell phones, portable DVD and MP3 players
8.	Work tools
9.	Airbags
10.	Tires and wheels

Enter contest to win 1 of 5 gift certificates for an electronic immobilizer with installation valued at $180 each, or 1 of 10 standard automobile steering wheel-lock devices valued at $50 each by filling out a ballot at *The Ubyssey* student newspaper office, room 23 in the SUB building. No purchase is necessary. Gift certificates for immobilizer are valid only at Ralph's The Mobile Electronics Store and expire on March 31, 2007. Winners must correctly answer a skill testing question. Contest is restricted to University of British Columbia students registered for the 2006-2007 school year. **Contest closes on February 16, 2007** at 3pm PST. Full contest details available at *The Ubyssey* office.

"Don't let a thief ruin your day" Contest

Name: _____

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Drop off this ballot at The Ubyssey office, room 23, SUB building.
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Dream

STAFF MEETING AGENDA
FEBRUARY 13, 2007

5. OUTROS
4. POMO
3. DESK CRAWL: STAFF APPRECIATION CRAWL
2. SPECIAL ISSUES
1. INTRODUCTIONS

don't miss.....

the
Valentine's Gift Fair
February 12th - 14th
main concourse
student union building
9am - 5pm
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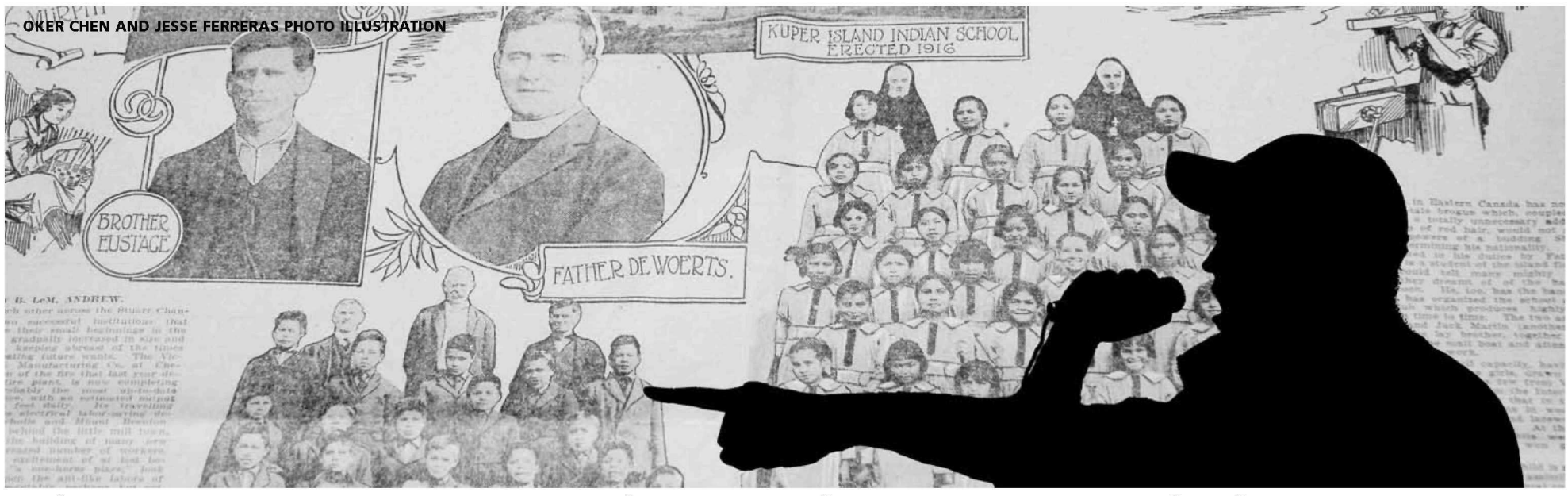
an event brought to you by your student society

RANT
Sci-Fi Issue
March 23

Fiction, non fiction, stories, poetry, photos, art



OKER CHEN AND JESSE FERRERAS PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Hip Hop Week to give voice to aboriginal youth

by Jesse Ferreras
CULTURE EDITOR

A youth advocacy group is tapping into fresh reserves of hip hop talent in aboriginal youth communities for its first annual Hip Hop Week from now until Friday.

The Knowledge Aboriginal Youth Association (KAYA), an Aboriginal youth-led organisation based in East Vancouver, is organising its first annual Hip Hop Week to provide workshops in everything from breakdancing and DJing to graffiti art.

The Week has been organised to raise funds for a volunteer-led recording studio that has thus far served the talents and ambitions of 150 youths, according to Jerilynn Webster, KAYA's director of programs.

