

4 field

Women's Field Hockey
national championships

7 fault

UBC student Daniel Chen stars
in Richmond's *Faultlines*

8 feud

Med students call for
return to rotating internship

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VOL.78 ISS. 16

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1996

Godspotting

Douglas Todd has made
a living getting others to
talk about their beliefs.
Now it's his turn.

by Peter T. Chattaway

DOUGLAS TODD WANTS PEOPLE TO TAKE RELIGION SERIOUSLY. And for the past seven years, as the religion & ethics reporter for *The Vancouver Sun*, he has written features, news and entertainment stories to highlight the role religion already plays in our everyday culture.

He has also written two books: *The Soul Searcher's Guide to the Galaxy*, released two years ago, and his newest, *Brave Souls*, a collection of interviews with 28 writers and artists, most of them expanded from articles he wrote for the *Sun's Saturday Review*.

Todd says he wrote the new book because, as church attendance declines and fewer people identify themselves with religious institutions, artists have filled the void to become the spiritual shapers of North American society. But they are rarely allowed the chance to address spiritual issues directly.

"These people are so insightful in their song lyrics and in their novels about human nature and society, I thought they must have something to say about religion," says Todd. "But nobody ever asks them. Certainly journalists don't, because they're so afraid of religion. Academic biographers don't, because they're also afraid of religion, or anti-religious. So I wanted to ask them the hard questions: what do they really believe, when they wake up at three o'clock in the morning, about God and death and what makes life worth living?"

Not all of Todd's interviewees are religious themselves; in fact, of his 28 subjects, only six fall into the category that Todd calls "The New Ancients." (This group includes Susan Aglukark, Lynn Johnston and Robertson Davies.) The rest of the book is divided between "The Atheists" (Mordechai Richler, Jane Rule, W.P. Kinsella, "The Doubters" (Douglas Coupland, Evelyn Lau, Paul Verhoeven), and the largest section of all, the more vaguely defined "Emerging Mystics" (Nick Bantock, Loreena McKennitt, Timothy Findley).

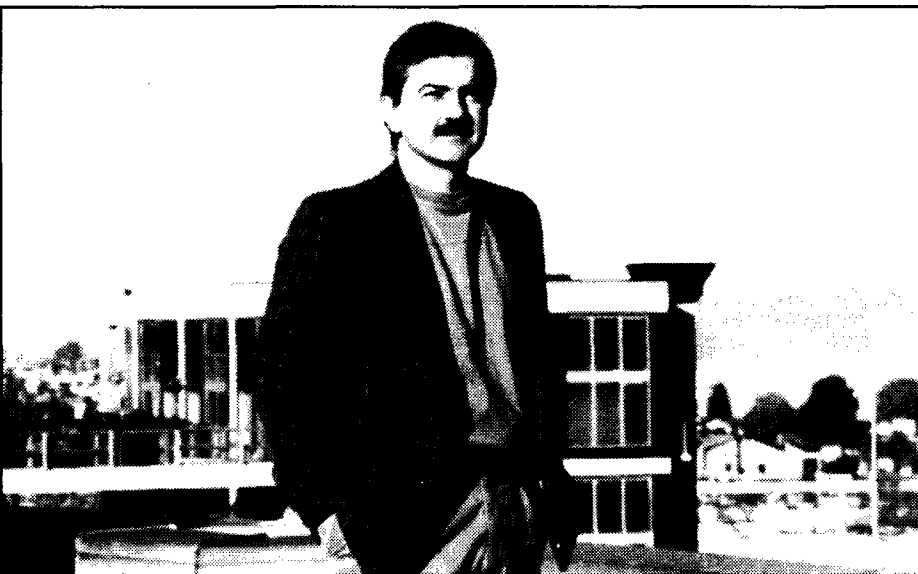
But for all their differences, the one thing these figures do have in common is that they are artists who approach spirituality from a personal, creative perspective, and not as religious authorities (though Todd thinks he may have

cheated by including best-selling "essayist" and former Unitarian minister Robert Fulghum).

Todd cites Tony Hillerman and Bruce Cockburn as artists with whom he feels a particular affinity, but he says he was impressed by all of the people he talked to. Well, except for one, maybe. In the October issue of *Vancouver* magazine, W.P. Kinsella wrote that Todd was "the worst columnist in Canada," and Todd is visibly perplexed by Kinsella's assessment of him.

"He's a very angry, bitter, cynical person. I don't know why he's mad at me, other than that he's virulently anti-religious. I don't know what it was, either because I want people to take [religion] seriously, or because of the profile I did on him, which I never heard that he disliked. I thought I gave him the benefit of the doubt.

"I did appreciate his honesty, actually, quite a bit. But Jane Rule, she's an atheist and she has a heart of gold, and Alex Colville doesn't have too much time for Christianity but he's a very wise person. Carol Shields thinks that love is the force that holds the universe together, which I agree with. I think that's great, because 'God is love.' That was one of the first lines I ever heard, and I think there's a lot of truth to that."



DOUGLAS TODD, on top of the world, well, at least on top of the Pacific Press Building with his new book, *Brave Souls*.. RICHARD LAM PHOTOS

TODD CAN APPRECIATE THE NONBELIEVER'S POINT OF VIEW, because he grew up in an atheistic family himself. He used to pick debates with the Christian missionaries that visited his North Vancouver high school. But it was the positive example of one of his teachers, who happened to be a Christian, that convinced Todd not all religious people were "kooks." Todd's skepticism turned on his own lack of belief.

