UBC Archives Serial

PAGE FRIDAY

THE UBYSSEY
FEBRUARY 2, 2001
VOLUME 82 ISSUE 32
SICK! SINCE 1918

(SPOOK ↑)

LOST CAT

"SPOOK" MISSING FROM 14th AVE + TRIMBLE. LAST SEEN 12/22. TORTOISELLE. W/ WHITE NOSE CALL 228-[redacted] IF FOUND.

Kitten missing

"Socks"

Only two months old

MISSING FROM ACADIA AREA
Lost since New Year's Eve.
Really cute and affectionete.

HELP US FIND SOCKS!

Phone 222-[redacted].

HERE, KITTY, KITTY, KITTY...

page 9

MISSING!

3 YEAR OLD CAT. "HECTOR" WEARING RED COLLAR W/ BELL MISSING SINCE JAN. 26 10th + SASAMAT AREA. REWARD. CALL 224-[redacted]

Coyote Alert!

Reports indicate a coyote in this region has been exhibiting unusual behaviour. This behaviour may be a result of feeding by humans.
It is an offence under the wildlife act to feed coyotes.

Coyotes are wild animals:
Do not feed.
Do not approach.

If a coyote approaches you:
- Make yourself appear larger (stand up if sitting).
- Act aggressively by waving your arms, shouting, and throwing rocks.

To report sightings or concerns, or for further inquires, call the Pacific Spirit Park Centre at 224-5739.

GAY MARRIAGE! 3
FAST SKIERS! 4
HALF-ASIAN SENSATIONS! 6

CLASSIFIEDS

Employment

TUTORS NEEDED - All Grades, All Subjects! $13.00-$17.00 p/h to Start. Toll Free 1-866-888-8677.

SUMMER CAMP COUNSELORS On Campus Interviews For Premier Camps in Massachusetts. Positions available for talented, energetic, and fun loving students as counselors in all team sports including Roller Hockey and Lacrosse, all individual sports such as Tennis & Golf, Waterfront and Pool activities, and specialty activities including art, dance, theatre, gymnastics, newspaper, rocketry & radio. GREAT SALARIES, room, board, travel and US summer work visa. June 16th - August 15th. Enjoy a great summer that promises to be unforgettable. For more information and to apply: MAH-KEE-NAC www.campmkn.com (Boys) 1-800-735-9118, DANBEE www.danbee.com (Girls) 1-800-392-3752. Interviewer will be on campus Tuesday, March 6th - 10am to 4:00pm in the Student Union Building (SUB) - Rooms 214 & 216.

PART-TIME RETAIL OPPORTUNITY
SIGNED SEALED DELIVERED
Vancouver's most unique greeting card and gift store is searching for dynamic and personable sales personnel for part-time positions. Previous retail experience helpful but more important is a desire to provide top level customer service. Preference will be given to individuals seeking 2 yrs or more of employment while at UBC.
Apply via fax to 732-0071
or in person at 1988 W. 4th Ave.
No phone calls please.

Volunteer Opportunities

MOTHERS WITH 2 SONS are needed for a UBC study. Mothers get $20 and children a T-shirt. If interested call 822-9037.

VIRTUAL REALITY TREATMENT STUDY is recruiting volunteer research participants who have severe driving fears. Please call Jaye Wald, Ph.D. Cand. 868-3890.

Buy & Sell

CONCERT TICKETS FOR SALE - SOUL DECISION, Row 5, Dead Center. $100 obo. U2 Tix, call for info 221-0007.

Accommodation

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE IN THE UBC SINGLE STUDENT RESIDENCES JANUARY - APRIL 2001. Rooms are available in the UBC single student residences for qualified women and men applicants. Single and shared rooms in both "room only" and "room and board" residences are available. Vacancies can be rented for immediate occupancy in the Walter H. Gage, Fairview Crescent, Totem Park, Place Vanier, and Ritsumeikan - UBC House Residences (availability is limited for some residence areas and room types). Applicants who take occupancy of a residence room now are entitled to reapplication (returning student) privileges for a "guaranteed" housing assignment for the 2001/2002 Winter Session. Please contact the UBC Housing Office in Brock Hall for information on rates, availability and condition of application. The Housing Office is open from 8:30am - 4:00 pm weekdays, or call 822-2811 during office hours.

Business Opportunity

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Personals

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Announcement

UBC SUSTAINABLITY CONFERENCE Feb.3rd,2001. Ponderosa Centre, UBC. Featuring internationally renowned local speaks and a array of displays , this conference seeks to inform on the need for social, economic and environmental sustainability. See: www.sustain.ubc.ca/conference or contact: ubc-sustainabilty@hotmail.com or phone 822-8676 pre-register $5 (non-compulsory)

SPARTACUS YOUTH CLUB Class: Anglo-Chauvinism & Canadian Capitalism: Why Marxists Advocate Quebec Independence. Wed. Feb 7, 6:30pm Rm 213, SUB. Info: 687-0353 or tllt@look.ca

Announcement

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERISM? Join WUSC - UBC Feb 9th to 11th at International House for our Symposium: International Volunteerism in Perspective. Examine local and international volunteerism from different perspectives and with a critical eye. Scheduled events speakers will discuss such topics as International Volunteerism, Youth and Volunteerism, and First Nations issues in BC. For more info, email us at wusc_ubc@hotmail.com

DISCUSSION GROUP @ Java Joint in Surrey Thurs. Feb 15, 2001 @ 7:30. Let's talk about Economic Inequality in Relation to Violence Against Women, all Genders welcome. More info: 836-8499.

AMNESTY UBC'S ANNUAL STUDENT CONFERENCE on Human Rights, Voices in Activism. Saturday, February 10th, 9am-5:30pm, SUB. $10 Registration Fee, $15 after Feb 1st (includes breakfast, lunch and snacks). Info: email amnestyubc@hotmail.com or 221-7864.

Miscellaneous

DAVID LETTERMAN FAN!!! Interested in starting a Letterman Fan Club? Ideas include: nightly meetings at local bar/restaurant to watch the show, monthly meeting with classic shows, contests, and contributions to the show, and a yearly trip to New York to see the big show live, and any other ideas you have! Email Dale @ ds_ca_2000@yahoo.ca

To place an Ad or Classified, call 822-1654 or visit SUB Room 245.

'tweens

What's going on between classes

Middle East Crisis: The Hidden Reality
Hear first-hand accounts from an Israeli Jew and a Palestinian. Saturday, Feb. 10, 7:30pm, at the Unitarian Church Sanctuary, 949 West 49th Avenue, Vancouver. For more information, call 261-7204.

"A MONUMENTAL TASK"
"How to unburden onself from religion." The British Columbia Humanist Association is pleased to present speaker Conrad Roy Hadland, retired social worker, former missionary, and Jehovah's Witness minister. Friday, Feb.9, 7:30pm at the Oakridge Mall Senior's Centre, #513-650 West 41st Avenue, Vancouver. Attendance free, everyone welcome. Optional donations are appreciated. BCHA telephone and fax: 739-9822; e-mail: humanist@telus.net.

Literary event: "Bolts of Fiction"
Featured prose writers—Michael Bryson, Carmen Rodriguez and Russell Bateman—plus open mic. At the El Cocal Restaurant, 1037 Commercial Drive at Napier. Monday, Feb. 12—7:30pm. Further info: 254-1355, 258-4058, 733-2375

Multiculturalism Week: Public and School Presentations. FREE performances at Britannia Community Library, 1661 Napier Street, Vancouver.

Monday, Feb. 12, 10:00-10:45am
Celtic stories and music with storyteller Ginger Mullen and Irish harpist Mary Murphy.