"We have a lot of older youth that are established or emerging and we wanted to support their voices," she said. "Some of the hip hop you hear on the... radio, it's about bling and it's all about this other stuff and we wanted to take it back to what it used to be... a protest."

Webster gives credit for the studio's establishment to Nicky Ermineskin, its coordinator.

Ermineskin, a graduate of the Pacific Audio Visual Institute (PAVI), has passed on skills that she learned there to youths interested in expressing themselves through music.

"We want to be able to have youth come in and tell their stories," she said. "Growing up in an urban area in East Vancouver... it's kind of hard because it's really easy for you to get caught up and put in the wrong direction, and we really just want to...empower youth in this way so they can use their voice and tell their story."

Ermineskin spoke from personal experience. She said that the death of her grandfather led her to withdraw from Britannia Secondary School and into drugs and alcohol.

"I kind of got caught up in the not-so-good things in the city," she said.

It was the discovery of Eminem's *Marshall Mathers LP* that inspired her to follow hip hop as a means to express herself.

"It hit me in a place where I was like, wow, there's people out there who are speaking what people only think," she said. "That's kind of what got me into hip hop and after that I just started learning more about the culture...and learning to freestyle."

"Hip hop saved my life," she said.

Ermineskin and Webster point to Native American rapper Litefoot as an early proponent of native hip hop. They also mentioned Canadian artists War Party, who in 2001 became the first Aboriginal rappers to appear on Muchmusic's *Rapcity*.

The fusion of hip hop with aboriginal culture, Webster said, makes perfect sense given the marginalisation faced by First Nations people in North American society.

"The reason there's a big connection between hip hop and native culture is because it has all the aspects of what native culture is," she said. "We've just been slightly disconnected...a little bit from [our] culture because of residential schools and...systemic racism."

Kelly Balon of Rhythm and Action Arts, a society that will be partaking in breakdancing workshops for Hip Hop Week, spoke of the genre as one commonly employed for the creative expression of marginalised populations.

"It's about giving voice to those who are marginalised and ignored and mistreated," he said.

KAYA's Hip Hop Week will culminate in a block party at the Pacific Coliseum this upcoming Saturday and a CD release event for "Time 2 Shine," a compilation of tracks by aboriginal hip hop artists.

AMS INTERACTIVE
www.ams.ubc.ca

Events Calendar

AMS Annual General Meeting

Friday February 16, 2007
Noon, at the SUB Conversation Pit

Food Bank Awareness Days

AMS foodbank

Come check out our displays on the SUB Concourse
Feb 9, 15 & 16 from 1**1am-2pm**. Learn how the food bank was started, how many students it has helped since opening and how you can get involved. For more information, email ***foodbank@ams.ubc.ca.***

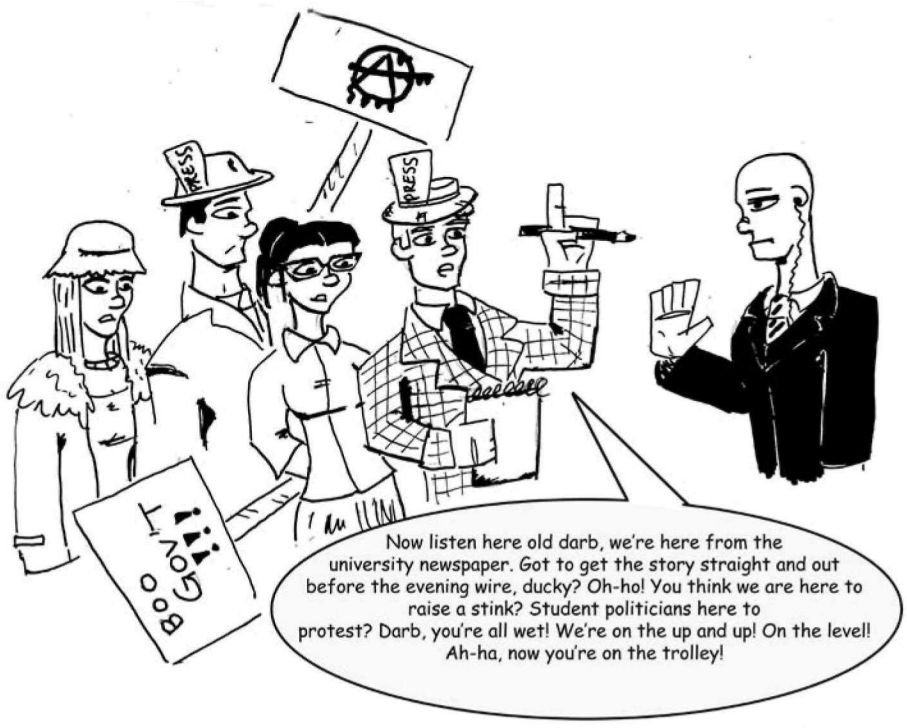
MISSING:
The following clubs have been inactive and not submitted documents to the AMS for 2006-2007. Unless we hear from you, we will be deconstituting these clubs in March.

