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THE UBYSSEY

January 6, 2009 | www.ubyssey.ca
Narrowly escaping vehicular suicide since 1918 | volume xc, number 27
UBC's official student newspaper is published Tuesdays and Fridays

Events

If you have an event, e-mail us at events@ubyssey.ca

January 7

Give Blood • The First Nations House of Learning and Canadian Blood Services are co-hosting a blood donation clinic at the UBC First Nations • *Jan. 7 @ 11:15 am - 4:45 pm, Longhouse (1985 West Mall), Cost: Free, to make an appointment call 1-888-2DONATE•*

Kim Cattrall at UBC • The Dept. of Theatre & Film presents Sex and the City actress, producer and author Kim Cattrall. She talks about her 35+ yrs of professional work in TV, theatre and film, her life challenges, women in the work force, etc. . • *Jan. 7 12–1 pm, Frederic Wood Theatre (6354 Crescent Rd.) Cost: Free, To reserve seating: 604-822-2678 •*

January 9

Winter Broomball Championships • One of UBC REC's most entertaining tournaments, the Winter Broomball Championships, are the perfect escape for the winter blues. CoRec teams of 5 (four plus goalie) will compete in the most fun you can have on ice without wearing skates. Helmets with a full cage or half-visor and mouth guard are required. Participants are strongly encouraged to bring their own. Knee pads and elbow pads are also recommended, but not required. Be sure to sign-up for a timeslot early as spots are sure to fill up quickly! • *All day Jan. 9, UBC Student Team: $106, UBC Staff Team: $175 •*

Women's Hockey • UBC Thunderbirds vs. Lethbridge Horns • *Jan. 9 @ 7:30 - 9 pm, Thunderbird Winter Sports Center, Tickets: $10 student/$4 youth & senior/$2 UBC student •*

January 10

Shoot for the Cure - Women's Basketball vs. SFU Clan • The UBC Thunderbirds are proud to be a part of the CIS initiative SHOOT FOR THE CURE. Part of the proceeds from every ticket sold will go to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation - BC/Yukon Region. Come out on Saturday night for an evening of basketball and support both your Thunderbirds and breast cancer research in Canada. Show your support and come to the game wearing PINK! • *Jan. 10 @ 6-8pm, Location: War Memorial Gym, Tickets: $10 adult/$4 youth & senior/$2 UBC student •*

Basketball • UBC Men's Basketball vs. Simon Fraser Clan for the last time in conference play this year • *Jan. 10 @ 8 pm, War Memorial Gym, Tickets: $10 adult/$4 youth & senior/$2 UBC student •*

January 11

Chip In! Christmas Tree Recycling at the UBC Botanical Garden • Come help. Your help is much appreciated! Be sustainable! Drop off your Christmas tree (only) to be chipped into mulch for Garden trails. Please remove all tree stands, decorations, lights and tinsel. All dates and times are self-serve drop off. • *Jan. 11, 9-4:30pm, Location: UBC Botanical Garden parking lot, 6804 South West Marine Dr. •*

January 13

Improve your Presentation Skills • Whether you shake in your boots at the thought of speaking in front of a group or ham it up on stage, Coach Rhonda Victoor will catapult your speaking to a whole new level! After nearly two years of gruelling competition Rhonda became the World Effective Speaking Champion in Japan in November 2004: an event attended by 10,000 business leaders including author Stephen Covey. Now she will share the GEMS that helped her become a world class speaker! • *Jan. 13 @ 9am–4pm, Location: TBD, Cost: $100 •*

Note taking Workshop • Learn about the Cornell note taking method and SQ3R -- techniques to help you take better notes. Also, get some tips to improve your concentration in lectures. • *Jan 13 @ 12-1:30pm, Held in the Dodson Room of the Chapman Learning Commons, To register go to: www.students.ubc.ca/workshops •*

January 14

Find your Career • Ever wonder what types of careers are best suited to your interests and personality? This interactive workshop will help you deepen your understanding of your work style and work preferences so you can better plan and prepare for your future career. Complete the Type Focus personality inventory prior to attending the workshop. • *Jan. 14 @ 12-1 pm, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre Room 260, Free Admission •*

Unmasking the Hidden Job Market • Is the eternal search for employment feeling a bit futile? You may be surprised to know that an overwhelming 80% of jobs are unadvertised. So where are all the jobs? Professional association members from a variety of industries come to uncover the secret world of networking to help you be successful in your career quest. • *Jan 14 @ 2-4 pm, LSK 460, Cost: Free •*