"She just made me realise that religious people maybe have something I don't, which is a sense of hope and a kind of drive to create a world. I was a kind of cynical person, and she wasn't. So I was drawn to that, and so I just started getting more and more connected with Christians and studying the Christian tradition, which was totally new to me, because I hadn't even been to church before."

Todd's investigations led him to UBC's religious studies

department, where he earned his bachelor's degree in 1976. He also wrote for *The Ubysssey*, and after studying at the Claremont School of Theology in California, he worked the community-paper scene before getting hired at the *Sun* in 1983. Six years later, the religion beat was his.

In the interests of fairness, Todd is reluctant to disclose the finer points of his own religious belief, but admits his search led him to identify with one specific tradition: Christianity. "I studied Buddhism too, actually. And while I'm attracted to Buddhism, I just think Christianity is a better religion." A nervous laugh slips out. "Oh shit, what did I just say?"

Todd composes, then qualifies, himself. "Unlike Buddhism, it takes society seriously. Some aspects of Buddhism do, but not most of it. It takes history seriously, that we're responsible for society and history and each other. It's not a form of escape from life, but a way to get into it more."

But while Todd says that Jesus is "the central figure" for him, he prefers not to define his Christian beliefs more specifically. "I'm still a bit coy about that, being pigeon-holed, 'cause it's so dangerous. I mean, I don't want to be written off, I want to be seen as a journalist who's trying to be fair to everybody, despite my views."

And he hasn't given up his skepticism altogether. He is suspicious of claims that the Bible or any other religious text can be a supreme exclusive authority. "I don't think scriptures have all the answers, which some biblical literalists might believe. But

there's collective wisdom, there's a lot of good stuff, but not to accept it blindly. Don't accept anything just obediently; you have to test it for yourself."

SO WHERE DO PEOPLE FIND THEIR INSPIRATION? A NUMBER of Todd's subjects point to nature as a source for their spirituality, and Todd agrees, but only to a point. "Farley Mowat says there's nothing evil in nature, but I don't necessarily agree, because there is something evil about being eaten, even though that animal needs to survive, whereas sometimes humans kill for sport. Somebody said that nature is not good, but it is beautiful. And that's more important. An

Continued on Page 2

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features

Continued from Page 1

avalanche comes down and kills people; that's not good, that people got killed, but overall, nature is beautiful, in a tragic sort of way."

Some have seen such tragedies as evidence that God is either cruel or nonexistent, but Todd disagrees. In his view—influenced by a school of thought known as "process theology"—God and the world live in a sort of symbiotic relationship, affecting one another without either having a complete control over the other.

"God is changing too," Todd says. "That's where I sort of agree with Bruce Cockburn. That's not exactly the way he said it, but in his song 'The Gift,' he says, 'Everything is motion, to the motion be true.' God is changing along with humans and the world. God's in this relationship with the world, and God doesn't control everything, but we do have freedom, *real* freedom, to make mistakes. 'People say, 'Why didn't God stop the Holocaust,' right? That's where human freedom comes in, human corruption. I don't think God had the power to stop the Holocaust. It required humans to be in touch, to respond. It's scary, but humans have the capacity to make horrible mistakes, and God can't necessarily just magically fix [them] God is drawing us to make better choices in life, but it

requires co-operation. So I think God's all-loving, but not necessarily all-powerful."

But might that not make God irrelevant? "Not to me," Todd says, smiling, "but it might to some people. We wouldn't be talking if it wasn't for God, right? I wouldn't know how to form a sentence. That's where I agree with Colville, too, that God is the thing that creates order out of chaos. For us to speak requires God to constantly help us find new orders in the chaos that would exist if it weren't for God."

The process is an ongoing one in Todd's life, too. *Brave Souls* began as a sort of intellectual exercise, but the artists who met with Todd challenged him to make spirituality a greater part of his experiential life. "Carol Shields was talking about these transcendent moments she heard about and was taken by, and then she asked me, 'You write about those, being a religion

writer,' and I realized I don't. I should really be keeping a spiritual journal or something like that, that delves into my own spirituality in a more personal way, for myself."

"That's why I call most of the people in the book 'brave souls.' They're not afraid to just venture out on their own and ask really hard questions, and they just go where they are led by the creative spirit, a spirit of curiosity. I wonder if I don't do that as much. Maybe it's because I have three kids. I should be spending time in silent retreats and really exploring my spiritual heart, and that's something I learned from the book."

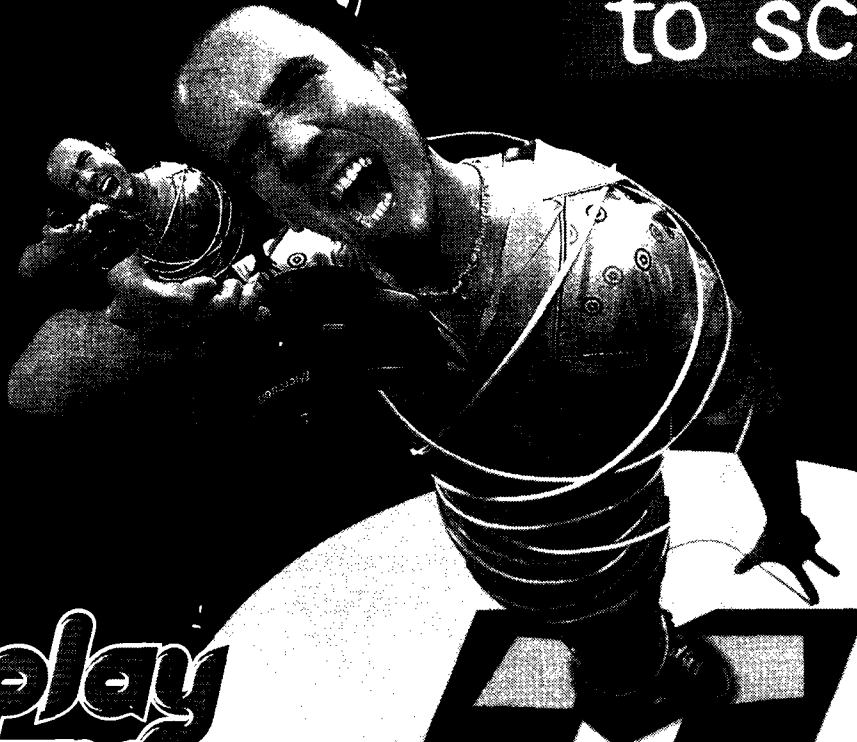
The job of creating a space for sober spiritual discussion also goes on. Todd hoped to interview Alice Munro, Rudy Wiebe and Madeleine L'Engle, but the plans just never worked out. He approached Margaret Atwood two years ago, "and she said, 'Perhaps when I'm a little older or wiser. Ha-ha.'" (He finally spoke with her at this year's Writer's Festival.)