Abundant Life Christian Fellowship
Ahmadiyya Muslim Students' Association
Argentine Tango Club
Athletic Trainers Club
Biomedical and Biomechanical Club
Canadian Club of the AMS
Canadian Students for Darfur
Cannabis Culture Club
Civil Liberties Association
Club Brasil
Club Europa
Country Club
Cross Cultural Solutions
Debaucherous Literature
Diploma in Accounting Program Student Assc.
Emerging Leaders Network
EMF Electric Bike Club
Esteemed Afternoon Tea Society
Experimental Music Collective
Field Hockey Club
Filipino Students' Assc.
Formosa Cultural Study Club
Game Unlimited
Gentleman's Club
Global Ethics Society
Indigenous Students' Society
International Culinary Society
Kidney Club
Marxist-Leninist Study Group
Masala - South Asian Students Association
Mirth, Music, and Fermented Grapes Society
Moustache Club
Mycological Society
Netball Club
Pagan Students' Association
Parkour UBC
Poker Club
Russian Club
Sauder Impact
Skating Club
Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights of UBC
Spanish Club
Students for Clayoquot Sound
Technology, Investment, and Management Entre. Club
University Cricket 11 Club
Venture Capital & Private Equity Club
Walking Robot Club
Wordsworth Charter Club
X-Change Club of Ubc

If you belong to one of these clubs and know that you are active, or want to be active - please contact **Emily Lapper** at **fincom@ams.ubc.ca** by **March 1st, 2007**.

*Brought to you by **your** student society*

Drawing a line in the sand



These Palookas don't know from nothing

If you were a student politician, what would you consider the best way to demand tuition reductions from the government? Meeting with legislators? Mounting a letter campaign?

Apparently for executives from the York Federation of Students (YFS) and the University of Toronto Students Union (UTSU) last Monday, the most effective course of action is to impersonate members of the student press, infiltrate a press conference and then shout down Chris Bentley, the Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities before he could even make his address. Because of this Bentley refrained from giving his address to the press at all and all other student newspapers suffered for it.

We're not saying that direct action doesn't have its place in politics, but students need to realise that harebrained publicity stunts like this can often cause more harm than good in the long run. Assuming the guise of student journalists is not only dishonest, it hurts the student community as a whole, impugns the credibility of student journalists and makes it that much more difficult to investigate student issues and be taken seriously by the administrators and politicians who govern us.

Surprisingly, Sarah Barmak, editor-in-chief of *the Varsity*, one of the four newspapers exploited as a guise by the student politicians, believes that the incident was "not really a big deal...no one was really harmed in the process."

Her blasé attitude either reflects a lack of understanding of the harm that could have been done or the fact that she just doesn't care. We hope *The Varsity* is simply masking how worried they really are—and worried they should be.

The unprofessional shenanigans of the UTSU executives, as well as the indifference of editors like Barmak, demonstrates a lack of respect not only for student constituencies but for the standards of autonomy and distance we should all be striving to maintain between government and media, whether at university or beyond.

It's a simple dichotomy. The role of the media is to report; the role of the government is to govern. There is a reason we keep them separate.

In contrast to the reactions of *The Varsity*, we should expect student media to stand up for themselves. The implications are significant—what effect will this have on the ability of student journalists and, for that matter, student politicians to access government officials if we are looked upon as juvenile, deceitful pranksters?

This scheme highlights the risks inherent to the merging of media and government and unfortunately, many Canadian schools are still fighting against this. According to Canadian University Press (CUP), an organisation linking 76 student newspapers across the country, only one-fourth of its participating papers have been granted autonomy.

Autonomy of the press is a safeguard whose value can often be blurred in the wake of turbulent and ever-changing student politics. While it does not guarantee the kind of coverage that might make student governments happy, it is the only standard that protects the freedom of the press to act as watchdogs of *all* levels of government, in addition to the students they represent.

For instance, if it wasn't for SFU's student newspaper *The Peak*, the student population would have never known about the shady dealings and inadvisable firing of a long-time staffer by its student executives last summer. The heavily reported scandal eventually led to the impeachment of the entire executive, which was ultimately upheld by the BC Supreme Court.

