

# the ubyssey

volume 77 issue 21 Friday, November 17, 1995

Spying on squirrels since 1918

## Geers burst high-priced hockey bubble

by Matt Thompson

**UBC's "bubble hockey boys" took their fight to the highest level of student government and left with a bitter sweet victory.**

Engineering students Marc Raiser and Ravi Jassal, the founding members and driving force behind UBC's "Lower the Price of Bubble Hockey Fellowship," took their campaign to lower the price of their favourite campus pastime to the November 15 AMS council meeting.

Raiser and Jassal say the miniature version of Canada's national sport in the SUB arcade is an essential part of their university experience, but that the 75 cents required to support their habit is just too much to pay.

"It's a student institution, and they're just blatantly over-charging us," Jassal said.

"We're being ripped off," Raiser echoed.

Jassal says the 75 cent price makes it impossible for players to split the cost of a game, and says the price is one of the highest-priced bubble hockey venues in the Lower Mainland.



BUBBLE HOCKEY MANIACS Marc Raiser and Ravi Jassal demonstrate the inequities of the arcade. ALAN KRISS PHOTO

They even say the AMS has tried to buy their silence. Raiser says AMS President Janice Boyle responded to his lobbying efforts by offering him \$20 to "play all the bubble hockey he wanted."

"I was shocked," said Raiser. "I felt like a dirty whore."

Raiser refused to accept the money. "I wouldn't turn my back on the hundreds of other bubble hockey players. Never."

The Fellowship took their case to AMS Council last Wednesday night. Sporting "50 cents or Bust" campaign t-shirts, Raiser and Jassal made a compelling presentation complete with overheads.

Director of Finance Tara Ivanochko said she was sympathetic to the students concerns, but said the games' high cost of maintenance was responsible for the higher price. The cost for replacing one of the little plastic hockey players can cost as much as \$20, she said.

AMS Director of Finance Am Johal, who says he has been under fervent lobbying efforts from the Fellowship for months, proposed that the motion be amended to lower the price to 50 cents for the month of January 1996 only. The motion passed by a wide margin.

Raiser and Jassal say that bubble hockey—like Canada's national sport itself—is symbolic of a bigger issue.

"It's really a forum for the bigger picture. We're not being represented by the government, and they're cheating the students they represent."

### What's inside:

From high fashion to road kill: mink escape.....p.2

David Milgaard pleads his case at UBC.....p.3

Spare change for the homeless.....p.3

An interview with Jane Jacobs.....p.4

A great fucking book review.....p.5

Athletic fee re-allocation: the pros and cons.....p.7

Democracy and reality: a perspective.....p.8

## Council makes colour connection

by Sarah O'Donnell

Racism at UBC has a tough new opponent.

Colour Connected Against Racism, a coalition of students dedicated to promoting the political and cultural interests of people of colour, became an official student resource group at last Wednesday's AMS Council meeting.

Colour Connected collective member Shazia Islam was jubilant over Council's decision to grant the club resource group status.

"Now that we're a resource group, we'll have the financial capabilities of getting resource materials that speak about our histories and our cultures from our points of view," she said.

Islam says the resource group status, which guarantees Colour Connected AMS funding and office space in the Student Union Building, will ensure representation for people of colour on campus and make it easier for the group to coordinate with other anti-racism organizations.

Colour Connected will not officially become a resource group until the next fiscal year. The next step for the group, Islam says, "is to get organized, to start talking to people, letting people know we're here and we're here to stay."

Many AMS councillors were surprised the motion passed council without opposition.

Director of Administration Am Johal said the more than sixty Colour Connected supporters at the meeting were a "visible presence" that helped sway the vote.

"Not only was their presence visible," Vice-President Namiko Kunimoto said, "but the people who spoke were totally articulate and reasonable with their arguments. It was just clear cut, there was no other way to go on this issue."

Director of Finance Tara Ivanochko says the decision will give students better access to information. "It does make a lot of sense to round out the resource groups we have."

# classifieds

## For Rent

One Bedroom Suite fully furnished, self contained, main floor in Kerrisdale. Available immediately. \$650/month. Please contact 263-1504. Leave message.

### Interested in Ethics without Religion?

Come to the inaugural meeting of the **UBC Humanist Club** November 28, at 5p.m. International House, 1783 West Mall (coffee and donuts provided)

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# Fur farmers of BC angered by second mink release

by Alan Kriss

The animal rights movement is being blamed for the second assault on Lower Mainland mink farms in the past month.

In the early hours of November 14, 4000 mink were released from their cages on Fred Rippin's farm in Aldergrove.

Within a short time, farmers from some of the 25 other mink farms in the area, fire fighters and passers-by were helping round-up the escaped animals.

By morning, the road in front of the farm was covered in dead mink. Others drowned or were overcome by the stress of the situation.