"There are so many viewpoints," Todd says. "It's a way to let them understand where *they* are, rather than where *I* am."

He laughs. "Maybe my next book will be all about me." *sf*

**"People say,
'Why didn't God stop
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I don't think God had
the power to stop the
Holocaust... I think
God's all-loving,
but not necessarily
all-powerful."
—DOUGLAS TODD**

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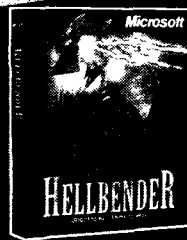
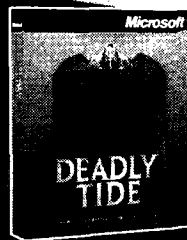
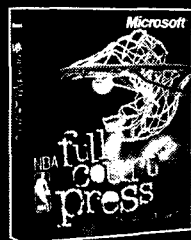
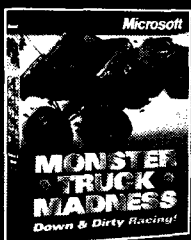


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Love and dedication

by Robin Yeatman

JUDE at the 5th Avenue Cinema

As a lover of all things Victorian, seeing Michael Winterbottom's adaptation of Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure* is a treat for the soul. Not unlike the time in which it is set, *Jude* casts in sombre, gloomy tones as it tells one of the most tragic love stories in English literature.

The story focuses on Jude Fawley (*Shallow Grave*'s Christopher Eccleston), a stone-



JUDE (Christopher Eccleston) and Sue (Kate Winslet) stare down Fate in *Jude*.

mason by trade but an intellectual at heart, and Sue Bridehead (*Sense & Sensibility*'s Kate Winslet), a bright and modern thinking girl for her time, who happens to have the misfortune of being Jude's cousin. It is soon apparent that happiness is not their fate.

The source of their unhappiness, suprisingly, is not the fact that the lovers are cousins. Their grief stems from the bare fact that they are not married—to each other. Jude's wife Arabella (Rachel Griffiths of *Muriel's Wedding*) left him not four months after their marriage. Sue is married to Jude's former teacher, Phillotson (Liam Cunningham).

Neither has ever cared for their spouses, and their passion for each other results in Sue leaving her husband to begin a life with Jude. Eventually, Sue gives birth to two children, even as she and Jude raise his son by his first wife.

The unwed couple encounters prejudice and low tolerance for their living arrangement in each town they live in. Drenched and exhausted, the couple and their three children search for lodgings only to be turned away time and time again. Their loyalty and determination to their love hold fast through it all, and finally Jude finds a job in a stone yard. All will be well—or will it? Just as a shaft of light man-

ages to peep through the gloom of their world, tragedy strikes.

The intense heartbreak of this film will penetrate the stoniest critic. Winterbottom has done a fantastic job of taking a Victorian story, making it modern and accessible, yet retaining the gut-wrenching passion so reminiscent of the time in which it was written. Winslet's performance is both convincing and charming. Shot in Yorkshire and Edinburgh, the scenery provides an appropriately rural background.

The problems faced by Jude and Sue seem insurmountable, yet they remain dedicated. This film provides a contrast to the mainstream attitude that relationships are disposable. Take some kleenex to get you through the sadness, but expect to be encouraged by the reminder of what true love really is. *ff*