Here at UBC, it wasn't long ago that it *the Ubyssey* existed as an entity of our student government the Alma Mater Society (AMS) and was at certain times subject to pressure when it attempted to criticise members of council or the executive. The AMS eventually shut down the paper, locked staff members out of their offices, motioned to appoint its own editor-in-chief and amend the newspaper's constitution. (check facts) Luckily, this eventually failed and the paper was resurrected independently in 1995. Even then, journalists, student and otherwise, stressed the dangers of government influence on the media, regardless of how the media might be flouting its allegiances to its student society at the time.

And while this fiasco seems distant, an incident molding away in neglected newspaper archives, *the Ubyssey* has of late had to deal with its own dose of student government members trying to meddle behind the scenes. Though the concern is appreciated, in the long run it doesn't help any community to try to bridge the gap between government and the press without well-regulated arbitrators.

There is a tacit understanding between student journalists to stay at arms-length from student government officials and vice-versa. The same reason why daily newspapers operate independently of the Canadian provincial and federal governments. Independently-run print outlets allow reporters the ability to investigate current issues and events without the burden of having to toe another's political line. It can shed light on questions that governments do not want to see answered.

Streeters

As a student, do you feel that *the Ubyssey* is accountable to you?

—Ryan Cross
International Relations, 4

"Honestly, I don't know. I don't read the newspaper."

—Ben Feagin
Fine Arts, 2

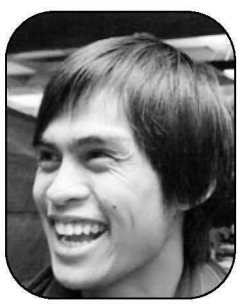
"If there was a green page with issues like student interest, activism, environmental—a First Nations column should be in every paper. We wouldn't be here otherwise."

—Jenny Craig
Arts, 4

"It's great...I think they could have taken a stronger stand on environmental issues and criticising ...the administration...Stir it up. Look at both perspectives and raise the bar."

—Chloe Coppin
Science, 2

"Not really."



—Alvin Bonifacio
Science, 3

"I have no opinion about that."

—Coordinated by Allison Bailey and Oker Chen

PERSPECTIVE

VFM gets students involved

by Alfie Lee

Now that the election is over, I would really like to thank *the Ubyssey*, all the Voter-Funded Media (VFM) contestants and Mark Latham, the creator of the VFM contest. They have made a huge difference in this election and opened the door for more students to get involved, especially the first year students.

Most people have a stereotypical impression that first year students are ignorant of campus issues. We don't care or we simply do not know enough to care, but this does not have to be the case.

To prove my point, there has been a first-year student sitting in the AMS council since September, and in the recent election, first year students were elected to be Senators. Fortunately, I am one of them.

Therefore, I believe that given more sources of information, first-year students can be just as involved as any student on campus. We are still new to the UBC and our curiosity is a great motivation to foster awareness and enthusiasm. And the VFM is the perfect invention to help more students familiarise themselves with important issues.

For me, I started off by reading *the Ubyssey*. I learned that students' voices do matter in the policy making process and through Senate, we students can actually play an active role rectifying what we complain about at UBC. Later on, I even read through last year's minutes of the Senate. However, I still have to admit that before the election, I had difficulty understanding some of the issues and the inner-workings of Senate.

During the election, the VFM contestants offered many different perspectives and insights into the position I was running for. Not only did the VFM contestants allow voters to make informed decisions, but it also gave us, the candidates, a lot of feedback on our campaigns and generated many meaningful, constructive discussions, especially the *Elections Insider*. The *Elections Insider* suggested a list of issues that the Senate should focus on in the upcoming year. The list really helped me clarify and restructure some of my platforms. Most importantly, the VFM was successful in showing me that this election was NOT another high school election. The AMS election is not only about putting up more posters, Facebook ads or merely name recognition. The fact that I attended all the debates and my willingness to face the tough questions from the media did not go unrecognised. The VFM contestants demonstrated to me that dedication and effort actually matter. That really inspired me to become more enthusiastic throughout the campaign and I really have to thank those who have provided the inspiration. I thank *the Knoll* and the *Election Insider* for their endorsements.

In addition, throughout this election, I found that with such pressure presented by the media and the abundance of student input, the quality of many candidates has improved. By setting up the VFM, Mark Latham has achieved one of his goals, which is to increase the amount of intellectual discussion in the AMS election.

Personally, I learned a great deal of knowledge about UBC from the VFM coverage of the election. I was amazed by the wealth of information. It would only be fair for more future first year students to share the same sense of wonder and to know what institution they have gotten themselves into after all those hectic provincial exams. Therefore, the VFM project should be renewed because the voters deserve to know more.