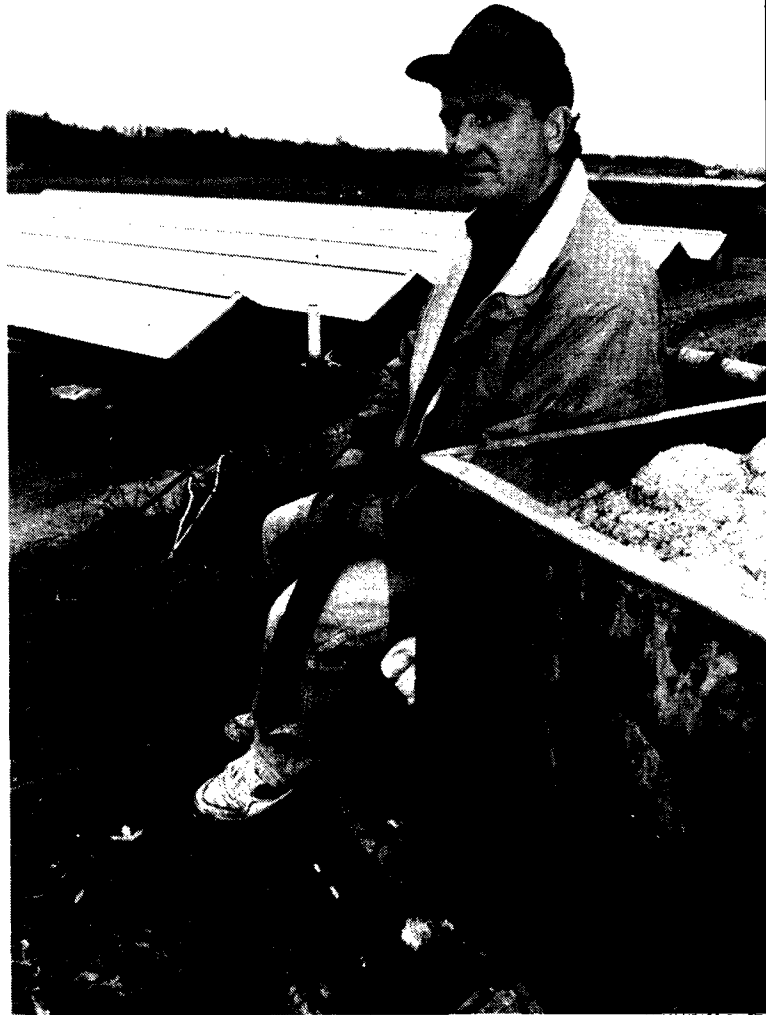
Searchers lost hope of finding many more mink in the area still alive by early afternoon.

"This is devastating," Rippin said. "We'll be lucky to get 75 percent [of the animals] back."

Rippin estimates the loss will cost his farm about \$50,000. Each mink has a market value of around \$50 and harvest season begins in the next couple of weeks.

The unrecovered mink are not expected to survive for long outside of their cages. "These are domesticated animals that cannot fend for themselves out here," Emil, a 60 year old farmer, said.

Most of the people gathered on the farm to help Rippin



FARMER FRED RIPPIN prepares to feed a few less mink

ALAN KRISS PHOTO

were reluctant to give their names or have their pictures taken. The son of one mink farmer in the area said "we have to be more careful," in

response to the apparently deliberate targetting of mink farms.

Rippin hired a security company to check on his farm after the first mink farm was raided near Chilliwack on October 24, and says he now plans to hire a full-time security service.

Staff Sgt. Dawiskiba of the Langley detachment of the RCMP said that no groups have claimed responsibility for the action and that investigators have no leads.

While there is no direct evidence that this was the work of animal rights activists, the farmers are convinced this is the case. They also say the release has done more harm than good for the animals.

According to farmers, the trauma of being let out of the cages into an unfamiliar environment proved too much for many of the animals to deal with. Not only did many become road-kill, some ran into nearby ponds and drowned while others died running from those trying to recapture them.

Another farmer who preferred to remain nameless wanted the public to know that this type of action will not stop the fur business. Even without mink farmers, he says, there will still be a market for mink. "If we aren't here then there will be an increase in trapping," he said.

"This is just destroying peoples' livelihoods...It's stupid."

Ingrid Pollak of the Vancouver Humane Society also condemned the perpetrators. But added, however, that "there is institutional cruelty involved in mink farming."

She believes that mink kept in cages, regardless of whether they are the product of four or five generations in captivity, are still

wild animals. The farms, Pollak insists, are "totally alien to animal's needs."

Considering there are alternatives to fur available, "no compassionate woman buys a fur coat anymore," Pollack argued.

But Pollak's biggest beef was with the media, who focus attention on an incident like this one but ignore sustained efforts to protest mink farming.

## 'Tweens

Friday, November 17

### OPEN MIKE

AMS presents Referendum '96 "In Search of Quorum" SUB conversation pit, 12:30 - 2:00pm.

November 18 & 19

### SELF DEFENCE FOR WOMEN

Basic class, \$35 for students. Please pre-register. SUB 212A, 11:00am - 5:00pm.

Thursday, November 23

### CLASS SERIES

"Capitalism, socialism and communism" presented by Sparticus Youth Club. Brittanis Community Centre, 7:30pm.

Tuesday, November 28

### INAUGURAL MEETING

UBC humanist club. International house, 5:00pm.

## FACULTY OF ARTS

### Prizes for Excellence in Teaching

Once again the University is recognizing excellence in teaching through the awarding of prizes to faculty members. The Faculty of Arts will select five (5) winners of the prizes for excellence in teaching for 1996.

**Eligibility:** Eligibility is open to faculty who have three or more years of teaching at UBC. The three years include 1995-96.

**Criteria:** The awards will recognize distinguished teaching at all levels; introductory, advanced, graduate supervision, and any combination of levels.

**Nomination Process:** Members of faculty, students, or alumni may suggest candidates to the head of the department, the director of the school, or the chair of the program in which the nominee teaches. These suggestions should be in writing and signed by one or more students, alumni, or faculty, and they should include a very brief statement of the basis for the nomination. You may write a letter of nomination or pick up a form from the office of the Dean of Arts in Buchanan B130.