Thinner not that filling

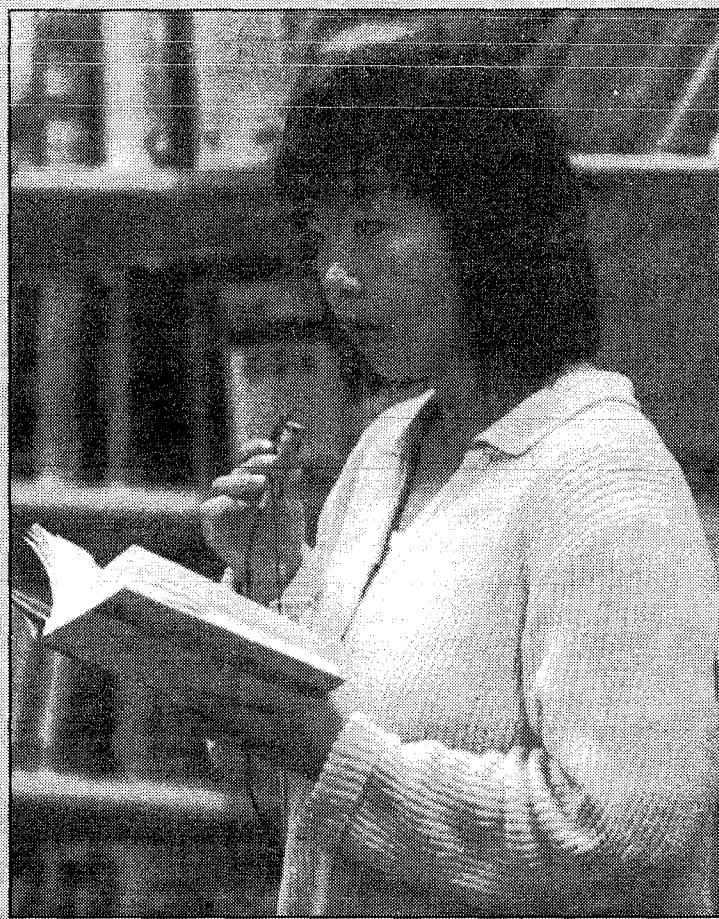
by Teresa Yep

STEPHEN KING'S THINNER at the Capitol 6 theatre

What do feral gypsies have to do with losing weight?

Everything, if you are a 300 pound food-loving lawyer named Billy who has mows down an old crone with your car. Robert John Burke stars as a successful attorney who cannot lose weight despite the doting efforts of his

Hey, is this mic working?



EVELYN LAU reads from her book, *Other Women*, at the UBC Bookstore last Tuesday. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

watchful wife Heidi (Lucinda Jenney, a cross between Jane Fonda and June Cleaver).

Billy's weight problems lift temporarily after he, with the help of his friends, the police chief and a judge, is absolved of all responsibility for running over and killing a circus gypsy woman. As a result, Gary miraculously begins to shed his spare tire(s) at an alarming rate, but he soon discovers that this blessing is actually a curse.

Angered by Billy's acquittal, the dead gypsy's father condemns him to die a slow death by starvation. Billy then goes on a mission to reverse this curse when it turns out that his friends are also cursed with physical deformities (one metamorphoses into a lizard while the other sprouts boils the size of saucers).

Thinner is a complete disappointment in every department,

including the most basic area: the physical deformities. Blame it on the special makeup effects crew that Billy's emaciation never reaches *Tori Spelling's* proportions and that his obesity does not convey the same authenticity as the early stages in Richard Simmons' *Dial-a-Meal* plan. The prosthetic flesh on Billy's face looks stiff enough to repel flying marbles, while the protruding cheekbones meant to give Billy that gaunt look make him look more like a poster child for hyper-active bone growth.

That's the good news. The storyline has inconsistencies that might baffle those who haven't read the book (such as *moi*). The reasons for Billy's resentment towards his wife are not fully developed, and the magnification of that resentment into homicidal tendencies is completely unjustified. *ff*

Bob breaks the mould

by Judy Chun

BOB MOULD Oct 28 at the Town Pump

For the vertically challenged (read: short), a concert in a small club can often become a futile exercise in endless weaving back and forth, trying to move opposite to the person standing directly in front of you. This is frustrating enough when watching a fully vertical band, so imagine my horror when I realized that Bob Mould was going to sit through his entire set Monday night at the Town Pump.

Mould, former frontman of seminal punk rock band Husker Du and power pop trio Sugar, played to a sold-out crowd on a tour stop in support of his first solo album in six years. Appropriately, Mould played a solo set on Monday—sans the multi-track layerings and extra instruments which have characterized the auricular richness of his recent work.

Hence the chair. Who wouldn't want to sit when playing an acoustic set, with no fellow band members or large amps to hide behind? And how could one begrudge Mould for giving his fans the opportunity to hear their hero stripped down to a bare minimum? While I did not see much of Bob Mould's performance, what I heard was a melodic pleasure beyond expectations.

The ever intense Mould was in override on Monday evening. While he began the set complaining of the autumn evening chill, one song later, Mould dripped with perspiration, his face twisting in agonized contortions. Mould drew mostly from his latest CD, but he also catered to longtime fans by including songs from his other works.

Mould's latest self-titled release departs substantially from the giddiness of *Sugar*; it seemed as if Mr. Mould was actually happy in 1994, though the happy-go-lucky songs gave way to incredibly dark and disturbing meanings upon closer listening. The new CD slows the tempo down. Minor keys dominate on half the songs, depressing melodies matching the bitter break-up lyrics. However, on songs like 'I Hate Alternative Rock' and 'Egoverride' Mould delivers the expected adrenaline-charged power pop he helped to pioneer.

Mould's new CD sounds like a celebration of his independence, unfettered by the compromises required in bands and free of the frustration of scorned love. The CD credits quietly proclaim: "This one is for me." But while he may have undertaken his latest release purely for himself, Mould transcended any notion of self on Monday by sharing his kind of bitter love songs with 450 captivated people. The least I could do was forgive him for choosing to sit.