January 15

Post-Graduation Work Permit Info Session • Are you graduating and planning to look for a job in Canada? Do you want to know about government regulations on post-graduation work permit? How can you find a job? How can you prepare and what are the resources? Come join us in the info session and learn more about resources and tips related to post-graduation employment. • *Jan. 15 @ 1–2pm, Location: International House, Upper Lounge, Free Admission •*

Sudoku

		3			6		8	
	4				2			1
			9			4		
	3		1			8	7	
9	1						4	6
	5	7			3		1	
		6			8			
3			4				6	

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THE UBYSSEY

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Contributors

It all begun as Goh Iromoto was trapped in a little dark box by the evil K.K.K. - King Kellan Higgins, Kooky Kalyeena Makortoff, and Killah Kristen Fok. Luckily, the Great Dan Haves came up with an ingenious plan. First, his look-a-like Oker Chen tricked the goons into thinking he had escaped. Amidst the confusion, Ian Turner used his brute strength to burst open the box. Then Trevor Record used his super cackle which blew the K.K.K. off a rocky cliff. Unfortunately though, they landed on top of Trevor Melanson and Samantha Jung who were having sex on the beach. Gerald Deo came out of nowhere, took photos of this and sent the images to Cel Rince, who was complaining that he couldn't view the images on his ipod cause it was running low on juice...even though he was standing in a room full of computers.

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UBC abandons electronic waste recycler

Genesis Recycling Ltd said to lack transparency in the recycling process at UBC

BY HEATHER AMOS
News Writer

Due to uncertain protocol, UBC has terminated its relationship with its previous electronic waste recycler and has picked up two new recyclers in hopes of finding an ethical way to dispose of old computers and other electronics.

Genesis Recycling Ltd. has been UBC's electronic waste, or e-waste, recycler for three years. However, the university is unconvinced by assurances that material isn't being shipped and dumped abroad hazardously.

Christian Beaudrie, outreach co-ordinator for UBC Waste Management, said the industry certification program that Genesis Recycling Ltd. was a part of does not have a strong auditing process and lacks transparency around its dumping protocol. "We're absolutely not comfortable with staying with the [program]...for that reason," said Beaudrie.

Genesis has denied UBC's assertions and insisted guidelines for ethical recycling are being met. "We're pretty proud of how we handle e-waste here," said Doug Surtees, the company's general manager.

"We're under a lot of scrutiny, we've passed all our audits and inspections with flying colours," he said.

Last year UBC collected 36 tons of e-waste from the campus and community and sent it to Genesis. It is estimated that UBC is capturing one-quarter to one-half of the amount of electronic waste produced at the school.

Genesis is a provincially approved recycler with the Western Canada Computer Industry Association (WCCIA), a non-profit society that oversees a voluntary industry certification program to safely dispose of electronics.

CBC News recently exposed two British Columbian companies that tout safe disposal, Technotrash and Electronics-recycling.com, which were found to be shipping Canadian e-waste to China. Technotrash, like Genesis, is a member of the WCCIA.

"The university sought written assurances of safe disposal and an impartial audit of Genesis' practices," said Beaudrie. When Genesis would not co-operate, UBC decided to look elsewhere.

"We've given them an adequate chance to prove that they're handling these things the right way and they've failed to do that," said Beaudrie.

Surtees said Genesis is in the midst of undergoing the auditing process to become a member of another industry recycling certification program in BC—one of two in the province—the Electronic Stewardship Association of BC (ESABC).

"We knew we would have to make some changes. We didn't want to give them [a] document that would be out of date in a month. We haven't gotten anything back from the auditor yet," said Surtees, who expects the audit back soon.

Concerns have arisen in recent years that some Canadian companies are illegally shipping used electronics to countries such as China, India, Nigeria and Ghana where they are broken down in unsafe conditions for their raw components, many of them toxic. The process poses a severe health and environmental risk.

"It's just terrible to even imagine feeding that process and putting that many people in harm's way," Beaudrie commented.

UBC has chosen to send all of its unusable electronic waste, which comprises 90 per cent of its total e-waste output, to Encorp Pacific for recycling, a program manager for the ESABC.

Free Geek Vancouver will be sent the remaining ten per cent of UBC's e-waste; the reusable electronics. Ifny Lachance, co-founder of Free Geek Vancouver, explained that they reuse e-waste by allowing members of the community to get their hands on the electronics by updating, taking apart or fixing the waste.

Lachance is excited to be working with UBC because of the "educational affinity between the two institutions."