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 11:15am-12:00pm
Japanese stories and music with storyteller Yukiko Tosa and multi-instrumentalist Joseph "Pepe" Danza.

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 1:00-1:45pm
A special Black History Month program of West African Stories and music with storyteller Comfort Ero and Ivorien musicians Fana Soro and Kossa Diomande.

'tweens is a free public service of THE UBYSSEY
Fax submissions to 822-9271

The following clubs have had no activity with the AMS for the past calendar year. As such, they will be deconstituted at the Student Administrative Commission's meeting on Monday February 12th, 2001 at 5:30 pm. If you are a member of one of these clubs, or would like their existence to continue, please contact the SAC Clubs Commissioner at sacoffice@ams.ubc.ca or 822-2361 before February 8th, 2001.

Arab Student Society
Basketball Club
Boxing Club
Buddhist Community
Burma Student Education Foundation
Bzzr Gardening Club
Club Gen Sci
Coordinated Science Option
Council of Canadians
First Year Engineering
Global Medical Relief
International Student Club
Life Drawing Club
Lutheran Student Movement
ONE
Oxfam
Pre-Law Club
Club PLAY
Serbian Student Association
Shotokan Karate
Spanish and Latin American S.A.
Spanish International Society
Squash Club
Statistics Club
Transcedental Meditation Club
Ultimate Frisbee Club
Urban Land Economics
Windsurfing Club

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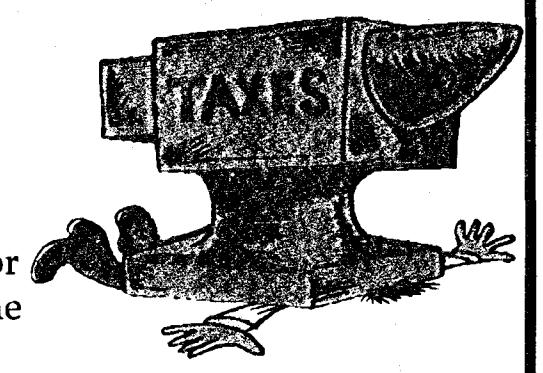


Your tax return will be prepared and filed for you electronically at no charge if your income during the 2000 tax year was $20,000 Canadian or less.

An uphill battle

THE LAW'S AGAINST THEM: Michael Oulton and Wade Stillman (right) are trying to get married, despite the provincial and federal laws that prevent same-sex marriages. TARA SWIFT/ARGOSY PHOTO

EVEN THOUGH SAME-SEX MARRIAGES HAVE MADE HEADLINES IN RECENT WEEKS, ACTUALLY MAKING IT TO THE ALTAR IS STILL A STRUGGLE FOR GAY COUPLES

by Tara Swift
The Argosy

SACKVILLE, NB (CUP)–Wade Stillman wants to get married. He wants to have kids someday. So do lots of men. So does Michael Oulton. But because Stillman and Oulton want to marry each other, they're facing a whole host of problems.

Under the laws of New Brunswick and Canada, their marriage would be illegal, and, in some people's eyes, immoral–facts that boggle the minds of Stillman and Oulton.

"If you tell [people] 'There's two people, they're in love, they want to have a summer wedding, they want to adopt children and have a good life together,' everyone goes 'Awww'," says Stillman.

"And then you say, 'Oh yeah, and they're two guys,' it's completely different for a lot of people. I don't understand it. In this day and age I don't get it. There are a lot worse things out there that people should be concerned with than the fact that two people are in love and want to make a life together."

Stillman and Oulton have been in the spotlight ever since two gay couples were married in Toronto two weeks ago. In a ceremony at Toronto's Metropolitan Community Church Joe Varnell and Kevin Bourassa got married, as did Elaine Vautour and Anne Vautour, using a traditional religious practice in an attempt to circumvent the marriage laws.

The ancient Christian tradition of publishing marriage banns announces a couple's intent to marry for three consecutive weeks before the wedding. At least one of the partners must be a member of the congregation of the church publishing the banns. If the banns are published without legitimate protest, the marriage may proceed, and is considered legal, pending approval, in this instance, by the Ontario government.

The government is refusing to recognise the two Toronto marriages, arguing that they contradict Canada's legal definition of marriage as "the lawful union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others."

Although New Brunswick's Marriage Act addresses the publication of banns, it stipulates that "such publication shall not take the place of a marriage license." And while the federal government and provinces such as BC and Québec have expanded their definition of common-law to include same-sex couples, New Brunswick has not.

For Stillman and Oulton this means that the possibility of a legal marriage in New Brunswick is slim.

"[In other provinces] gay couples are, legally speaking, treated approximately the same as common-law heterosexual couples," says Eldon Hay, a professor of religious studies at Mount Allison University, and a minister in the United Church.

> **"Some day, ten years, 50 years, gays will be married. Nobody will pay any attention to it. That's my hope."**
>
> ***—Michael Oulton***

Jocelyn Pringle, co-head of Catalyst, the gay, lesbian, and bisexual support group at Mount Allison, believes that it's only a matter of time before the government recognises same-sex marriages. "It's an acceptance by the government of their relationship, that they will be taken more seriously if they are seen as a married couple, not just two people living together," she says.

The struggle for same-sex equality is hardly new–homosexuality was not decriminalised in Canada until 1969. Pierre Trudeau, then the minister of justice, famously remarked that "there's no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation," and that "what's done in private between adults doesn't concern the Criminal Code."

But today, there remain legal obstacles to same-sex marriage. But despite the legal difficulties, Stillman and Oulton are not deterred.

"When I came out," says Stillman, "I thought that meant the end of any hopes for marriage or children. That was the worst part of it for me. When Michael and I met last summer and began to talk, we realised we had the same sort of ideas about what we wanted out of life. We knew that included marriage and eventually adopting children. We decided that's what we were going to do. For us it feels better than the common-law thing."

After Stillman and Oulton decided to get married, they went to Hay, who then held four prenuptial classes with five gay couples at the Sackville Public Library. "I would say that with one difference they were very much the same as heterosexual marriage preparations. Various things were discussed: communication, financial matters, sexuality, dealing with in-laws," says Hay. "We spent part of one session on coming out. I would never do that with a straight couple. They're considered out."

The classes allowed the couples to meet others in similar situations. Oulton and Stillman found the courses very helpful, as it enabled them to meet others with similar interests and problems.

The classes were in preparation for church-based weddings, and the legal implications of any same-sex marriage are more complicated. Stillman and Oulton's marriage will not be recognised by the New Brunswick or federal governments. And Hay is not optimistic that it ever will be.

"Most churches believe that a marriage is between a man and a woman, so does the New Brunswick government, so does the Canadian government," he says. "That is the law."

The United Church does not perform same-sex marriages, but instead performs ceremonies called 'same-sex covenanting.' "They're very much the same as a marriage ceremony of a heterosexual couple," says Hay. "The United Church has prepared services for same-sex couples."

"We're going to try to have the ceremony here on [Mt. Allison], at the chapel," says Stillman. "I'm a student here and paying tuition, and I don't see why I should be denied that right. It's right in the front cover of the calendar, not to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation."

"Our families are full of Mt. A grads so I can't see why they would want to go against that. We don't foresee a problem," Oulton adds. The two plan to meet with university officials soon to ask permission to use the facility.

Reverend Brent Hawkes, a Mount Allison alumnus and the pastor who performed the recent marriages in Toronto, also hopes that there are no problems with the university administration. "I think the university has an obligation," he says. "[Mt. Allison] has a lot of gay alumni and some of us have been very, very loyal to the university."