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Reflections on The Sexual Contract

Tuesday, November 5 @ 7:30 PM
Graham House of Green College

Democracy, Freedom & Special Rights

Wednesday, November 6 @ 12:30 PM
Law Building, Curtis 101/102

Sovereignty, Rights and the Great Apes

Friday, November 8 @ 12:30-2:30 PM
Law Building, Curtis 176, Moot Court Room

Democratization: Questions for the Year 2000

Saturday, November 9 @ 8:15 PM
The Vancouver Institute, Woodward IRC, Hall 2

WOMENS FIELD HOCKEY

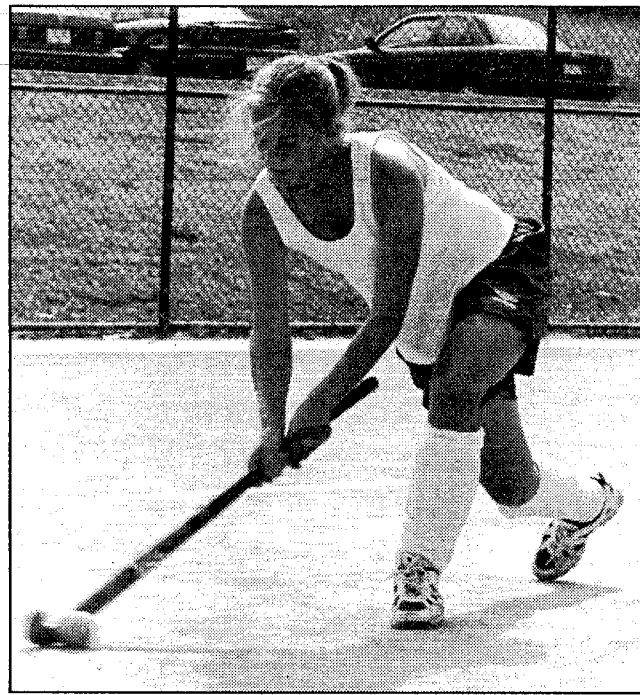
T-Birds flock to fields of Victoria

by Wolf Depner

Underdogs are as sly a species in the sports kingdom as the fox in the animal kingdom: you never know when one will sneak up and tweek you in the you-know-what.

Just ask the women's field hockey team. Heavily favoured to win it all in 1995, the Birds were upset by the Victoria Vikes in the final 1-0.

But this year, the situation is different.



CANADA WEST ROOKIE OF THE YEAR Jen Dowdeswell prepares to take a whack at the competition this weekend. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

While the Birds played well enough down the final stretch to qualify for this year's CIAU nationals in Victoria, they are by no means the favourite as the six-team tournament gets underway today with pool play.

And head coach Hash Kanjee makes no bones about that. "We are obviously considered underdogs, but we're by no means out of it," he said after the team's final practice Wednesday night. But Kanjee doesn't mind that position at all.

Nor are the players too concerned about how the team is perceived.

"We can't even think of [being underdogs]," said Canada West All-star Jen Dowdeswell, who was also named Canada West Rookie of the Year.

"I think every team has pretty much a chance," said second-year centreback Genieve Adams. "I think it's going to be close."

The Birds have shown over the season that they can play with the big dawgs.

They split the season series against the Victoria Vikes (1-1-1) and battled the Canada West champions Alberta Pandas all three times the two teams met.

In fact, the Birds handed the Pandas their only regular season loss (3-0) at the third and final Canada West tournament. UBC faces the Pandas in Friday's opening game of Pool B.

"[The Pandas have] got a lot of

pace and experience," said Kanjee.

Featuring four senior national team member and four from the junior national team, Alberta is the team to beat on paper.

"When you have 23-year-olds playing against 18-year-olds, it makes a big difference," he said.

He explained that the key to beating Alberta will be to keep it close and hope for breaks up front.

But those have not come easy this year. The Birds' offence has been inconsistent at best, averaging little more than two goals per game.

"Goal scoring has let us down during the season," Kanjee said. "But if we got hot with goal scoring, we could be in the thick of things."

While the Birds know what the Pandas are all about, they will go into today's second round-robin game against the York Yeowomen "blind" as there are no videotapes available to study.

Despite such obstacles, Kanjee is confident that his young team can take a bite out of the competition. *jj*

CRAZY JOHN'S ARRIVED. After sitting out last season with an injury, forward John Dykstra has been hot in preseason play, with 17 points in the T-Birds 103-74 win over Winnipeg Wednesday. Guard Gerald Cole chipped in 14 points in the T-Birds' preseason record to 4-1. They finish with warm-up tournament in Montreal and Edmonton before opening the Canada West conference schedule at Calgary against the Dinos November 15 and 16. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

Puckbirds off to a red hot season on ice

by Normie Chan

Puckbird forward Ryan Douglas is about to join pretty exclusive company.

Douglas is one point away from reaching the 100-point career plateau as the Birds entertain the defending Canada West champs, the Calgary Dinos, this weekend.

He will be the 31st Bird to reach that milestone in team history, and the first since Doug Ast, who achieved the feat last season.

Douglas said he might think about the 100 points a little bit on Friday, but he is more worried about Friday's game against the 3-0-1 Dinos.

"My job is to contribute, so if I get my points, I get my points," said Douglas who so far has scored twice and added three assists in six league games.

"Ryan is off to a great start. He's playing really well without the puck and is showing a lot of veteran leadership," commented head coach Mike Coffin.

"He is full value and a real important guy in terms of giving us some offense. I think [reaching 100 points] is a big accomplishment and I'm sure Ryan will be pretty proud when it happens."

Douglas' story is the first of many positives six games into the season.

The Puckbirds are second in western division with a 3-2-1 start and have outscored opponents by a 27-22 margin.

Overall, it's a substantial improvement considering that, at the same time last year, the Birds were flopping with a 1-4-1 record and 32 goals against.

What makes UBC's early success so much more remarkable is the fact that it has come without last year's two top scorers, Doug Ast and Matt Sharrers, who are no longer with the Birds.

Ast is currently playing with the Syracuse Crunch, Vancouver's AHL affiliate, while Sharrers is with the Canadian national team.

"Yes, we are off to a great start," said Coffin.

Team depth and solid goaltending have been the keys to success so far.