Free Geek Vancouver estimates that Canada produces 140,000 tons of electronic waste per year, the equivalent of 5.6 million computers. Eighty per cent of this waste is making it overseas, despite the fact that Canada is a signatory to a 1992 United Nations treaty that deems it illegal to ship e-waste abroad.

It is uncertain whether these computers will make it to the proper e-waste recycler. HEATHER AMOS PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

Journalism school robberies cause concern

RCMP and Campus Security plan further collaboration for 2009

BY KERRY BLACKADAR
News Writer

Two weeks after ten computers were taken from UBC's School of Journalism building in early November, a second heist at the same location was thwarted by the joint efforts of Campus Security and the RCMP.

Shortly after 2am on November 22, 2008, thieves loaded three Mac computer stations into a vehicle. Alerted to the break-in by the building's alarm, Campus Security arrived just as the thieves were fleeing the scene.

The arrival of security is believed to be the reason the thieves drove with such haste southbound on Northwest Marine Drive where they crashed near the Nitobe Memorial Gardens, less than one kilometre and about a minute's drive from the School of Journalism.

The RCMP arrived shortly after the crash occurred, but by this time the thieves had escaped into the surrounding regions on foot. A police helicopter and search dogs aided the search, but the culprits were not found.

Police may have some very good evidence as to who was responsible. The thieves left their blood on the School's property as well as fingerprints on the vehicle, which was later impounded by the police. Constable Meghan Driscoll from Campus RCMP said the length of the investigation will depend on the amount of time it takes to get results back from forensic analysis.

Being hit twice in two weeks came as no surprise to Dr Mary Lynn Young, the director of UBC's journalism program and a previous crime reporter in the US and Canada. "We had an inkling that this was going to happen again. If you have valuable equipment, you are going to be targeted," she said.

When it comes to protecting these items, she believes all you can do is make it extremely difficult for the thieves. After the school's first break-in, changes were made to the computers' cabling and the building locking mechanisms in order to improve security.

The associate director of Campus Security, Greg Parsons, says it was "these changes in security [that] were responsible for catching the thieves red handed." Another improvement the second time around was that "the police were responding at the same time as Campus Security—which is unique," Parsons said.

Typically, Campus Security will only alert RCMP after they have attended the scene and confirmed that there is indeed a problem. In the case of the Sing Tao building, which by then was considered 'high-risk,' prior arrangements had been made with the RCMP to notify them immediately if another incident occurred.

But Campus Security says calling RCMP every time an alarm on campus goes off would be unnecessary and unwise. "Two thousand alarms go off every year on UBC's campus, and of these, the highest percentage are false," says Parsons.

UBC's campus covers over 1000 acres, has 480 buildings, and at any given time, has upwards of 60,000 people. Since September, Campus RCMP have recorded close to 40 break-ins. This number, according to Constable Driscoll, is consistent with the year before, and what Parsons calls "not alarmingly high."

High-profile robberies, like the theft at the Museum of Anthropology last spring, where over 15 pieces of artwork were stolen, are rare. Parsons says the incident "was an awakening to concerns in general on campus" and suggests it has caused criminals to pay a little more attention to the opportunities that the UBC campus "offers."

Over the past year, the university has increased staff and management of Campus Security, but Parsons does not attribute this expansion to the Museum robbery alone. Instead, "[the robbery] was an unfortunate occurrence during a total revisit to the structure of campus security."

The Forest Sciences Centre, the Michael Smith building, and the offices in the History Department of Buchanan Tower are other areas that have caused Campus Security some headaches recently. Parsons cautions students that their priority should always be personal security over property, and asks them to report suspicious behaviour to Campus Security (604-822-2222).

In 2009, Campus Security will be working with the RCMP more closely. As was the case in the robbery that took place at the School of Journalism, a combined effort seems to work best. In the upcoming months, they will be working on several joint initiatives, including a bait program that will position GPS enabled bikes and laptops around campus in hopes of reducing theft and allowing students to have a safe, and happy, new year.

> We had an **inkling** that this was going to happen again. If you have **valuable equipment**, you are going to be targeted.
> *—Dr Mary Lynn Young, director of UBC's journalism program*

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Demonstrators gathered at the Vancouver Art Gallery last Saturday to protest the conflict between Israel and Hamas. Activists spoke out on a number of issues, ranging from conflict in the Middle East to land claim issues in Vancouver. As protestors marched around the block, chants of "Palestine will be free, from the river to the sea" echoed over the downtown area. Over 300 protestors showed up for the rally.