The Toronto marriages have focused much attention on the legal aspects of marriage, but Oulton thinks that there is a larger issue at stake.

"I think another thing we're trying to aim for...is the education factor. We're trying to promote to the straight community that basically we want the same rights as everyone else."

Hay, though happy with all the attention, hopes that it will pass, "Some day, ten years, 50 years, gays will be married," he says. "Nobody will pay any attention to it. That's my hope."

But in the meantime, Stillman and Oulton will keep trying to get married.

"A lot of people take for granted what we are trying to do," says Stillman. "We realise this and that's why our commitment is that much stronger. We can't go out and get a marriage license, and go to the justice of the peace without going through hurdles. It's not legal, and we're aware of that. We realise all those things and it's making us want it all that much more, and we realise what it's going to take for us to get what we want out of this." ❖

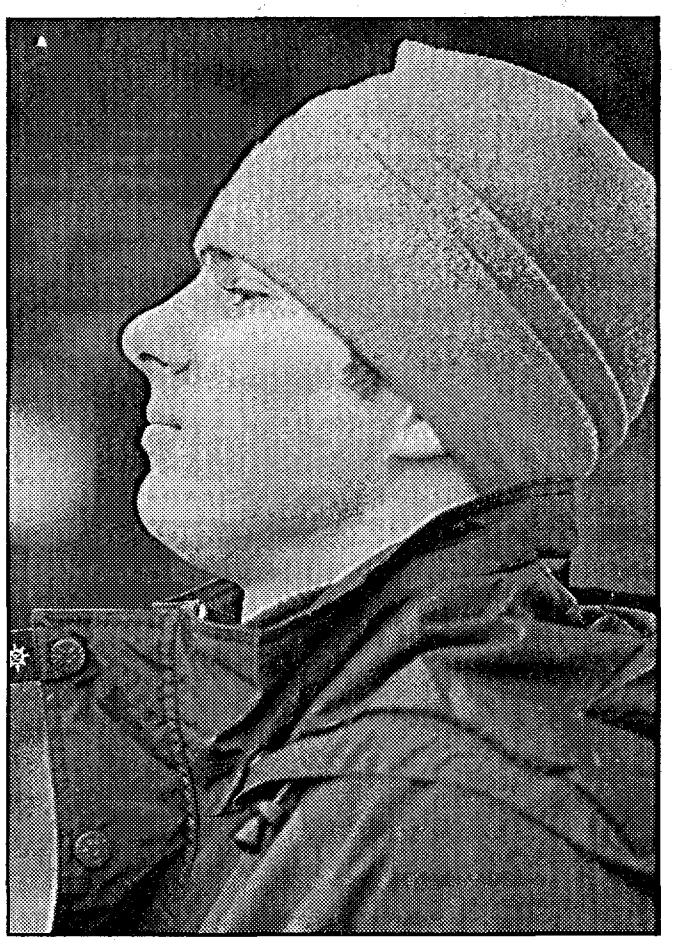
Two skiers, one goal

by Tom Peacock

VALLEYS: UBC skier Martin Whillans shows his race face.
TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

Martin Whillans and Paul Boskovich have never met. They both ski for UBC, and they are both headed to the World University Games in Zakopane, Poland next week to represent Canada.

So what's the deal?



PEAKS: UBC skier Paul Boskovich is in the zone.
TARA WESTOVER PHOTO

Paul Boskovich and Martin Whillans have never met. They don't live near each other, they don't train together, and though they both go to UBC, they attend lectures at opposite ends of campus—Boskovich is a first-year Arts student and Whillans is finishing up his forestry degree. Even if the two skiers did run into each other, they probably wouldn't have much to talk about—they don't have anything in common, except the fact that they're both heading to the World University Games in Poland next week, to represent Canada in the bi-annual meeting of the best student athletes in the world.

Sure, Boskovich and Whillans both ski. But while Boskovich spends his time tearing through gates on steep mountain faces, Whillans prefers to work his way methodically along flat, hard-packed trails, through dense forests, trying to keep his heart rate steady, and trying not to think about a finish line that might as well be in another country.

Boskovich is on the UBC varsity alpine ski team, and Whillans is on the varsity cross-country ski team. So if you have high hopes of sitting around the fire and talking about favourite winter pastimes with these two before they head off to Zakopane, Poland, you had better plan your conversation beforehand, or there's going to be a lot of awkward silence. But if you can get either of them alone, you'll get an earful about the finer points of skiing for UBC and making it onto Team Canada.

The UBC alpine ski team competes in the United States Collegiate Snowsport Association (USSA), a division of the NAIA. UBC is the only Canadian team in the league, and the competition is fierce. It makes Canadian university skiing in the east look like beer-league stuff, Boskovich says.

Last month, Boskovich finished first in a USSA slalom race in Washington, and second in an Idaho giant slalom. In skiing, Boskovich is a classic over-achiever. The 20-year-old Vancouver native was selected as a member of the BC provincial ski team this season for the second time running. He was one of twelve skiers selected to represent Canada at the World University Games.

Boskovich has been skiing since the age of three, and started racing when he was eleven. A few years ago, he moved to Whistler to finish high-school, and really started to focus on his ski racing. For two years after he finished school, Boskovich just raced. When he wasn't skiing, or training for skiing, he was coaching the younger members of the Whistler Mountain Ski Club.

But skiing's not everything. So last year, Boskovich decided it was time to go back to school. Although UBC is not known for its alpine ski team, Boskovich thought staying closer to home was probably the best bet for him, even though he was offered scholarships at NCAA schools.

"I knew there was a ski team here...I could have gone NCAA, but I just thought it was better for me to stay at home, to give back to the sport through coaching."

Boskovich claims the convenience of home played into his decision to attend UBC, as did his role in the local skiing community—he's the athlete representative on the board of directors of the BC Alpine Ski Association. Later, he admits it's more fun being a key member of a small Canadian collegiate team like UBC than just being another skier on a big American team full of superstars.

"Definitely of all the teams out there, we're joking around, we're having fun," he says. But all the horsing around does not mean Boskovich doesn't care about how his team fares. In fact, quite the opposite:

"More than anything, it's more of a team thing with ski team. I really want the team to do well. That's the biggest thing. This trip [to Poland] kind of represents the last opportunity to really focus on the individual side."

For now, Boskovich's focus is on the World University Games, where he will race against some of the best skiers in the world. But no Canadian alpine skier has ever won a medal at the University Games, so Boskovich has no example to live up to, and his objectives are realistic.

"I want to be the top Canadian there. I really don't know too much about what to expect. I just know that the competition is really tough. And that's cool...We'll see how things go."

While young Boskovich is winding down his career after three years of full-time racing, Martin Whillans is just hitting his stride. The 23-year-old cross country skier is graduating from the faculty of forestry in the spring. Afterwards, he plans to ski full-time for two years before re-assessing.

During the off-season, Whillans trains for two or three hours a day. When he's not roller-skiing on the back roads around his hometown of Campbell River, up the road to Mount Washington, or up Cypress, he is running for three or four hours on trails. In the winter he can usually be found up at the Cypress mountain Nordic ski area. Whillans spends his quality time in the woods, and his favourite hobbies are woodworking and mountaineering. It's only natural that he chose to study forestry. His dream job? Managing a forest for a community or a ski club.

"There's a bit of a correlation between cross-country skiing and forestry. Skiers spend a lot of time in the forest, we like being outside, so studying forestry is a natural course," he says.