"We've got a bit scoring from everybody, every night there's a different hero," said Coffin. "There is some depth in our scoring, and the defense also contributes to our offense."

"It seems whoever we put on the ice, they're playing well," said veteran team captain Brad Edgington.

Another positive aspect of the season so far has been good attendance as over 1500 attended the first home series against the Lethbridge Pronghorns.

"We really get a lift playing at home," said Coffin. But so far the Birds' road play has caught their opponents off guard. UBC is 2-1-1 on the road with wins against Brandon and pre-season favourites Alberta.

And it has been a long time since the Birds won in Alberta, the last time on November 26, 1994 to be exact.

But not all is well in the Puckbirds' camp.

Forward Gunnar Henrikson suffered a broken clavicle in Saturday's 5-4 OT loss to the Alberta Golden Bears and will be out for four weeks.

His loss will hurt big time, especially on the powerplay which at times has struggled.

In six games played, Henrikson scored seven points on five goals and two assists, including a four-goal performance in a 8-2 win over Lethbridge in the Birds' opening series against the Pronghorns.

Coffin said Henrikson's injury was "unfortunate, because he's goal scorer, and we don't have too many of his type."

Bird Watch

Football
@ 0-7 Manitoba Bisons
CTR 101.9 FM
11:00 am PST

Hockey
vs Calgary Dinos
Friday 7:30 pm
Saturday 7:30 pm
T-Bird Winter Sports Centre

Women's Field Hockey
National tournament
@ Victoria Vikes
Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Men's Soccer
Canada West final
Victoria Vikes
Saturday 1:00 pm
OJ Todd Field

Men's Volleyball
Rugby: The last all XI
vs UVic Friday Nov 1 2:45pm
vs UCLA Friday Nov 2 7:30pm
Semi #1 Sat, Nov 2 10:30am
Semi #2 Sat, Nov 2 12:45pm

Bronze Game, Nov 2 5:15pm
Gold Game, Nov 2 7:30pm

While Henrikson's loss will be temporary, tough-nosed Shea Esselmont has left the team to concentrate on an abnormally heavy academic course load in engineering. *jj*

\$3 a film UBC FilmSoc
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She's the One
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Sat. 10 Nov. JEDY & ALINE
Wed. 13 Nov. THE PIGMYN
Featuring:
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of JUNKY GUNG WILD
+ GUESTS
Fri. 15 Nov. THE WORKSHOP
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The Ubyssy is the official student newspaper of the University of British Columbia. It is published every Tuesday and Friday by the Ubyssy Publications Society.

We are an autonomous, democratically run student organisation, and all students are encouraged to participate.

Editorials are chosen and written by the Ubyssy staff. They are the expressed opinion of the staff, and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Ubyssy Publications Society or the University of British Columbia.

The Ubyssy is a founding member of Canadian University Press (CUP) and firmly adheres to CUP's guiding principles.

Letters to the editor must be under 300 words. Please include your phone number, student number and signature (not for publication) as well as your year and faculty with all submissions. ID will be checked when submissions are dropped off at the editorial office of The Ubyssy, otherwise verification will be done by phone. "Perspectives" are opinion pieces over 300 words but under 750 words and are run according to space.

"Freestyles" are opinion pieces written by Ubyssy staff members. Priority will be given to letters and perspectives over freestyles unless the latter is time sensitive. Opinion pieces will not be run until the identity of the writer has been verified.

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Peter Chattaway is eating ambrosia. Ian Gunn wants a piece of the pie. Federico Barahona and Joe Clark eat anything that is finger licking good. Scott Hayward and Sarah Galashan want two all beef patties. Desiree Adib wants it her way right away. Wesley Chiang, Clare Atzemen, and Robin Yeatman like hot eats and cool treats. Richelle Rae is making a run for the border. Wolf Depner and Normie Chan want something ooey gooey good. Judy Chun, Peggy Lee, and Teresa Yep guarantee that if they aren't finished in five minutes it's free. Richard Lam has tried all 31 flavours.



CULTURE JAMMERS Fiona Steele, Karolina Sobos and Shiraz Dindar strut their stuff at the alternative fashion show, part of the Corporate Buttckick Week celebrations. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

Corporatisation: trick or treat?

You walk across the street to the bookstore on a lazy September day. Suddenly, you're surrounded by treats! Free stuff! But there's a catch—it's all a trick. It is not free.

We all pay for the corporatisation of universities. And the costs are high.

This week's Corporate Buttckick Week is a kick in the butt for students as well as corporations. Advertising and corporate logos have become ubiquitous on campus; so much so that we don't even consciously see them any more. The organisers of Buttckick week are showing the students of UBC what is in front of their faces everyday that they just don't think about.

Owens Wiwa's speech on Monday was a big part of that. He showed those of us who were there what Shell means to the Ogoni people. To them it is not just a place to get gas

and a complementary oil check, it is the corporate giant that has devastated their homes and taken away their livelihoods. He told the audience at the SUB auditorium, "Shell oil contains our blood."

While we are not being physically displaced by corporations in Vancouver, our culture is. Corporate culture has taken over everything from campus computer labs to hockey. Has anyone noticed that our national sport is now GM's biggest billboard this side of the Rockies?

The Culture Jammers, the group behind this week's festivities, are one of the few groups on campus who are dedicated to showing us what this corporate tidal wave is doing to our culture. Culture jamming, a term made popular by *AdBusters*, means the subverting of modern corporate culture.

Through creative and non-violent means, the Culture Jammers attempt to teach people alternative ways of thinking. Thinking that goes beyond the logos that dominate our cultural landscape, and ask why they are there.