KELLAN HIGGINS PHOTOS/THE UBYSSEY

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AMS executive salaries undergo examination

Remuneration Committee may consider wage adjustments

By Katarina Grgić

News Staff

AMS council has decided to re-examine the salaries of their executive members.

At a council meeting in November, a motion was passed to create a remuneration committee, which would take a closer look at how much the executives were paid in relation to the hours they worked.

"We're just seeing if the hours match up," said Rory Green, Remuneration Committee chair and AMS Arts Council rep. "We might increase the pay, we may lower it, we may leave it exactly where it is. We are still doing research and have not yet determined what action is necessary."

AMS executives earn a salary of $20,931 plus an honorarium of $1500 which leaves them with a yearly income of $22,431. Currently, executives are paid for 35 hours of work each week while many are reporting that they work upwards of 40 hours per week. "Who knows how much of that time was spent on Facebook—we're considering getting timesheets," said Green.

In comparison to executives from other student societies across the country, the AMS is relatively well-paid. AMS executives are paid around $13 per hour whereas University of Victoria Student Society executives recieve $12.86. At SFU, executives earn $14.58 per hour—given they work 120 hours a month; the less they work, the less they are payed. At the University of Alberta, Steven Dollansky, vice president operations and finance, says the executives earn a salary of $24,000—but he estimates that they work 50 to 58 hours a week. At Queens University, student society executives make $20,085 and are expected to work 40 hours per week.

The committee aims for the remuneration process to be done as "openly and as translucently as possible. It needs to make sure that our executives are not paid too much," said Green, as the AMS relies heavily on the work of volunteers, and high remuneration can be counter-productive in volunteer settings. However, "we want to make sure that our executives are paid fairly. We want the best and most competent people in these positions."

Editors' note: There are two member spots still open for the Remuneration Committee. If you would like to be a member of the committee please email Rory Green at roryg@interchange.ubc.ca.

Nintendo-rock concert ends in blood

Being kicked in the face is just part of the metal-geek experience

Guitarist Herman Li with his axe, shredding faster than that wood chipper in *Fargo*. GERALD DEO PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

BY CELESTIAN RINCE
Culture Staff

December 19 saw the final gig of an international metal tour. Powerglove, Turisas and headliners DragonForce played in a sold-out Croatian Cultural Centre on a frosty Friday night. The show started off on a sour note as the doors opened a full 45 minutes after the scheduled time. Concertgoers waiting outside in subzero temperatures gave rumblings of discontent. I waited in the nearby tavern where it was nice and warm.

The doors did eventually open, but it wasn't much better. You could still see your breath inside. Slowly, the venue warmed.

DragonForce has been called "Nintendo metal" by some, but these people have obviously never heard of Powerglove. They were the first band up, playing their signature remixed heavy metal versions of video game tunes. Their unfortunately-brief 30-minute performance got a good reception, particularly their last song: a rendition of the *Power Rangers* theme song. Hearing the call and response of "Go, go, Power Rangers" from hundreds in the crowd is something I will not soon forget.

Next up was Turisas. These guys had apparently warmed up by slaughtering people backstage, their faces a bright red. Their performance was not particularly noteworthy, except that their act features (and works well with) an accordionist.

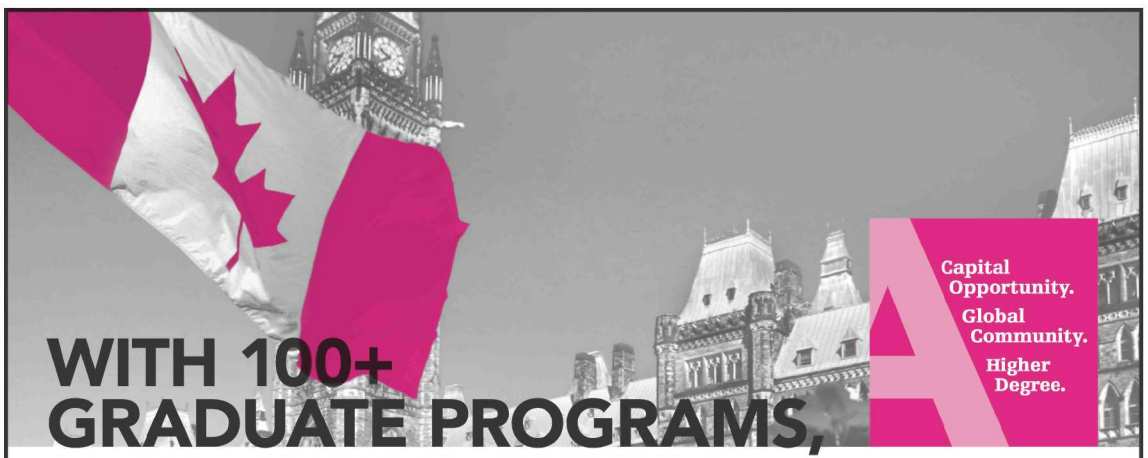
After Turisas, there was a 40-minute wait for DragonForce. When the wait finally ended, they did not disappoint. The energy level was enough to elicit a fair amount of moshing and bashing.