Whillans has been racing since he was nine or ten—at least as long as Boskovich. In high-school, he was a member of the provincial team. But unlike Boskovich, Whillan's decision to attend UBC didn't have much to do with skiing. He wasn't even sure of the status of the team when he arrived. Over the last few years the team has grown and improved, and is now recognised across the country as one of the teams to beat. Whillan's skiing has not decreased in intensity since enrolling at UBC as he thought it would—it's improved and become even more of an obsession.

Whillans has competed in 12 races so far this year, four of them as a member of the Varsity team. The points he earned from all 12 races count towards his national standing and helped him to qualify for the World University Games. In terms of full-time-student skiers, Whillans is ranked in the top five or six in the country, and currently he is the fastest university skier in BC.

For Whillans, making it to the international stage was a major personal goal. Ever since missing the cut for the last Games two years ago due to an injury, Whillans has been gunning for Poland.

"This is definitely a stepping stone for me. It's a big deal. It will be one of the highest calibre races I will have ever competed in."

And as far as giving back to the sport—as Boskovich terms it—Whillans is right in line with his alpine counterpart.

"Wherever I am, I will always be coaching—and spending time working with young skiers. It's totally important to give back to the skiing community."

But even though Whillans and Boskovich are both team players who feel strongly about giving back to their respective skiing communities, the next two weeks are all about the individual, all about achieving personal bests, all about racing.

"In Europe, it's big news. But for me, it's kind of a reward for the work that I've put in in the past. To go there and ski well, and have a good time, that's my goal," Boskovich says.

Whillans is a little less philosophical, his demeanor a little more determined. As for the reward of going to the Games, though he had to fight hard to earn his place, he expected that much.

"When you wake up every Saturday morning at 6am for a three-hour roller-ski, you kind of hope it results in something."

The two UBC skiers are scheduled to race at totally different times in Zakopane, so their chances of actually meeting will not improve at the Games. Whillans flies to Poland on Sunday. He will compete in the 10km classic, the 15km skating pursuit, the 30km skate, and, if his team qualifies, the 4x10km relay. Boskovich does not leave until next Friday. He will race the slalom, the giant slalom, and the super-G. The fourth alpine discipline, the downhill, has been cancelled due to a lack of snow.

If the two UBC skiers do actually meet in Poland, at least they'll have this article to talk about. And then, when the awkward silence sets in, they can always talk about hockey. ❖

BIRD droppings

Swimming

The Thunderbirds swim team will host the annual College Cup this weekend in the UBC Aquatic Centre. The other teams attending are:

University of Calgary, the University of Victoria, Simon Fraser University, and the University of Arizona.

Women's Ice Hockey

The UBC women's hockey team is hosting the University of Saskatchewan Huskies for two games this weekend. Game time is 7pm Friday and Saturday. These are the last two regular season games for the Birds.

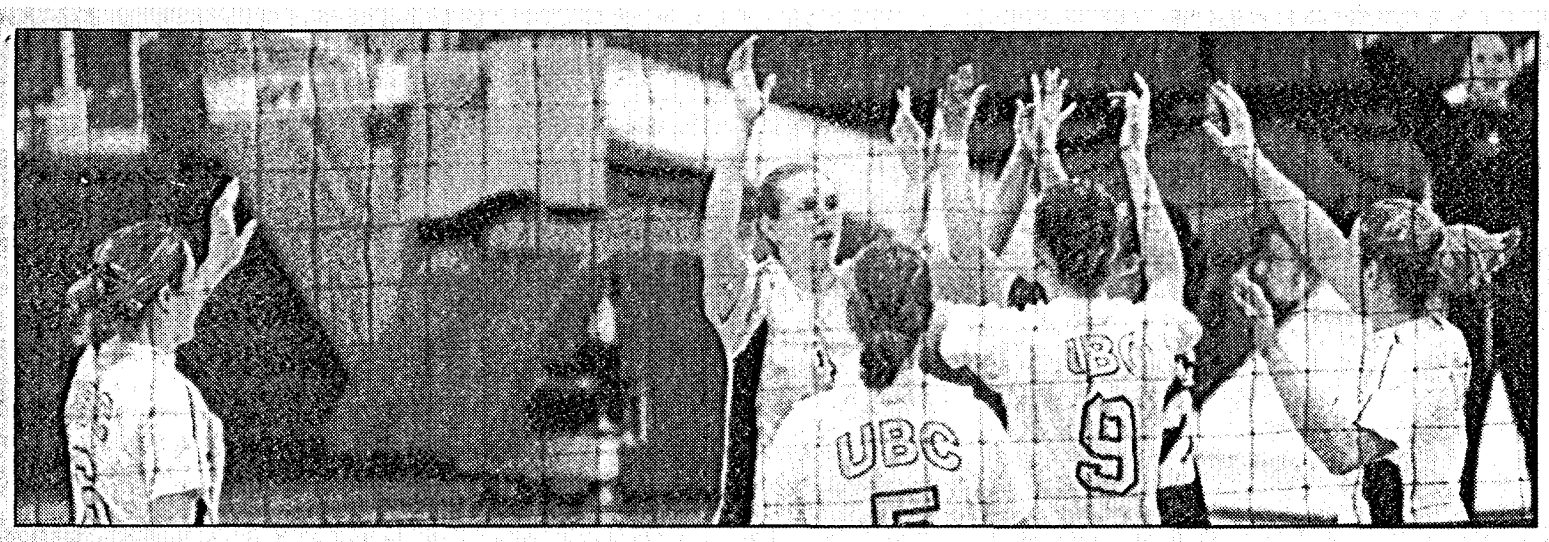
Men's Basketball

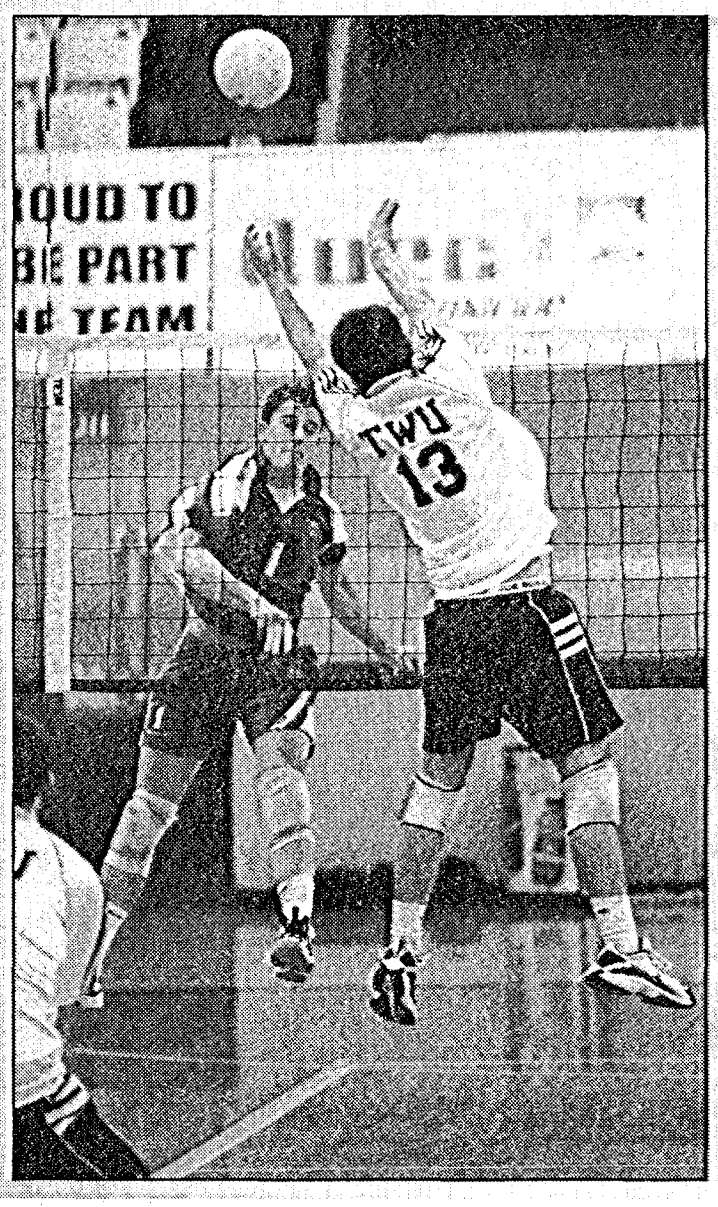
The 7-11 UBC men's basketball team is playing two games against the SFU Clan this weekend in Burnaby. This marks the first time the two teams are meeting since the Clansmen joined the CIAU. SFU is one position ahead of UBC in the standings.