**Deadline:** The deadline for submission of nominations to departments, schools, or programs is 29 January 1996.

Winners will be announced in the Spring, and they will be identified as well during Spring convocation in May.

For further information about these awards contact your department or call Dr. Errol Durbach, Associate Dean of Arts at 822-3828.

## UBC Awards William G. Black Memorial Prize

William G. Black Memorial Prize - a prize in the amount of approximately \$1,600 has been made available by the late Dr. William G. Black. The topic for the essay will be designed to attract students from all disciplines. The competition is open to students who are enrolled full-time at UBC and who do not already possess a graduate degree. A single topic of general nature related to Canadian citizenship will be presented to students at the time of the competition. Duration of the competition will be two hours. Candidates should bring their student card for identification.

The competition will be held:  
**Date: Saturday, November 25, 1995**  
**Time: 10:00 A.M. - 12 Noon**  
**Place: Angus 110**

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FRIENDLY COMPETITION

# Justice delayed is justice denied says Milgaard

by Matt Thompson

David Milgaard is still seeking justice from the system that wrongly sentenced him to more than twenty years in prison, and last Tuesday he asked UBC students to lend their support.

Milgaard was in the SUB concourse Tuesday to collect signatures for his petition demanding the Saskatchewan government conduct a full inquiry into the events surrounding his wrongful conviction for murder almost twenty five years ago.

Standing amid posters reading "Justice Delayed is Justice Denied," Milgaard says a public inquiry into his case is long overdue.

"We are petitioning the Saskatchewan government to take an honest look at my situation," Milgaard said.

Milgaard is also seeking a public apology from the

Canadian Justice Department and a disclosure of all evidence pertaining to his case—evidence he believes the Saskatchewan has yet to make fully public.

"There are still things taking place behind closed doors," he said.

In 1969 Milgaard was charged with the Saskatoon murder of nursing assistant Gail Millar. Despite a lack of physical evidence and repeated appeals, Milgaard was convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

Milgaard and his family maintained his innocence and after sustained lobbying efforts won a Supreme Court review of his case in 1991. Saskatchewan Justice Minister Robert Mitchell subsequently "stayed" Milgaard's sentence and he was released.

To this day, Milgaard has never been formally acquitted, and has received no

compensation for the 23 years he spent in prison.

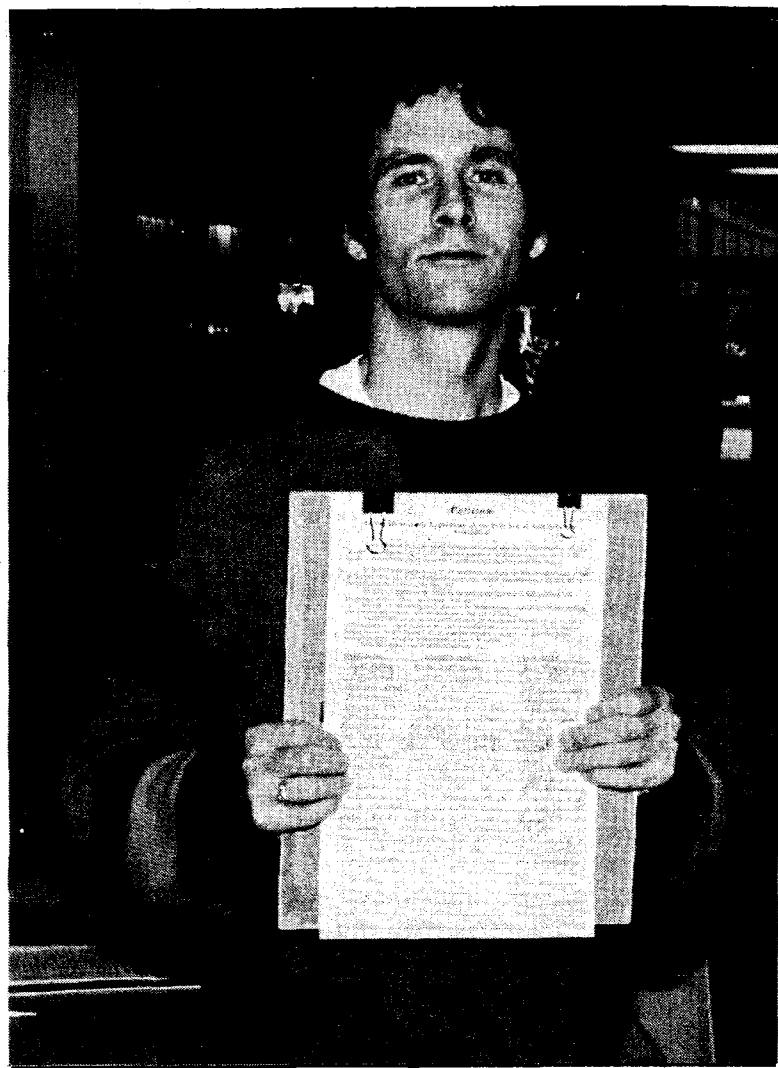
"It's a hell of a case. It's so ridiculous it just makes you want to puke," Milgaard said.

Milgaard says he has travelled extensively throughout Canada since his release and has temporarily settled here in Vancouver.

He became involved in social justice issues while in prison, and says he plans to work for the release of others who have been the victims of the Canadian justice system's rush to justice.