—Alfie Lee is a first year science student and Senator-elect

Green leader and reality checks

I read with interest your article covering Elizabeth May's attendance at UBC's sustainability conference ("Mobilise, says Green Leader," [Jan 30]). Certainly, it is crucial that as many voices as possible speak out about the dangers of climate change. However, progressive people who are interested in what May and the Green Party have to say might be shocked to hear about May's views on abortion. Reading her comments, you cannot help but reach the following damning conclusions:

1) Elizabeth May is personally opposed to abortion. You don't need to twist her words, or take her out of context: she comes right out and says it. "I think all life is sacred" and "I'm against abortion." Of course she's entitled to her opinions. But as leader of what claims to be a progressive party, this is concerning.

2) Elizabeth May has disdain for women who choose to have abortions. In addition to reaffirming her opposition to a woman's "frivolous right to choose," she stated, "I would never have an abortion myself, not in a million years. I can't imagine the circumstances that would ever reduce me to it."

3) Most frightening of all, Elizabeth May wants to reopen the abortion debate in Canada. According to May, "I think there are moral dimensions to the question that can be discussed as dialogue" and "I think one of the things I would like to bring to Canadian politics is to show enough respect for the other view, that we could actually have a dialogue about it." Now, as I said before, individuals are entitled to their opinions. But when the leader of a political party that wants to be seen as mainstream is advocating for reopening the abortion debate, this is problematic.

We've had the abortion debate in Canada. It's settled. Let's move on. We can't afford to turn back the clock. Elizabeth May's comments do a disservice to all women, and Canadians would be well advised to apply a little more scrutiny before buying into the 'Green Party' brand.

—Katya Woloshyn is a third-year Music student.

Ubyssey drug story based on 'hearsay'

The article "Students taking drugs" (Dec 5, 2006) has caused concern and discomfort in our Pharmacy Undergraduate Society. The inferences about the faculties of Pharmacy and Medicine, as well as the questioning of the competency of physicians in BC, are questionable and carry great consequences.

Pharmacy (and to my understanding Medicine) at UBC focus on "evidence-based teaching" where curriculum and learning are focused on facts, not hearsay or personal opinion. We are appalled that the author suggests that knowledge about how a system works is equivalent to abuse of that system. Will students in education who learn about how plagiarism is detected 'abuse' the system by learning how to get around it and plagiarize? This is misleading.

Sources of evidence that the author provides as "proof" that students must be abusing drugs include:

1) An anonymous pharmacy student who simply *explains* how Ritalin (Dexedrine) works. Learning how a drug works is a critical part of our curriculum.

2) A doctor at the student clinic states she is surprised by the use of the drug by health professional students. That she stated surprise at the possible use of the drug does not equal acknowledging the abuse. If someone were to tell me that students engage in unprofessional and illegal activities, I would be surprised. The fact that I am does not mean the statement was fact.

The author claims the "abuse of stimulants such as Ritalin and Dexedrine is *on the rise* at UBC." The phrase 'on the rise', similar to other adjectives like 'moderate' or 'mild' or 'strong', could have many different interpretations. An increase of one student using it could satisfy the 'on the rise' criteria. It seems that there is no hard proof to support her hypothesis.

As a person who does not seem to be enrolled in either medicine or pharmacy and who has not personally gone to challenge the competency of doctors in prescribing Ritalin for people who need it, the author should not pose charges questioning the integrity and professionalism of students in health care faculties based on 'hearsay' and personal opinion.

—Charmaine Ma is a third-year Pharmacy student

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*Seats are limited and fares may not be available on all flights. All fares are one-way. Must be purchased by March 3, 2007 for travel to be completed by Aug. 8,2007. Offer not available-April 5-9, 15, 2007. 7-day advance purchase required. Prices do not include PFC, segment tax or Sept. 11 security fee of up to $10.40 per segment. A convenience fee of $7.50 per traveling customer will apply when booked at www.allegiantair.com or through an Allegiant Air call center. Travel purchased through an Allegiant Air call center will cost an additional $5.00 per segment. A checked baggage fee of $2 per bag, per segment will apply. A segment is defined as one take-off and one landing. Fare rules, routes and schedules are subject to change without notice. Restrictions apply.

UNIVERSITY TOWN

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Mother, Teacher, Scientist

UBC biology professor, Celeste Leander.

Speakers Corner + YouTube = SoundOff

U. Town Social Planning Process Begins

Vancouver Campus Plan Moves to Next Phase

UBC Library Fountain, 1953.