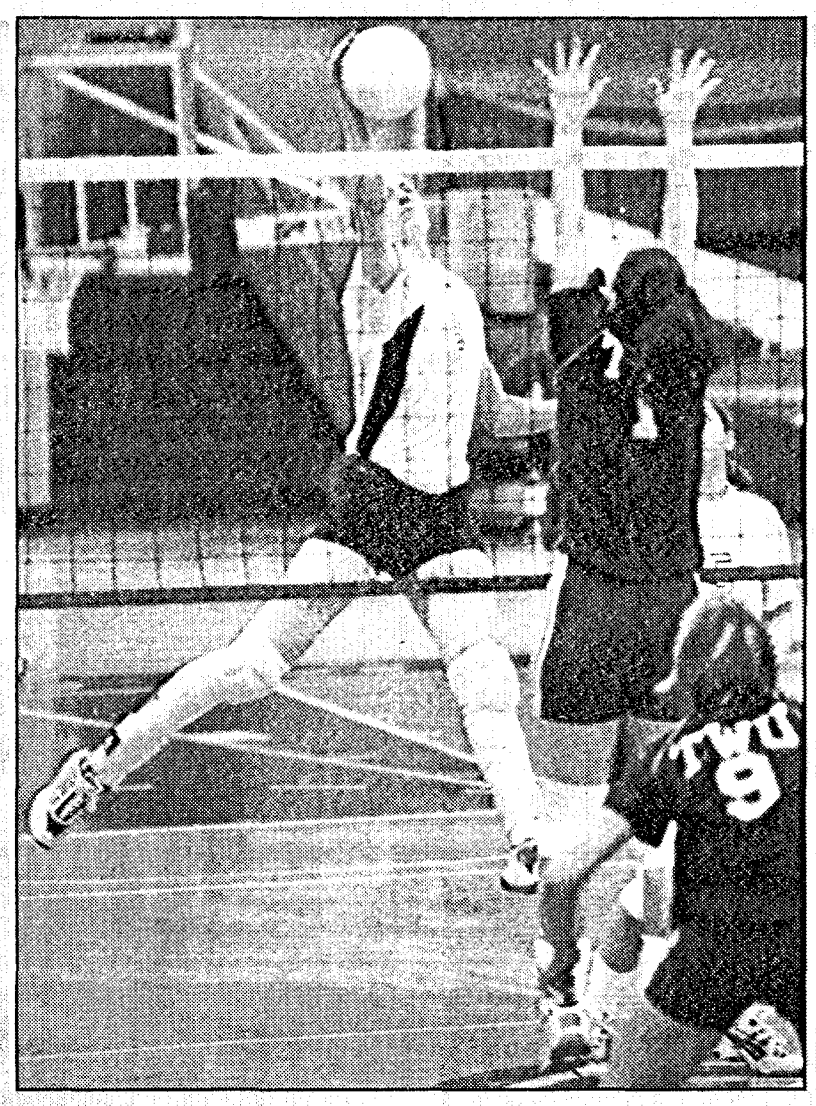
Women's Basketball

The UBC women's basketball team will look to re-ignite their play-off drive this weekend during two games on the mountain against the SFU Clan. The 9-9 Birds are two spots behind the 11-7 Clan in the Canada West standings. ❖

Men and women beat Spartans

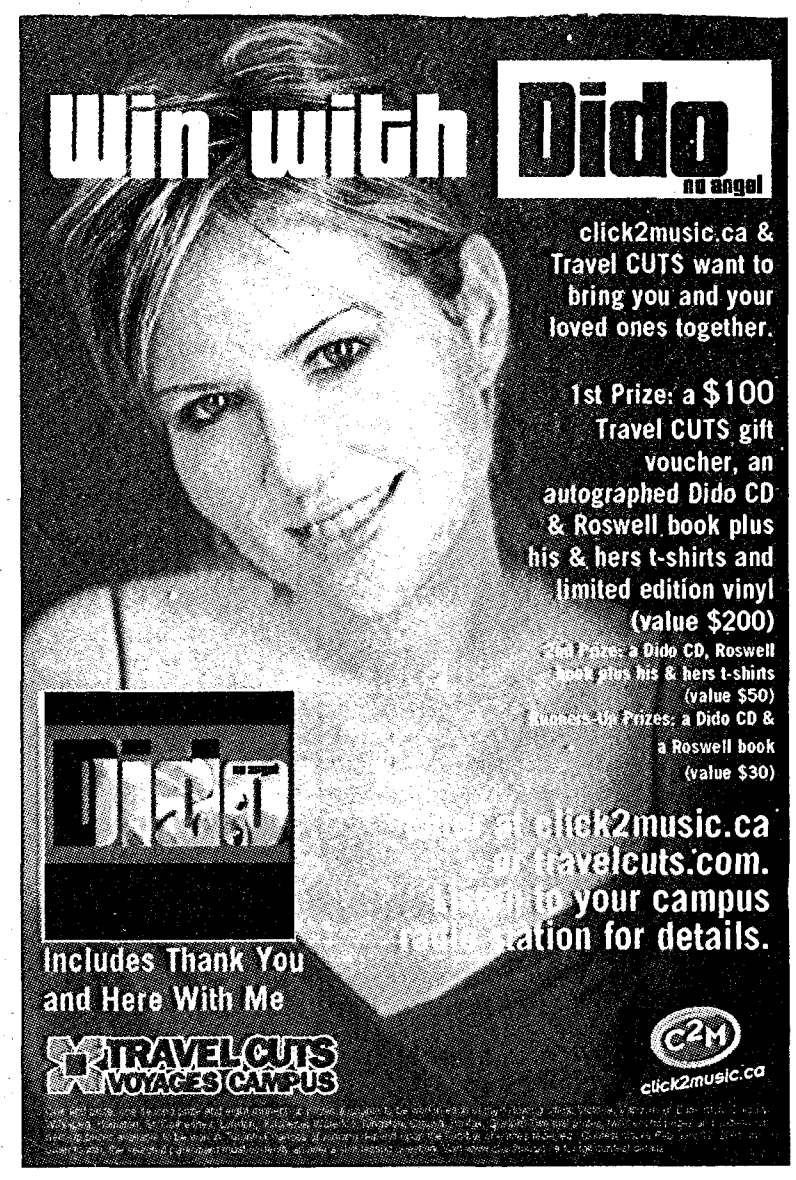






NOT A SWEEP, BUT CLOSE: The UBC Thunderbirds men's and women's volleyball teams each played a game against Trinity Western University this week. The women made short work of the Spartans, defeating them in three straight sets, 25-13, 25-18 and 25-11. Leah Allinger led the Birds with eight kills and 12 digs. The UBC men lost their second set against the Spartans, but eventually prevailed 4-1. Robyn English led the Birds with 14 kills. Both UBC teams are headed to Calgary next weekend for their two final regular-season games against the University of Calgary Dinos. The 8-12 UBC men's team is effectively out of the running for a spot in the playoffs, but the 16-4 women are in second place in the Canada West. If they sweep in Calgary, they will secure first place in the conference and get a first-round bye. If they lose both games against the 16-2 Dinos, they are still guaranteed a home berth for the Canada West semi-finals. UBC captain Kaley Boyd, who sat out Tuesday's game against the Spartans with an injury, is expected to return to play this weekend. NIC FENSOM PHOTOS