"There are people who are wrongfully convicted right now who are sitting in penitentiaries," he said.

After years spent in prison and on the road, the SUB's noise and the crowd had taken their toll on Milgaard by the end of the day. "It's been a hectic day," Milgaard said, "but I really appreciate all the signatures I got here."



DAVID MILGAARD fights to clear his name at UBC.

NICOLE TRIGG PHOTO

## Spare Change for ordinary people

by Douglas Quan

It's "Hangover Day"—the day after "Welfare Wednesday."

A few blocks from the downtown core near Hastings and Homer, Michael McCarthy sits in his one-room office contemplating the future of *Spare Change*, the street newspaper he started from scratch three years ago.

Stacks of the latest issue sit in a corner, waiting to be picked up by vendors for 50 cents a copy and who later resell them on the streets throughout Vancouver.

"Real People. Real Stories. Real Life," the newspaper's flag reads. In this fiftieth issue those "real stories" include giving kids living in poverty access to computer training, Gino Odjick's "journey of healing," a safe house for street kids and a law firm actively involved in the community.

The paper makes an effort to emphasize people making a difference, McCarthy says. "If it's positive and solution-oriented, we'll print it."

The very paper that strives to present its readers with stories of the small successes in life, however, is facing a questionable future itself, according to some vendors on the street who report that "sales are down."

"I wasn't making any money," says Elaine, a middle-aged woman who stands near the corner of Robson and Burrard, cup in hand. She recently returned to panhandling after selling *Spare Change* for a year.

In an effort to broaden *Spare Change's* appeal, McCarthy is appealing to students to become involved with the paper.

He feels that the student segment of the population is "being denied opportunity," and says the paper has the potential to be both a money-maker and "voice" for students.

"To me nothing is sadder than someone who graduates from school and flips burgers," McCarthy said.

McCarthy first got the inspiration to create *Spare Change* three years ago while in radio broadcasting after reading an article about homeless New Yorkers selling street newspapers.

A homeless person once himself, McCarthy initially envisioned the paper to be "the voice of the poor." The first few editions dealt with what McCarthy calls "raw stuff"—panhandling, homelessness and heroin addiction. But soon after, "people just got bored with it, and so did I," McCarthy said.

That's when he discovered *The Big Issue*, a street newspaper based out of London. In just three years, its circulation soared to 350,000 per week in 31 cities in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. McCarthy attributes its success to the range of social issues the paper deals with aside from poverty, and adds that the paper achieved its success without any grants from the government.

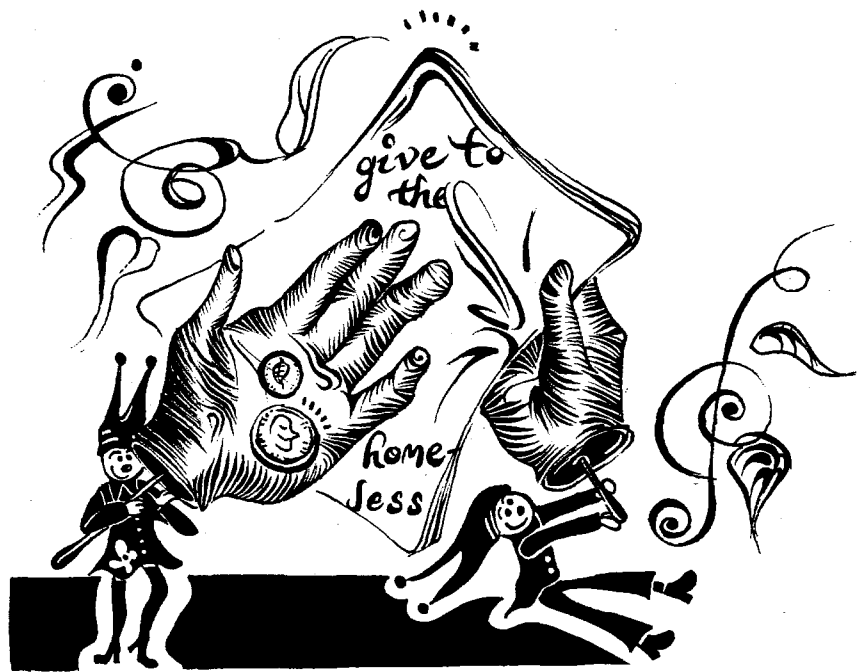
While *Spare Change* is not meant to be political, McCarthy feels that reliance on the government "has bankrupt the community."

"All it means is that everybody ends up unemployed on the

street on welfare with their drug and alcohol problems."

He also says the business community has a "social responsibility" it often neglects. Rather than building "a wall" around itself, he says, they should "get plugged into [their] community, and show us how to run a business...to mentor us."

But *Spare Change* has a long



way to go before it'll match the success of its British counterpart. *Spare Change* sells only about 10,000 copies per month even by generous estimates.

Part of the problem has been the lack of advertising. McCarthy points out the success of *Spare Change* in Alberta where, due to welfare cutbacks, "Social Services just sends everyone to sell the paper." In Vancouver, however, he was not allowed to post ads for *Spare Change* in Social Services offices because "unless it's a union job, pays workers compensation and UIC, they won't even let us advertise," he said.

McCarthy adds that there is a public misconception that only panhandlers sell these papers. While many of the vendors may be off the streets, he says single mothers, students

MARIE OISHI GRAPHIC

and "ordinary people" also sell *Spare Change*.