The audience had a communal and festive spirit. At one point, a big guy saw me taking pictures and boosted me up on his shoulder so that I might get better shots. A cute blonde put me in a headlock and told me to, "take a picture of us," (I missed). And after I dropped my cell phone while crowd surfing, I returned to my spot and found that it had been picked up by a friendly girl.

My luck ran out near the end of the night, as I was kicked in the face by a crowd surfer. Wiping the back of my hand over my cheek, I discovered I was bleeding significantly. DragonForce's new album is entitled *Ultra Beatdown*, and now I know why.

The ending of the concert was a fairly epic performance of "Through the Fire and Flames," one of their most popular songs. All told, it was a decent but not mind-blowing show. People came to see DragonForce deliver rapid riffs, long guitar solos, and swift, pounding, absurdly fast songs with over-the-top fantasy lyrics—and that's what they got. But next time, not in the face. Please.

I was **kicked** in the **face** by a crowd surfer. Wiping the back of my **head**, I discovered I was **bleeding** significantly.



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Our view

Harper lacks parliamentary logic

The Ubyssey would like to take credit for everything that's happened in Canadian politics over the last month. Since we stopped publishing in late November, Stephen Harper has run amok, no longer fearing the wrath of our editorials. The Liberals gave him his opportunity when they took our advice and formed a coalition between the centre-left parties.

This all ended in Harper's dismissing parliament to avoid losing the confidence of the house (losing a confidence vote, that is). Throughout, he used two lines to attack the coalition. 1: That it would give the "separatists" a veto over parliamentary proceedings, an argument that, if you follow it to its logical conclusion, should also justify dismissing the Bloc from the House outright (how can we let separatists vote on national issues?). And 2: That no one voted for the coalition—they elected the Conservatives.

Argumentatively, his second point holds more water than the first. As the opposition pointed out, it's perfectly constitutional to form a coalition in a parliamentary democracy—we elect members in a first-past-the-post system, but once they are elected, they're not beholden to a winner-take-all situation. In spite of this, coalition governments are extremely rare in Canada, and no one voting could reasonably expect that one would form.

Now that the maneuvering is over and it doesn't look like any amount of arguing can revive December's coalition, we can award partial points for that: we didn't vote for a coalition because no one thought it was an option (not even when *The Ubyssey* recommended it). It's an argument that only works once though—coalitions are on the table. And we think it's a development for the best.

There's not much about our electoral system to brag about, but, in a minority government, our system does force respectable compromises between a wide range of interests. It acts as a corrective to another quirk in our system, which rewards parties with a geographically centred base (Québec, or, say, Alberta). The break in that system—the one Harper was trying to exploit in late November—is that disagreements force elections, allowing a minority government to form a false consensus based on the cost and unpopularity of frequent elections.

Coalitions will further force parties to work together, compromise and get things done. If a party refuses to work in the House as it's been elected, they won't benefit. If a party is big enough or has the constitutional power to block all progress in parliament, vote it the hell out—it's not doing its job.

The breakup letter (Dear Snow....)

Snow,

Could you sit down for a sec? I think we need to have a talk. Now, don't cry, but...I think it's time I saw other weather systems.

Look, it's not you, honestly. You're amazing. I remember that Saturday night last month when you showed up in my life. You were beautiful. What we had was beautiful. You made my Christmas such a memorable one. I'll remember it forever, babe.

I'm just not ready for this sort of long-term relationship. Don't shout, please. I'm not implying that a one-night stand where you melt away would have been better. It's just that when I'm with you, there's no room for anything else. Buy new clothes, cancel plans with friends, stay at home...you just want too much from me. I won't say it's a hassle, but...it's a daily adventure. We can still be friends. I hope we stay friends—heck, I generally like seeing you. Just a little less of you.

Frankly, I didn't expect this would happen. If I wanted this type of relationship, I would have gone to plenty of other universities. This sort of thing is just more appealing as a mountain fantasy.