That is what makes Corporate Buttckick Week different from other protests against commercialism. Unlike last year's protests against Coke or McDonald's, this week was a preemptive strike; proactive not reactive. Instead of trying to mobilise students against the corporate evil of the week, they are giving people the tools to spot the danger before it strikes.

The moral behind Corporate Buttckick Week is that we *can* and should be questioning corporate clout if we want our campus to reflect us, not some corporate agenda.

letters

Longtime librarian is pleased about elevator

I was pleased to read in your issue of October 29th, 1996 Chris Nuttall-Smith's contribution, "Koerner Library to get 2nd Elevator." The lack of a second elevator has been keenly felt by everyone using the part of the Koerner Library which opened in June, and we are all delighted at the thought of having a second one (which with luck will likely be in operation by April, 1997, by the way).

No one is happier than I, as Facilities and Preservation Manager for the Library and as the person responsible for the liaison between the Library and Campus Planning and Development, Architectura (the architects), Plant Operations, the suppliers of furniture and equipment, my colleagues in the Library—everyone involved in the construction of the new building. As you noted in the article, my husband and I were very pleased to be able to contribute to the new elevator through our private donation.

So, I just had to point out that the statement "Mrs. Dodson was a long-time UBC librarian" is not quite correct. Mrs. Dodson IS a long-time UBC librarian, and intends to continue to be here even longer if she's spared!

Suzanne Cates Dodson
Facilities and Preservation
Manager, UBC Library

Aquarium makes a killing on killer whales

So obvious a success is the confinement of killer whales that the practice functions nicely as a symbol, one especially appropriate for youth who seem completely spellbound by the spectacle. Small wonder the Vancouver Aquarium is financially viable. The economically dominant class and culture is busy impressing youth with new values for a new era. This is as it should be. It is young people especially who must tighten their belts, reign in expectation and tune in to the dictates of their high tech future.

The Aquarium is a high tech

holding pond. Through miracles of science the giant intelligent mammals can be maintained, and certainly they can be trained. Because it can be done, it is done. The symbolism works in a number of ways: increasingly this is a civilization with its nose pressed up against the glass. Financial viability so often seems to be just beyond the glass—not quite within reach. The Vancouver Aquarium is financially viable even if the progeny of the whales are not viable. They make good press. More can be imported. The killer whale should be on a new Canadian flag and on all that's left of Canadian paper currency. Let's put killer whales in uptown hotels and restaurants, and, as far as the flag is concerned, the banner should be flown vertically to accommodate their shape which better represents the south-north flow of culture and trade. Also, the province should park the dogwood as a provincial symbol and rev up the fast-lane, Hollywood North image of the place, with the whale gyrating into space.

Children who are so often trapped in front of TV screens in their living rooms or computer

screens in their classrooms, eagerly relate to performing whales. Recently a young student was brought before a public meeting to advocate for whales serving an important educational function. This is just the point.

The spirit and stamina of this animal is amazing and it's obvious that human beings are entitled to profit from them. Where would the whale be without human intervention—a little understood big thing out here going bump in the dark of the ocean? It takes the civilizing focus of capital gain to shed light on this giant. This is a big concept. Let them go? Hell no! They're financially viable even when they're nuts from their own boomerang sonar signals; even as they swim in lethargic circles with dorsal fins drooping. [How like the third hour of Saturday morning television ad sugar-coated cereal!]

Let's see what it does. How long will it live? Science makes this possible. Surely the best profit to be made from the upkeep of these popular giants is the rich symbolism involved.

Donna J. Tanchak

features

THE UBYSSY, NOVEMBER 1 1996 7

Finding *fault* with fear and values

UBC theatre student Daniel Chen tries to find the connections between Chinese and non-Chinese. The faultlines await.

by Peggy Lee

Having recently moved to Richmond himself, UBC theatre student Daniel Chen has observed first-hand the issues raised by *Faultlines*. In the play, now on at Richmond's Gateway Theatre, Daniel plays Raymond Chan (no relation to the Liberal MP), a whiny high school student who worries about his grades and struggles with his cultural identity and conflicting parental values.

Chen says the "faultlines" of the title represent Richmond's fear of earthquakes—"There is this loose sand thing, Richmond will just float away"—but it also serves as a metaphor for the cultural tension between Chinese and Caucasian. "If anything goes wrong, there is that idea that there could be a quake," says Chen. "It could shake them all up. Same thing with the parent and the son, living side-by-side, there's always that potential of that earthquake. Is it going to be good or is it going to be bad?"

"But it's not about who's right and who's wrong. It's about the need to get to know individuals and communication."

Chen says the play has received mixed reviews for being both too realistic and not realistic enough. But overall, he says, "the response from both Chinese and Caucasian audiences was 'Wow, it was great! Y'know, finally we get a chance to bring it out in the open.'"

"I think some people said that these kinds of concerns were more relevant a year ago because that was when things were more tense. Now there isn't as great of a tension but it's still great to bring those issues out."

The most important thing for Chen, as an actor, is to connect with his audience. "It's gratifying to know that they can look at [the play] and not one person has been, like, 'oh well' and really distanced themselves from the issue or anything. Whether they come out and it's pure entertainment ... or people can come out and say yeah, they really see that, the most important is that they enjoy the show."



ALANNAH ONG holds on to Daniel Chen(right) in *Faultlines*.

Perhaps the most rewarding connection he's made so far was in a matinee performance for over 400 Richmond high school students. Unlike adult audiences, he found the "kids" connected with different aspects of the play. "With the high school today, they may not

have understood the cultural stuff with the adults, but they really understood my conflict with the parents. Just that whole idea of the father being very heavy handed with the son—y'know, 'gotta be here,' money and all that stuff, or when I was yelling back at my parents."