But Jean Swanson, who works with the coalition to End Legislated Poverty, feels that McCarthy encourages the unrealistic notion that "you can get out of poverty by selling [*Spare Change*]."

Rena, 29, and her husband Mark, in his late thirties have been selling *Spare Change* since February as a way "to make ends meet" after going bankrupt. They say a lot of vendors would be stealing if they didn't have the paper to sell. At the same time, they report that some vendors use the money they make to pay for their drug and alcohol addictions.

Rena and Mark attend Vancouver Community College in the evenings and sell *Spare Change* during the day. They say they make an average of twenty to 30 dollars a day; most of their customers are business people.

Rena says sometimes a stranger will come up to her and tell her to "get a real job." Her response? "You could be here in my place tomorrow." On this day, Mark is not selling papers, he is set up at a kiosk just another block down, on Seymour and Georgia, selling jewelry as another source of money. Mark used to make \$40,000 a year as a law student researcher.

"I wish there could be more feedback from the community," Mark said. "I wish the paper would just grow."

And McCarthy is hoping that will be the outcome of his appeal to students to contribute to the paper.

But that's little comfort for 67 year-old Olga, who sits in front of Hudson's Bay, bundled up in a heavy jacket, hood tightly wrapped around her head. "If [*Spare Change*] closes, I don't know what I'm going to do," she said.

### vs. an alternative

the newspaper, by, for and about women is putting out a call for submissions, news, views, poetry and stories about violence against women. special categories include poverty and violence, and colonization and violence.

drop submissions off at the Women's Centre or call Centime at 822-2163.

deadline for submissions is november 27.









## Murky water—harmless sediment or toxic devil dandruff?

We drink, unaware of the evil that gurgles within.

Sure. They've been telling us it's harmless; placating the masses with talk of "harmless sediment." Yeah right—the only thing cloudier than Vancouver's water supply right now is people's ability to see through the conspiratorial schemes of bottled water companies, the Canadian postal service, forestry moguls, optometrists and media spin doctors.

We have reason to believe the murkiness is the result of mass quantities of left-over Blue Chip Cookies coffee grinds deposited in Lower Mainland watersheds by the AMS. Don't believe us? Just ask AMS President Janice Boyle and former BC Premier Bill Vander Zalm about their recent "hiking trip" through the Capilano valley.

They tell you it's not toxic. They hope you won't notice the white specks in your fingernails, the increase in dandruff, the faint feelings of queasiness while walking up and down stairs. Soon, the veins are bursting out your skin like a roadmap and you're losing hair in unusual places.

Already you can feel the sediment working through your blood, clogging arteries, depositing its abrasive microscopic particles, tearing at neurotransmitters, accumulating like silt in the channels of the mind.

And what about these mink attacks? Random coincidence? Guess again. The minks weren't released—they *escaped*, twisting their half-starved bodies through the steel bars of their cages, pea-brains addled by murky devil water.

They say the rain is causing the problem with the water. Scientific analysis conducted in *The Ubyyssey's* dark room reveals that rain is, in fact, composed almost entirely of water!

It is now that the propagandists story begins to unravel.

Where does rain come from—from clouds. And what are clouds—a fluffy, naturally occurring meteorological phenomenon *in the sky*. There is no dirt in the sky—so how can "The Man" expect us to believe that all the scum in the water is "dirt" or "sediment"—the only scum in air is that lingering radiation from Hanford.

Don't be fooled—the water purifiers won't save you. (Everybody knows they're distributed by the same company that manufactures dull knives and carpet bombs.)

the ubyssey

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The sun had just come up to mark the start of a new day. Thousands of rodents had been set free across the Lower Mainland and there was nothing Peter T. Chattaway and Janet Winters could do about it. Joe Clark wiped a tear from his eye as he surveyed the squished hamsters on Noelle Gallagher's wall, while Scott Hayward chuckled gleefully to himself. "At last the squirrels have got some competition around here," chattered Matt Thompson. "That's just nuts," retorted Wolf Deppner who unknowingly had a gerbil in his pocket. Ben Koh and Lucy Shih tied a peanut butter smeared Ron Eichler to Marie Oishi and watched the rats nibble delicately at their earlobes. Sarah O'Donnell was so busy gathering acorns for winter, she barely saw the lemming family throw themselves off the cliff and onto Bryce Edwards speeding ferret-mobile. Craig Klepak ran a hair pick through his bushy tail while Doug Quan scraped gopher guts off the bottom of Christine Price's shoe. From the back room, Jesse Gelber sang along with his Alvin, Simon, Theodore and Alan Krias album. Nicole Trigg danced the funky groundhog.

The Ubyyssey would like to make clear that no rodents were harmed in the writing of this masthead.

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## letters

### SUS and the anti-calendar

With reference to your story "Student societies clash over anti-calendar," there is additional information relevant to the issue. SUS is entirely behind the idea that professors' teaching reviews be made public. Our concerns rest exclusively with the AMS's proposed format.

First, if the idea is for a campus-wide review, available to all students, it is not sufficient to print only 10,000 copies.

Second, distributing the review in March ensures that the new first year students, currently in high school, will not have access to it. The first year students are the people who need the review's information the most. Also, how many students are thinking about next year's classes in March? Most people are more concerned with their finals and getting a summer job.

Third, considering the difficulty in reaching the entire campus population, even on the most important issues, how can the AMS ensure that all students are aware of the campus wide review's existence?