And Sunday night? That was the breaking point. You can't just show up like that without warning. That crossed the line. It's getting to the point of harassment and stalking. I had plans that night, buses I needed to take, and then you show up and...forget it. There's no use arguing.

Seriously, I'd prefer if you left, snow. We've tried this for a month now. It was fun at first, but now, it's more hassle than it's worth. I want to go back to the life I had before. Your icy, exotic personality was wild for a bit, but now I realize you're just plain cold. I never thought I'd say this, but I think I'll be happy to see rain.

Interested in journalism?

The Ubyssey is back in action as of today.

Meetings Wednesday at noon in SUB 24

by Dan Haves

Letters

KEEP IT IN LINE, UBYSSEY

Dear *Ubyssey*,

I begin with a small proclamation of my adoration for *The Ubyssey*. Ever since I arrived on campus for the first time, I loved everything about it, from the quirky headlines to the comedically practical advice you gave me as a nervous first year. However, November 28's issue and specifically Trevor Tapedeck's Beer-ocaust article [RCMP have "final solution" to the "fraternity issue"] was a big joke that in my opinion, crossed the line. As a university with a substantial Jewish population I found the shoddy comparison to be amusing at first, but downright disrespectful by the last line of the article. Equating the shutting down of fraternity houses to the Holocaust is slightly laughable, but the allusions to the tragic events of *Kristallnacht* (and comparing it with broken beer bottles?) and the constant capitalization of The Final Solution in an institutionalized manner disgusted me. Your newspaper succeeds in being comedic in "stick it to the man" articles and particularly in its criticisms of figures such as Stephen Toope. Yet Trevor's article struck me as being quite disrespectful to the atrocities of the Holocaust and frankly, centuries will have to pass before such a tragic event can be equated to the relatively trivial matter of fraternity drinking regulations. Although intentions may have lied elsewhere, it's still wrong and I personally find it disgusting. Stay funny but keep it within boundaries, for fuck's sake.

Sincerely,

—Nadeem Hakemi
Political Science 2

If you wish to to submit a letter it must be no longer than 350 words. Your identity will be confirmed by phone or by ID from the office. People may email us at feedback@ubyssey.ca.

Write us a letter, we would love to hear your comments.

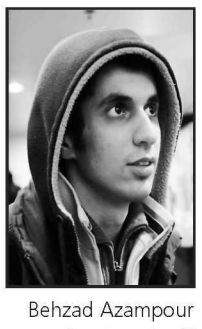
feedback@ubyssey.ca

Streeters

How has the snow in Vancouver affected you?

Katie Fedosenko
Arts 3

"I had to pay $60 to take a cab from BC Ferries to UBC, when normally I can spend that money on food or tuition or books or whatever else... but...I couldn't take the bus, it was too full."

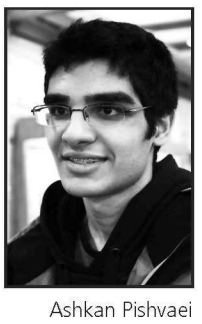


Behzad Azampour
Engineering 2

"It's hard getting around, but other than that not much. Buses are going fine so I'm fine with that. It's not like SFU where they have that hill so it's been pretty good."

Mike Silvui
Sociology 3

"Yesterday was horrible....For the people commuting, I feel sorry for them. You got to get to school a little earlier to account for it."



Ashkan Pishvaei
Arts 1

"It's been a hazard for my driving. I drive to school...and I can't go my normal routes and the buses don't go their normal routes anymore. It's dangerous."

Danna Satare
Arts 1

"It's really hard walking in the snow with all the slush. At first when they didn't have the roads cleared it was really annoying, but now it's okay. I'm getting tired of it, but what can you do, right?"

—Coordinated by Dan Haves, with photos by Oker Chen

The predators' predators

Shark finning is threatening a species that's thrived for 400-million years

BY JAY QUIGLEY
Perspectives Writer

Shark finning is the barbaric practice of removing the pectoral and dorsal fins of a shark. Often still alive, the shark is then thrown back into the water, causing the finless (and therefore immobile) animal to either suffocate or, horrifically, be eaten alive by other sea creatures. None of the more than 400 shark species in the world are immune to harvest and some researchers believe that within a decade, many species will be extinct as a direct result of this practice.