WINNING FORM: The UBC women's volleyball team celebrate (Top). UBC's Robyn English puts one past a Spartan (Left). A Spartan desperately blocks a UBC kill (Above). NIC FENSOM PHOTOS



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In between races

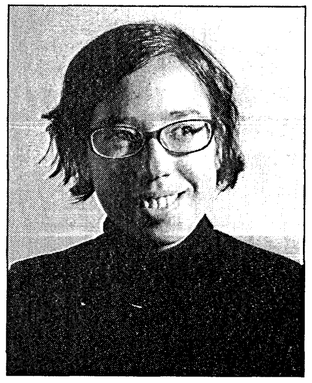
by Michelle Mossop

When I first met Sarah Shiu, I was surprised at how remarkably similar we are. It's not because we have similar facial features or the same interest in the visual arts, and it's not even because we were both raised in Vancouver. Instead, it's because we both know and understand the social implications of being of mixed ethnicity.

"Those of us who are Eurasian fall between the cracks," Shiu explained as we walked down the halls of the Vancouver Museum, where her photography exhibit, *White Balance*, is currently on display. "We're neither white or Asian–we exist in no-man's-land."

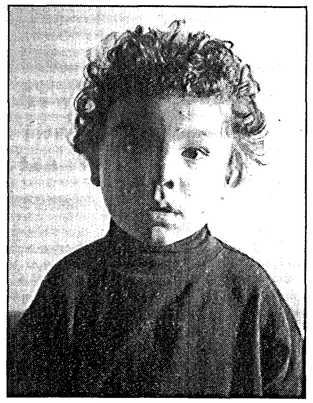
Shiu, whose father is Chinese and mother is British, understands quite well how difficult it is to be categorised as either 'Asian' or 'white.' After she graduated from high school, she went to work as a model and actor in San Francisco and Los Angeles and found that directors often didn't know how to cast her.

"I'm not Asian enough to be cast in an Asian part, though I'm not white enough to be cast as white," Shiu said. She explained that she often had to resort to different hair colours and styles, different make-up, and different lighting techniques to achieve the required degree of Asian-ness or white-ness necessary for the part.



"One time I auditioned for a Pantene Pro-V commercial for the Asian market and they we're like 'We love you. Go dye your hair black and come back tomorrow,'" Shiu laughed.

She pointed to a series of large photographs on the wall. In *the Transformation Series*, Shiu photographed herself and friend Michael Wong with different hairstyles and make-up.



"It's to show how race can be easily altered through images, especially if the model's ethnicity is ambiguous."

After her stint in California, Shiu returned to Vancouver where she enrolled at UBC. She graduated in 1997 with a Bachelor of Arts in French. Later she went to Focal Point Photography School where she concentrated her efforts on photography.

It was April of last year when Shiu and partner Hiro Kanagawa decided to do *White Balance*.

"We wanted to do it partly in response to the lack of biracial persons in the media, but mostly because we wanted to create a sense of community among Eurasians."

So Shiu set out to ask friends, friends of friends, and relatives of friends to participate in the project. Shiu even approached people on the street that she knew to be half-Asian.

"Nobody was offended at all," she laughed. "They all knew what I was talking about and were so happy when I approached them. It was like making this wonderful connection."

Shiu took portraits of her subjects using sepia film to make the photographs seem older. "I was trying to make these portraits historical for people who don't have a history," she said.

Shiu said that she wanted to concentrate on the faces of her subjects to show the variety in their features. She pointed to two adjacent photographs. "Both of these women are half-Chinese, though look at how different they look."

She walked down the hall. "Mongolian, Thai, Jared is half-Filipino..." She stopped at a portrait of an older woman. "There are a lot of painful stories that the older people had to go through because there were discriminated against." Shiu referred to Vietnam after the war against the US, when mixed children were frowned upon for having the enemy's blood in them. She contrasted that situation with the Philippines, where Caucasian features are idealised and anyone of mixed ethnicity is asked to be a model or actor.

Shiu said that advertisers are starting to cash in on the mixed look. Some corporations, such as Pepsi-Cola and K-Mart, have hired so-called "diversity experts" to help tap into Asian, African-American, and Latino markets, and their biggest tool is using biracial models.

"Race is in a sense a commodity, which is very odd," said Shiu. She also mentioned the new-found appeal of Asian practices such as feng shui, tai chi, qi gong, reiki, hapkido, ju jitsu, shiatsu, the zen of this and the tao of that.

"Also people are going around saying that we're gorgeous, but where are we?" she asked. "Why aren't we the top models and actors? It's because the white ideal of beauty is still predominant."

Shiu said that the number of biracial people in the media reflect society. According to Statistics Canada, Asian immigration into Canada has tripled since 1986.

"The majority of Asian immigration is happening over here in Vancouver. Therefore there is more opportunity to mix," she said.

Shiu and I paused at the exhibition's guest book, in which are written comments such as "Finally," "About time," and "Thank you." Shiu said that the exhibit's opening reception was a chance for people who may have once felt isolated to get together and laugh about similar experiences they've encountered.

"It's important to remember that other people like you exist...because they clearly do," she said. ❖

EURASIAN POWER: Sarah Shiu is of Chinese and British descent. Her photography exhibit, *White Balance*, explores issues surrounding being of mixed ethnicity. MICHELLE MOSSOP PHOTO

Off white, Off balance

WHITE BALANCE
at the Vancouver Museum
until March 15

"White balance" is the function on a video camera that adjusts colours in relation to how the colour white appears under the lighting conditions. The exhibit of the same name at the Vancouver Museum is satirically named, but here I embarked on a pilgrimage though the exhibit's exploration of those who, like me, are "racially ambiguous," "diluted," "mixed," or (insert your favorite label here for those who are half-Caucasian, half-Asian).

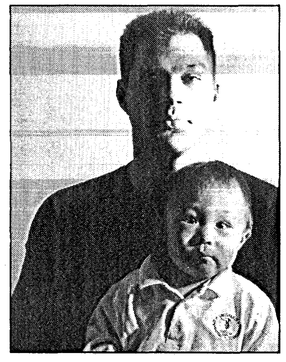
In the exhibit, Sarah Shiu and Hiro Kanagawa examine Eurasian-Canadian identity through photographs, text, and video interviews, with a focus on the physical appearance of those who are "half and half." A deep exposé is difficult given Canada's, and especially Vancouver's, young history. Eurasians in Canada don't have the same socio-economic, political, or historical significance as other "mixed races" have in places such as South Africa or Vietnam.

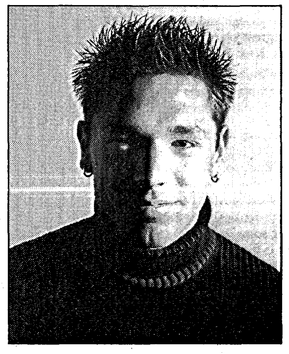
White Balance is effective because it doesn't try to be presumptuous by creating a turbulent history or playing up racial and cultural tensions. Instead, the captions of text that accompany the photos satirise the stereotypes and labels given to Eurasians–"exotic," "other," "honorary white"–and question the search for an appropriate epithet–"*caucAsian*?"