Finally, the stats the AMS proposes to print will be nearly a year out of date. They will not

reflect classes where students downrate a professor, nor will they reflect classes where the professor makes an effort to improve his/her teaching.

For the last three years, the Science Undergrad Society has been publishing all the official Science professors' stats in our annual summer publication. Before we had access to the official stats, we rated professors ourselves. In both cases, these up to date stats were mailed to all Science students in late July in addition to messages from Science departments, clubs, the Dean and the Science Undergrad Society.

We feel that our method is the best way to ensure accessibility and maximum benefit to Science students. We are concerned that the AMS's proposal does not address those concerns, and that unnecessary duplication will only waste students' money.

Blair McDonald,  
Dir of Publications, SUS

### Free tuition not a bribe

Recently, *The Ubyyssey* has published several articles condemning the AMS for using 'bribing' techniques to increase voter turnout. The fact is, yes, the

AMS may be using incentives to encourage students to vote next January, but the negative publicity these methods are receiving is unwarranted.

The articles portray the AMS "hackers" as a small group of inward-looking students who care nothing about the student population but only have their self-interests in mind. The elections serve only their purposes, and any referenda that they may support will in some way increase their own salaries. This could not be further from the truth. Having read the referenda proposals, I discovered that, no, the AMS executives are not attempting to increase their personal daily pizza allowance, but are trying to establish child care reforms on campus and to re-allocate student fees to more appropriately benefit student resource groups. This would mean that the average student would tangibly benefit from the referenda.

I wholeheartedly agree with the AMS decision to encourage students to vote by offering a free tuition incentive. This will increase awareness of the issues, and no student is forced to even vote at all by entering the draw. The authors of the negative articles claim that this may result in even more student

ignorance—that students will mark off anything just to enter the free draw. I give UBC students a lot more credit than that. I assume that they will take five minutes out of their day to learn about issues that affect them.

In summary, the AMS attempt to draw voters is not a bribe. They are only trying to capture students' attention so that they will at least look at the choices that are put before them. Once you can grab that attention, I believe that a great majority of those students will look at the facts, make an informed decision, and vote on the real issues that are put before them.

Josh Bender  
4th Year Commerce

Got an opinion?  
Write a letter up  
to 300 words in  
length, and bring it  
to The Ubyyssey  
office (SUB 241K)  
with your student  
card. See your  
name in print!

**LETTERS POLICY:** Letters to the editor must be under 300 words. "Perspectives" are opinion pieces over 300 words but under 750 words and are run according to space. "Freestyles" are opinion pieces written by Ubyyssey staff members. Priority will be given to letters and perspectives over freestyles unless the latter is time sensitive. Priority on all opinions shall be given to those individuals or groups who have not submitted a letter or perspective recently. Opinion pieces will not be run unless the identity of the writer has been verified. 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 office of The Ubyyssey, otherwise verification will be done by phone.

by Wolf Depner

Students will be asked to support the re-allocation of the \$7 Athletic Fee next January, and a vote of support will benefit everyone involved.

A 'yes' vote would mean Intramurals would be able to maintain and expand its new facilities to accommodate the rapid increase in users. The new Student Recreation Centre has relieved some of the stress on the existing facilities, but more facilities will be needed in the future.

The World University Service Commission (WUSC) and student resource groups will also benefit from the reallocation through additional funding, meaning better services to you, the student. Refugees, those living in developing countries and victims of sexual assault will also benefit, and students will have better access to resource libraries like those in the Women's Centre and the Student Environment Centre.

Critics of the proposed fee re-allocation point out that \$3.50 out of the \$7 goes directly to the AMS coordinator of external affairs office rather than to student services. This, too, however, will ultimately benefit students. The increased budget will give the AMS greater lobbying power with the university, governments and the community at large. At a time when massive cuts are being made to post-secondary education and tuition is rising at an alarming rate, students' voices must be heard.

More importantly, UBC athletics will also benefit from a 'yes' vote. If students support the reallocation, UBC athletics can start charging students admission for sporting events. Although admission is now free, a nominal fee for the entertainment value is not unreasonable, and the proposed fees should fit within any student's budget.

Some argue that this commercialization of student athletics will hurt cash-strapped students and further dampen the already low school spirit. Will the football Birds soon be playing in a completely empty Thunderbird Stadium? Not likely.

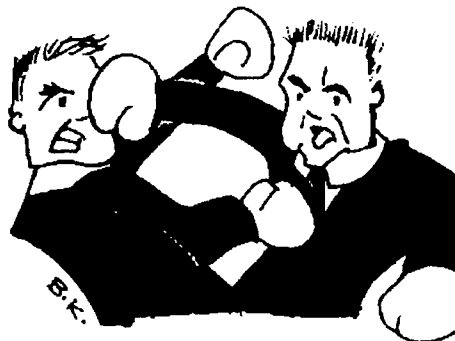
If UBC athletics charges admission to events it will be in their best interest to promote those events to students and attendance may actually increase. T-Bird events are currently advertised on TV and in the newspapers to attract paying clientele from the Vancouver community as an alternative to expensive professional sports. And if athletics does well marketing its sporting events on and off-campus, it could eventually create considerable revenues which would not only offset the loss of the athletic fee but actually increase their overall revenue.

Let's face it, these are tough economic times, and if varsity athletics are to prosper into the 21st century, they need to promote themselves to students. If they cannot, a vital part in campus life will slowly whither away.

by Scott Hayward

The Alma Mater Society is trying to raise revenues at the expense of athletic programs on campus.