To date, fewer than 20 countries have banned the practice of shark finning—Canada is one who has. Strangely, while shark finning is illegal in Canadian waters, it is not illegal to sell fins obtained through the process for consumption in Canada. Imagine my surprise, then, when I discovered shark fin rolls at a UBC sushi restaurant. As it turns out, it is only a "shark fin substitute" made from fish and gelatin. Shark fin substitutes demonstrate the popularity of the dish because when a product is rare or expensive, substitutes emerge—which is the same reason why cubic zirconia and rhinestones were created: to replace diamonds. The shark fin substitute, however, does little to help the animal—it merely reinforces the desire to try the real thing; ask anyone who has ever gotten a zircon when they wanted a diamond.

Why is it that when a baby seal gets clubbed to death for its fur, the world causes such a fuss that the governments begin to ban seal products?

Most commonly, shark fin is consumed in a soup, the origin of which can be traced back to Ming Dynasty China. It was traditionally served at special occasions as a symbol of one's wealth and prestige. In the last decade, however, the demand for shark fin soup in Asia has skyrocketed, with Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan being the major shark fin trading centres. Shark fin itself, ironically, has no taste—chicken or fish stock need to be added to a dish prepared with shark fin in order to flavour the dish.

Though shark finning is wasteful and torturous, it is also highly profitable. A whale shark fin, for example, can sell for more than $10,000, making this endangered species a prime target for shark fishermen. Off the coast of countries such as Costa Rica and Ecuador, sharks are being harvested solely for their $300 a pound fins. Their bodies are then discarded as waste because their meat is not an economically viable product, in spite of the fact that shark meat is a staple for the impoverished people who inhabit these developing countries.

Fossil records indicate that sharks have survived on our planet since before the time of the dinosaurs. This 400-million year period of stability is now being threatened by overharvesting of sharks. Recent surveys along the US and Canada's eastern coasts have indicated that populations of species such as scalloped hammerheads and tiger sharks have declined 97 per cent since 1970. Perhaps most alarmingly, bull sharks, dusky sharks and smooth hammerheads have all declined by 99 per cent.

Why is it that if a dolphin gets killed while harvesting tuna, the world creates such an uproar as to completely change the means by which tuna are caught worldwide—ensuring a healthier future for the dolphin? Why is it that when a baby seal gets clubbed to death for its fur, the world causes such a fuss that the governments begin to ban seal products? Why is it that when wolves are hunted to extinction in Yellowstone National Park, the world cries out and successfully has them reintroduced into the Park?

Why is it that the world is ignoring the plight of the shark? As I mentioned before, finning is extremely lucrative. Some shark specialists estimate that as many as 100 million sharks are harvested each year for their fins, making this a multi-billion dollar industry. A lack of shark education is another reason why finning is an ongoing problem. Individuals such as Rob Stewart, a Canadian filmmaker who has made it his mission to stop the practice of shark finning, are working to rectify the problem by producing films such as *Sharkwater: the Truth Will Surface*. He is working to bring people knowledge about, and respect for, the shark as a wondrous and necessary part of the planet's ecosystem. He is fighting to stop the illegal harvesting of shark fins and he is losing.

GOH IROMOTO ILLUSTRATION / THE UBYSSEY

Now you know. So what will you do? Instead of sitting by with that strange Canadian mixture of apathy and cynicism your peers may exhibit, you can actually do something. You can help people like Rob Stewart combat the villains who are depleting our oceans for profit. You can go to sharkwater.com and pledge your support (it doesn't have to be monetary, though that's an option). Write your MLA and demand that the international and local sale of shark fin be halted.

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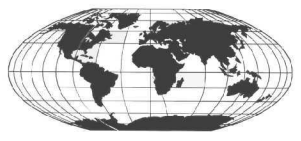

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All Tatt'ed up for 2010

Vancouver tattoo artist to offer free inking for any 2010 Olympic medalists

By Nikalas Kryzanowski

The Other Press (Douglas College)

NEW WESTMINSTER (CUP)—It's every Olympic hopeful's dream to make their mark in Vancouver 2010, but it's one tattoo artist who hopes to make his mark on them, literally.

Thomas Lockhart, of West Coast Tattoo in Vancouver, has designed over 200 Olympic designs for his shop and intends to imprint a free inking to any Olympic medalist.