The photography speaks for itself, defying the stereotypes of how Eurasians should look. It could simply be a study of those who are non-white. The subjects could be Spanish, Inuit, Persian, Ojibway, or South-East Asian. There are, of course, the sterotypical Eurasian female beauties: almond-eyed, fair-skinned, with dark flowing hair. Most, though, as in real life, are not. Visually, the only thing they have in common is that they all look different. They are captured radiantly by Sarah Shiu, and are alternately casually hostile, glamorously indifferent, or calmly elegance.

Though *White Balance* may be only a hint of what the collaborators call "the Dream"–a society without racial categories–it is a tribute to those of mixed-race identity who feel caught in the middle, and who don't see themselves in relation to what is understood as white. ❖

–Lee-Ann Siu





Vanderhaeghe Speaks

GUY VANDERHAEGHE
at Woodward IRC. Lecture Hall 2
Jan. 28

Guy Vanderhaeghe believes that history has no end. It's always unfolding, he explained to a crowd gathered at UBC last Saturday night. Though the end of history has been proclaimed countless times by countless people, Vanderhaeghe said that a "static end-point of history" will never be reached.

Presented jointly by the Vancouver Institute and the UBC Department of Canadian Studies, Vanderhaeghe's lecture was all about his trials, tribulations, and discoveries as he attempted to write "ficto-ry" and "faction," and the "Historical Novel." His lecture was interspersed with short readings.

In *The Englishman's Boy*, his Governor-General's award-winning novel, Vanderhaeghe juxtaposes Hollywood of the 1920s with an infamous event in Canadian history–the Cypress Hills Massacre. Such topics are typical of Vanderhaeghe, who has been characterised as a Canadian historical writer and a dark, domestic dramatist ("writing away in my satanic mill of dark domestic drama," he noted wryly). Though some might describe him as a "Canadian gothic" prairie writer, his writing is about well-illustrated characters, and has been described as having "a gloomy sense of humour that has to become second nature to all of us that live through prairie winters," a description probably a result of his 1982 collection of short stories, *Man Descending*, which also won him a Governor-General's Award.

Vanderhaeghe described the intense research put into *The Englishman's Boy* as "often frustrating." One of his prefaces to the book is a quote: "History is the record of the encounter between character and circumstance...the encounter between character and circumstance is essentially a story." Vanderhaeghe found the history of Whoop-Up Country (the setting of the novel, an area occupying present-day Alberta and Montana) in journals of cowboys and frontiersmen, finding that its history could only be read "between the lines." But it was the small details uncovered in this research that gave him the historical picture to describe the scene accurately–and it was reading these details that had a powerful effect on the audience.

Vanderhaeghe is definitely more gifted as an author than a public speaker. He spoke in a slow, measured, monotone voice, making his lecture, at times, plodding. But Vanderhaeghe was livelier during the question-and-answer period when he said he was particularly proud of the international success of *The Englishman's Boy*, because Canada has been shown to "have a history larger than the country." History is the stories of unique characters in monumental situations, Vanderhaeghe explained, and it always unfolds as a story. ❖

–Greg Amos

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issue on
racism

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DEADLINE: 5PM, FEB. 9TH, 2001

fiction
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snap: under 1000 words

nonfiction
essay: under 3000 words
snap: under 1000 words

poetry
under 20 lines

eligibility
You must be a UBC student who did not opt out of your *Ubyssey* fee. Students who have made more than one editorial contribution to the *Ubyssey* since eptember 2000 are not eligible.

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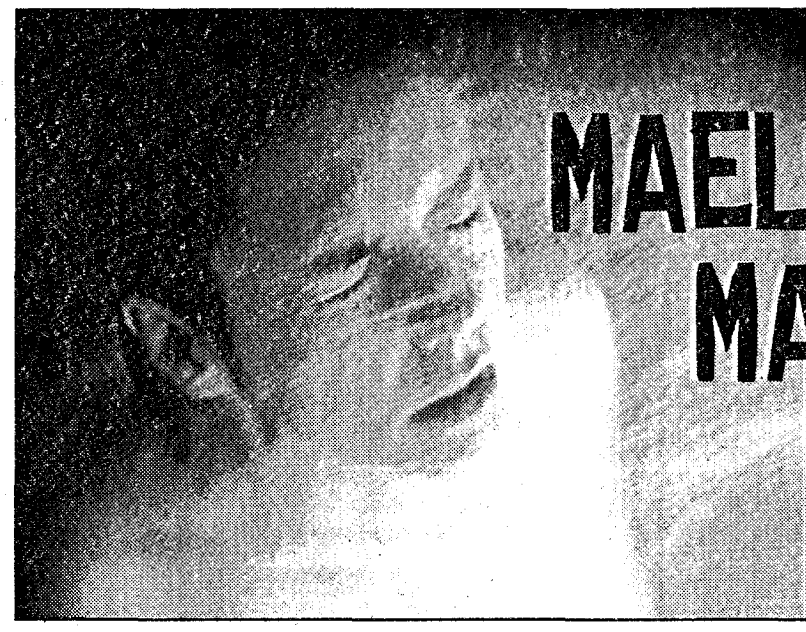


MAELSTROM MARVELS

by Michelle Bastian

MAELSTROM
at Fifth Avenue Cinemas
opens Feb. 9

Maelstrom is a magic-realist fairy tale about the importance of being responsible for your own actions. More like *City of Lost Children* than *Ever After*, it is both dark and rich, offering insights into the nature of death, redemption, and accountability. The film is widely acclaimed—it won the People's Choice Award at the Montréal Film Festival, received ten Genie nominations, and was named as Canada's official entry in the Best Foreign Film category at the Academy Awards.

The movie opens in a grimy cavern, where a series of primeval fish narrate the story of Bibiane Champagne—a young woman who has a habit of avoiding the consequences of her actions, thus finding her life increasingly out of control. Bibiane has lost her job, had an unwanted pregnancy, and her attempts to forget it all through drugs and dancing do not work. The more she tries to avoid dealing with her problems, the more difficulties she runs into. This pattern culminates in a hit-and-run accident in which Bibiane becomes responsible for killing a 53-year-old man.

Although counselled by a stranger to keep the accident a secret, Bibiane's feelings of guilt become increasingly stronger. In an attempt to destroy the evidence of her crime, Bibiane risks her life by driving her car into a river. If she survives, the fish tell us, she will be given a second chance at life, a chance to redeem herself.

Bibiane does survive, and begins an attempt to set things right. When she meets the son of the man she killed, the relationship between the two quickly moves from friendship to love. What follows is Bibiane's transformation into a woman aware of the way she is linked to others.