## INTO THE RING



Should the AMS re-allocate the \$7 Athletic fee as follows:

- \$1.50 to Intramurals
- \$0.50 to WUSC Refugee Fund to double the support for two refugee students per year at UBC
- \$3.50 to the AMS External Affairs budget for increased lobbying on behalf of students
- \$1.50 to resource groups to ensure adequate funding

By reallocating the \$7 athletic fee, \$5.50 per student per year will be taken out of athletic programs, while a mere \$1.50 goes back into Intramural programs.

Over half of the remainder (\$3.50) will be used to increase the budget of the AMS coordinator of external affairs to lobby governments and the university on student issues. This comes on the heels of the AMS's decision to join the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), an organization that is supposed to lobby governments for them—at a cost of \$17,000 per year.

If CASA was such a good idea, why does the AMS need additional money, over and above what they have budgeted in the past, to lobby the government themselves?

The next largest chunk of the athletic fee, \$1.50, is earmarked for resource groups which include the Women's Cen-

tre and the Student Environment Centre—groups that make an important contribution to students, but ones which are already funded in the AMS budget. If the athletic fee is used to fund these groups, what will happen to the money already set aside for them in the budget?

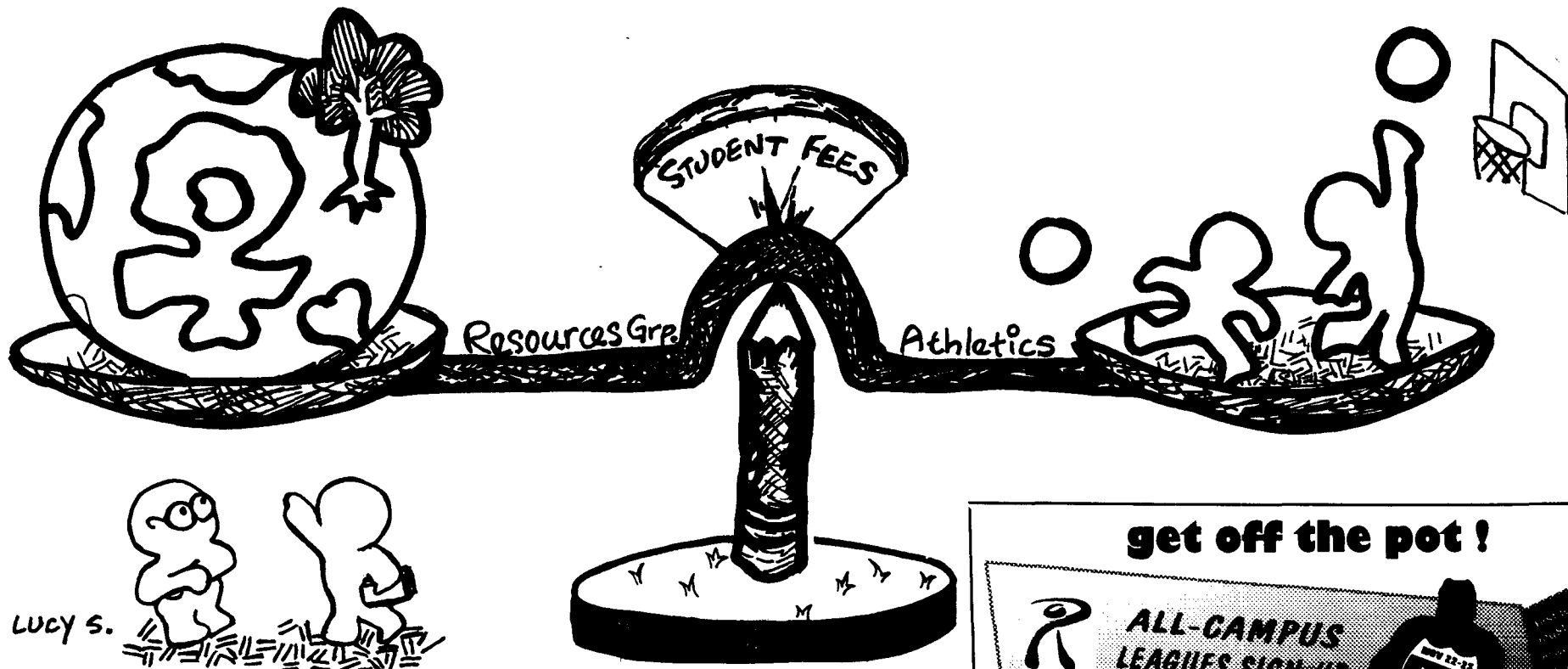
AMS council members have argued that only about 600 student athletes on campus benefit from the athletic fee. They seem to have forgotten that athletes are not the only ones to benefit from varsity sports. Attendance at football games this fall was often close to 1,000 and hockey attracts upwards of 500 people per game.

Coming together to cheer on a varsity team can provide a sense of community that helps unify a splintered campus.

Many municipal governments in Canada have realized this, and are willing to spend money to entice professional teams to locate in their cities because of the civic pride they generate.

If the referendum question passes, athletics will have the right to charge students to go to all regular season varsity games—students currently get in for free. Assuming the fee is a nominal \$2 per game, a student who attends ten of fourteen T-Bird hockey games would be shelling out \$20 per year. And don't be surprised if the cost goes up in three years to \$5 per game. \$50 a year is no longer pocket change.