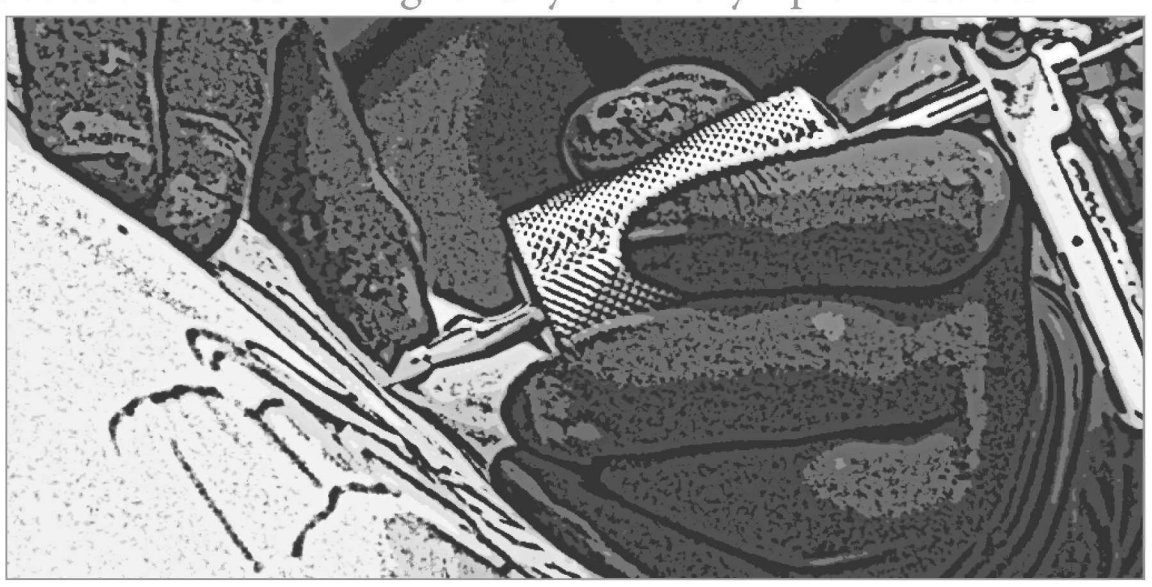
He says that the gesture is to provide Olympians with a lasting memento of their experience at the games.

Lockhart says that he is not concerned about any potential copyright infringement disputes that might arise with the Vancouver Olympic Committee (VANOC).

"Patriotic, memorial, and commemorative tattoos have been around long before the Olympics were even dreamed up. It's not like I'm using them to sell pizzas on Denman Street," said Lockhart in reference to the struggle between the Olympia Restaurant and VANOC over the use of the Olympic rings on the restaurant's signage.

If VANOC does express concern, it would be because they are legally obligated by the International Olympic Committee to "protect the Olympic brand."

VANOC's "Protecting the Brand" guide states that it and its government partners recognize the importance of ensuring that small businesses connect with Olympic-related business opportunities without resorting to "ambush marketing," which is described as "allowing a marketer to benefit from associating with the 2010 Olympic games without providing financial support for the games or the athletes."



DARYCH PHOTO ILLUSTRATION / FLICKR

Tattoos by artist Thomas Lockhart

York university student caught with fake degree

Law student one of hundreds in Canada with fraudulent post-secondary credentials

By Andrew Fletcher

Excalibur (York University)

TORONTO (CUP)—A student at York University is under investigation for allegedly committing an act of degree-fraud.

Third-year student Quami Frederick is under review for academic dishonesty after she submitted a degree she allegedly never earned for admission to Toronto's Osgoode Law School.

The *Toronto Star* reported on December 13 that Frederick spent $1,109 on a St. George's University BA in business administration from a US-based diploma mill in 2004.

The diploma mill has since been shut down.

While Frederick denies the allegations, St. George's University, located in Grenada, confirmed she did not attend the school.

"I am not allowed to comment on any media that is related to students," said Alex Bilyk, director of media relations at York University. "When it comes to academic dishonesty, there are processes that are in place in order to follow with actions."

"According to Quami, she has been summoned to a hearing by the associate dean of Osgoode and that they are intent on expelling her," said Dale Brazao, the *Toronto Star* reporter who broke the story about the hundreds of Canadians touting fake degrees.

York University encourages employers to verify that a student's degree status is authentic by contacting the registrar's office.

Yet, Frederick's degree was able to slip through the cracks and outsmart the system. This is the second degree-scam to be uncovered in the past week.

Former York graduate Peng Sun has been selling degrees for years. In 2007, York regional police uncovered a counterfeit ring that created phony degrees and other documents.

One of the largest programs put in place to aid in the discovery of bogus documents is the Counterfeit Analysis Program, run by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

"This program incorporates documents that are believed to be counterfeit and can be sent to be analyzed where they do comparison with authentic documents to prove whether they are authentic or not," said Sgt. Marc LaPorte, a spokesperson for the Ontario division of the RCMP.

LaPorte says the program will not be used in the case of Frederick. The RCMP will only step in if they are asked to by local authorities.

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