The connection he felt with the students made him see himself as something of a role model figure. "Seeing so many Chinese kids out there and other ethnic groups out there... somehow I got this feeling that, as a whole, because they were so interested in all our stories, maybe one of them might identify with that or identify with the character."

Apart from this production, Daniel also studies theatre full-time at UBC. Last summer he had a principal role in the television series *New York Tempest*. After *Faultlines* he will be busy again in November with a second run of the popular show *Mom, Dad, I'm Living With a White Girl* at the Firehall Theatre.

Although he is barely in school now, Daniel speaks fondly of UBC's Theatre program. "I'm taking theatre at school and that's going to be my degree. I have the most awesome teacher. Last year when I was doing *Mom and Dad*, Kate Weiss was my acting teacher. [She understood that] ultimately we are working towards being in professional theatre or TV or whatever, so she said, 'We'll give you the opportunity to do that.' And this happened again this year. They were okay with me taking some time off."

Call it sucking up if you like, but he's doing a great job outside of school anyway. It does sound like he is living the theatre student's dream. *mf*

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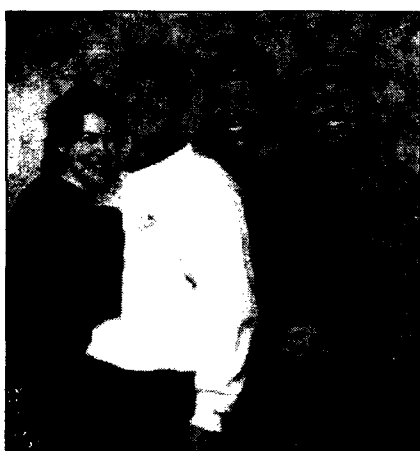
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Med students call for changes

by Clare Atzema

UBC medical students say they are being forced to specialise too early and are calling for a return to the year of rotating internship training that was scrapped in 1993.

"Medical students are being forced to choose a career path before they have adequate exposure to the various medical fields," says Medical Undergraduate Society (MUS) President Ben Chew. "Consequently, medical education has become more about choosing a specialty than getting an education."

The rotating internship was a year-long apprenticeship in several areas of medical care that all students took after completing their medical undergraduate degree.

Hospitals each ran their own internship program, during which most interns spent eight weeks in each of medicine, surgery, obstetrics/gynecology and pediatrics. That was followed by four weeks in each of psychiatry, emergency, and family medicine. Upon completion of the year students were given a General Practitioner's license, and could work as a family physician or go on to train further in a specialty.

But in 1993 the system changed. The common rotating internship was dissolved and each specialty, including family medicine, now runs its own internship which students begin immediately after completing their undergraduate degree.

Medical students now begin making career choices in their third year with the selection of their fourth year electives. There is little chance for students to change their minds because of the high costs of medical training.

"Instead of using their electives to broaden their knowledge base, students choose electives to fortify their residency applications," Chew said.

Chew and Dr. Andrew Seal, UBC Medicine's

Associate Dean of Student Affairs, were scheduled to address UBC student concerns at a meeting of several western medical school associate deans in Calgary Thursday.

They may have some convincing to do.

While a recent survey shows an overwhelming majority of UBC medical students favour increased clinical exposure, many doctors and medical students in other parts of the country prefer the current system. According to sources that wish to remain unnamed, the Post-Grad Associate Deans of Manitoba and Calgary oppose reinstating rotating internships.

Dr. W. Bingham, Associate Dean of Post Graduate Medical Education for the University of Saskatchewan, is undecided on the issue. It will be difficult, he says, to return to the old system of non-integrated internships "having just convinced teaching programs of the need of an integrated basic clinical year." He also worries about the cost of a new administrative structure. Bingham did say, however, that he is "convinced that an internship would allow for better career selection by means of greater clinical exposure."

The MUS acknowledges a number of important concerns with a return to rotating internships. It isn't clear who would take responsibility for residents because students don't want the hospital-controlled programs back, nor is it yet known how satisfactory completion of the year would be judged.

But whatever the solution, warns Allyson Davie, vice-president of the MUS, the general public is part of the equation, since they "will ultimately bear the brunt of the results, be they good or bad."

UBC professor Dr. Bill Maurice agrees. "I think that in 20 years time this will have a big impact on the general population, and I think we have an ethical responsibility to look out for our patients now by resolving this issue," he said. *jf*

Wiwa urges Shell boycott

by Sarah Galashan

Nigerian human rights activist Dr. Owens Wiwa urged students to take action in a lunchtime speech to UBC students Monday.

After giving a vivid description of the environmental damage and inhumane treatment Shell inflicts on the Ogoni people, Wiwa urged students to take a stand in defense of the Ogoni.

"Though we are small, poor and peaceful we intend to mobilise people to tell Shell to stop killing," said Wiwa.

Wiwa's brother Ken Saro-Wiwa,

former writer and activist, was executed last November along with eight other outspoken Nigerian professionals by Nigeria's military dictatorship. In remembrance of the deaths, activist groups around the world are organising events to protest Shell's treatment of the Ogoni.

According to Wiwa more than 2000 Ogoni have died as a result of Shell's partnership with the Nigerian regime.

Wiwa encouraged students to



DESIREE ADIB PHOTO

boycott all Shell products, and to write to the company voicing their outrage at the Ogoni's loss of freedom. "[Shell thinks] they are God at times, that they are not answerable to anybody. But we know that they are answerable to the consumers, if the consumers use their power," he said. *jf*

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