What students are being asked to support in January is increased funding for a wealthy student society at the cost of athletic programs on campus. They will also be supporting the implementation of additional user fees.



### Bird Watch



**Volleyball**  
Saturday, Nov. 18  
vs Victoria Vikings  
War Memorial Gym  
6:15pm (M), 8:00pm (W)

**Rugby**  
Saturday, Nov. 18, 2:30pm  
vs Kats Rugby-Football Club  
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for locations and  
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p 9 of the POINT

registration for 2nd term leagues  
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The November 10 issue of *The Ubysey* contained a report of historian Gwynne Dyer's lecture given to the university on the previous Tuesday. He is optimistic about the immediate prospects for democracy in our world.

It is instructive to examine Mr. Dyer's argument that meaningful democratic forms are on the rise. Assuming the standard western-liberal interpretation of the Cold War as an economic/ideological conflict between two roughly equal great powers, one communist totalitarian and aggressive, the other democratic capitalist and defensive, with occasional "eruptions" into open warfare in Third World battlefields, he adopts the current view of American state managers and mass media that the demise of the "totalitarian and aggressive" power means that our dream of global liberty can finally be realized—the Cold War ends with the triumph of democracy.

But examination of the historical record calls this interpretation into question. Although from the end of WWII American state managers invoked the "domino" and "containment" doctrines in demanding that taxpayers finance and supply soldiers for Keynesian expeditions in order to combat "international communism" and Kremlin plans for world conquest in, to name a few examples, Greece, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, South America and the Middle East, actual Soviet involvement was almost always of little significance. In fact, many of these countries—most notably those in the western hemisphere—turned to Russia as a last resort, unable to receive aid otherwise because of American embargoes.

And what has been the result when the US has intervened "successfully" in the name of democracy? Time and again, brutal, repressive regimes with little concern for the freedom or advancement of their peoples but accommodation of US corporate desires for investment, resource extraction, cheap labour, and markets for surplus production. Consider Nicaragua, Guatemala, the Philippines, the "family dictatorships" of the Middle East, Diem's Vietnam; or Noriega's Panama and Hussein's Iraq—before these men were judged to have outlived their usefulness, and were demonized in the media and invaded.

With a little healthy skepticism and common sense, the illusions projected by American propaganda that entrap layman and Dyer alike quickly dissolve. The standard western-liberal model of interpretation of the Cold War, though false, served paramount functions in 1) conveniently explaining away the emergence of

nationalism in Third World "service states" as a sort of illness imported from a single evil source, and 2) convincing most of those who needed more persuasion than jingoist flag-waving—a relatively small but influential group—that the very security of America and the whole free world hung in the balance of every "mission of peace." But the real impetus was and continues to be the interests of the transnational corporations, the members of which make up "the government of the world," if you like, staffing the major executive political positions, monopolizing ownership and content of the media, ensuring that a properly orthodox future elite is being trained at universities like this one, and dwarfing all trade between nations with their daily transactions.

Mr. Dyer's optimism about the immediate future of democracy is merely a reflection of the new largely correct belief of the American elite: that with the military threat of the

USSR out of the way, along with its annoying habit of financing those who reject subjugation to American state-corporate demands, the US is freer to pursue those demands, installing and maintaining repressive

## PERSPECTIVE: Democracy and Reality

by Tavish McDonell

client regimes and discarding what little moderation was necessary before in using the Third World as a source for raw materials, cheap labour and market for surplus production; independent popular movements concerned with the terrible poverty of the indigenous people, i.e. socialist democratic forms, unions,

etc., do not serve the interests of the foreign masters, and are crushed. All of this must be presented to the public by the transnational corporations' information services—the media—and by properly orthodox intellectuals such as Mr. Dyer, as the triumph of democracy. The controls on thought are not overt, there is no censorship, but these values and assumptions must be internalized by those who wish to express "intelligible" opinions in the mainstream. Those who fail to conform and refuse to hail the glorious new prospects for democracy because they know who is really "pulling the strings" are ridiculed as apologists for the USSR, hysterical anarchists or most commonly simply marginalized.

Having passed through the proper ideological "filters" and unquestioned models of interpretation, absurdities such as Dyer's statement that the end of the Cold War has virtually eliminated the threat of nuclear war pass

almost without comment; as he speaks France and China explode bombs, and much of the old Soviet arsenal, no longer under strong centralized control, may very possibly end up in the hands of terrorists, if it has not already. Not to mention the new American freedom to use its truly immense stockpile of nuclear weapons without fear of a catastrophic retaliation.

Finally, Dyer says: "If the Chinese finish what they started on Tienammen Square in 1989, before the end of this decade we'll enter the 21st century on a planet where over 90 percent of humanity lives in more or less democratic societies." Very curious, even aside from the blunder about somehow entering the 21st century before the end of the decade. An honest child could tell you that if the Chinese "finish what they started" at Tienammen Square than all those concerned with liberty and democracy will "enter the 21st century" either massacred or imprisoned.

I had this huge \_\_\_\_\_ last week in \_\_\_\_\_.  
Naturally, I \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_-ed the  
whole night before. I threw on some \_\_\_\_\_,  
walked into the \_\_\_\_\_, and my mind went  
\_\_\_\_\_. I tried to \_\_\_\_\_ for a minute,  
then I just started \_\_\_\_\_-ing every  
possible \_\_\_\_\_ I could. What a \_\_\_\_\_.

You fill them in.

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