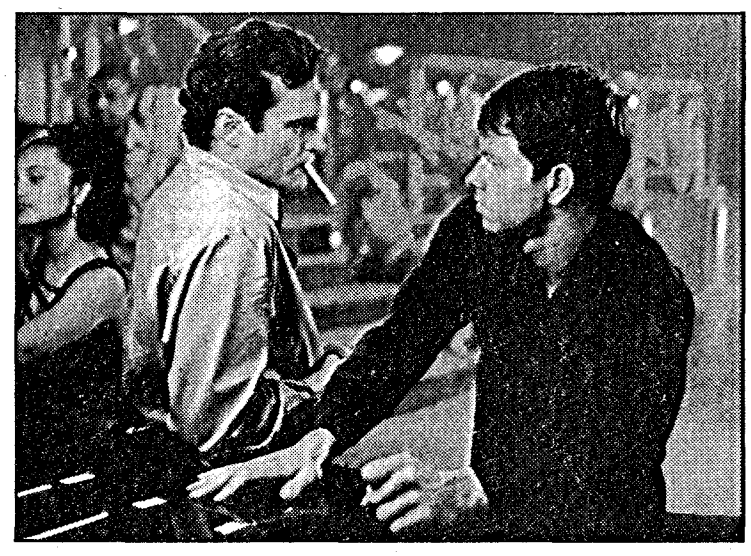
One of the film's flaws is director Denis Villeneuve's very traditional conception of redemption. Bibiane's salvation follows the path of most heroines—she finds a man who loves her and finds liberation through him. While romantic, it is not particularly inspiring.

Despite this, *Maelstrom* is inventive and absorbing. The performances are great. Marie-Josée Croze is wonderful as Bibiane, and Marc Gelinas, as the stranger in the subway, is very funny. In addition, the photography by André Turpin is often breathtaking. Villeneuve, meanwhile, uses the hit-and-run scenario to show how we are all entangled in the lives of other people. Villeneuve shows that when we look at the world, we all interpret it in a way that will ease our consciences and make us feel more comfortable about ourselves. ❖

WALK PAST THIS YARD

by Greg Ursic

THE YARDS
the Capitol 6 Cinemas
opens Feb. 2



People make mistakes. If yours happen to be big enough, and you get caught, you go to jail. Most inmates are intent on serving their time so they can get on with their lives and be productive citizens. But once released, they're faced with the ol' Catch-22—to go straight they need a job, but they often can't get a decent job with a record. Exacerbate the situation with bad acquaintances and old surroundings and you have another recidivism statistic.

Leo Handler did the right thing after doing the wrong thing. After getting busted for grand theft auto, he refused to rat on his friends because that's what the street code says. After breaking rocks for 18 months, his only desire is to go legit and look after his ailing mother. He even gets a great job offer from his new uncle, a contractor for the New York City subway system: go to school for two years, become a machinist, and Leo gets a guaranteed job that pays a good union wage. But for Leo, who watches his best friend Willie spend money like water, two years may as well be 20, and he asks to work in the company's contract division. Welcome to the dark side.

It is always disappointing to watch a film with good intentions and potential slowly disintegrate onscreen. While not the worst movie I've recently seen, (and there have been some doozies), *The Yards* has too many little problems (and some big ones) to recommend it. The biggest culprit is the script, which is far too predictable. I mean, corruption in New York contracting? Tell me it ain't so! In addition, we are expected to believe that our protagonist, who managed to survive for a year and a half in prison, is too stupid to figure out that 25-year-olds with no education don't generally earn thousands of dollars a day, legally. More frustrating were the villains who were not particularly menacing and the poor editing near the end of the film that forces the viewer to sit through 15 minutes of superfluous drivel.

I do, however, have to credit the actors for their performances. James Caan is credible as Frank, the pensive and subdued boss who genuinely cares for his family and is uncomfortable with the rules of his business. The scene where Frank tries to discourage Leo from pursuing the unsavoury side of the business is simultaneously emotional and subtle and is a testament to Caan's skill as an actor. Joaquin Phoenix, once again cast as the bad guy, balances his weasel/tough guy persona perfectly—making you thoroughly dislike his character. Even Charlize Theron, who I've mercilessly lambasted in the past, is passable. The big disappointment is Mark Wahlberg, (who shone in *Three Kings* and *Boogie Nights*), or to be more specific, his character. Leo is so mercilessly stupid, has no depth, and virtually no good lines, and I'm surprised that Wahlberg accepted this role as written. Such a waste.

The Yards has bad writing, underdeveloped characters, and lazy editing, if you're still in the mood for a "family" drama walk past it and rent *The Godfather*. ❖

Campus coyotes on the prowl

by Alex Dimson

While the wilds of nature can seem far away from UBC's concrete walls, a number of reported coyote sightings have some people on campus thinking otherwise.

Recently, Mary Luk's daily walk to the UBC School of Journalism became interesting as she crossed a parking lot and saw a gray dog-like animal.

LUK

"I was thinking 'oh I've never seen this kind of dog before.' Suddenly I remembered that people told me when you see something like that it is a coyote," the department secretary for the school said.

"Dogs walk with their head down most of the time, but coyotes, they're pretty, they walk their heads up and the way they walk is like hopping."

One of several reported run-ins with coyotes across campus in the last few weeks, Luk said she began to walk away from the animal, which then crossed the street and walked towards her.

"I was thinking 'Oh my goodness he's coming,'" she said. "Because I know dogs very well, I know they can run. So I thought 'I will calmly rush down the stairs.' So I held the handle and went down the stairs."

While the animal didn't follow her in the end, Luk said the incident left her shaken.

She called Campus Security about the incident, but Director Mike Sheard said there is little his department can do.

"We have no animal control, Campus Security doesn't catch coyotes. I wouldn't even know what to say, it's something right outside my experience," Sheard said.

Stephane Lair, a veterinarian with UBC's Animal Care Centre, said that the animals likely do not pose a threat.

LAIR

Lair said that the Point Grey area is a normal habitat for coyotes, who are cousins of the wolf and dog. He said that coyote populations go through cycles and could be at a peak stage in population right now.

"There have been very few incidents of actual attacks [on humans]," he said. "They come on campus because we're in an area where there's a lot of potential food for them, there's a lot of rodents and birds for them."

Lair warns, however, that coyotes are meat-eaters, so humans should take precautions if approached by them.

"Try not to get close to the animal," Lair said. "Keep doing what you're doing, just leave them alone and do not feed them because they get used to that very fast. If you just give them a piece of sandwich or throw them a sausage they're going to learn and they'll be back the next day. And they'll get closer and closer and after a while it'll be a problem."

Lair also cautioned local pet owners to beware.

"Coyotes would attack a small dog and cat, there's no doubt about that," he said. ❖

AMS plans second SUB

Funding still needed before the construction can get underway

by Sarah Morrison

While the plans are complete and the barn is ready, the university and the Alma Mater Society (AMS) still need $1.2 million to renovate the campus Dog Barn into a second student union building.

"We are seeking funding to enable that project to go ahead," said Byron Hender Executive Coordinator in the Vice-President Students office.

HENDER

The proposal to renovate the Dog Barn, which is located on Thunderbird Boulevard near Totem Park residence, is a joint effort between UBC and the AMS. Hender explained that there will be "significant student involvement" in the way the building is run.

AMS Vice-President Administration Mark Fraser said that the university has been looking for private donations from UBC alumni to fund the project.

Hender added that because the barn is so old, built in 1920, UBC is also asking the government to fund the renovation as a heritage project.

KINGSMILL

AMS General Manager Bernie Peets explained that the cost of the renovation is so high because it the project aims at restoring the barn, rather than simply constructing a new building.

"It's a restoration of an existing structure and that's actually more expensive than brand new construction," said Peets, who added that AMS Council has committed $50,000 towards the project.

"The building's kind of a neat building and I think it would have a lot of character after it's done, as opposed to constructing another monolith like the SUB."

While it waits for sufficient funding, UBC has done some structural upgrading to the barn so that it does not fall apart.

"We have done some work in the last year to make sure it doesn't deteriorate any further while we're going through this process to secure funding," Hender said.

Plans for the two-storey building include an auditorium area on the second floor, office space on the lower level and, possibly, a pub.

AMS Designer Michael Kingsmill added that because of the barn's close proximity to several residences, it would also provide a convenient location for residence functions.

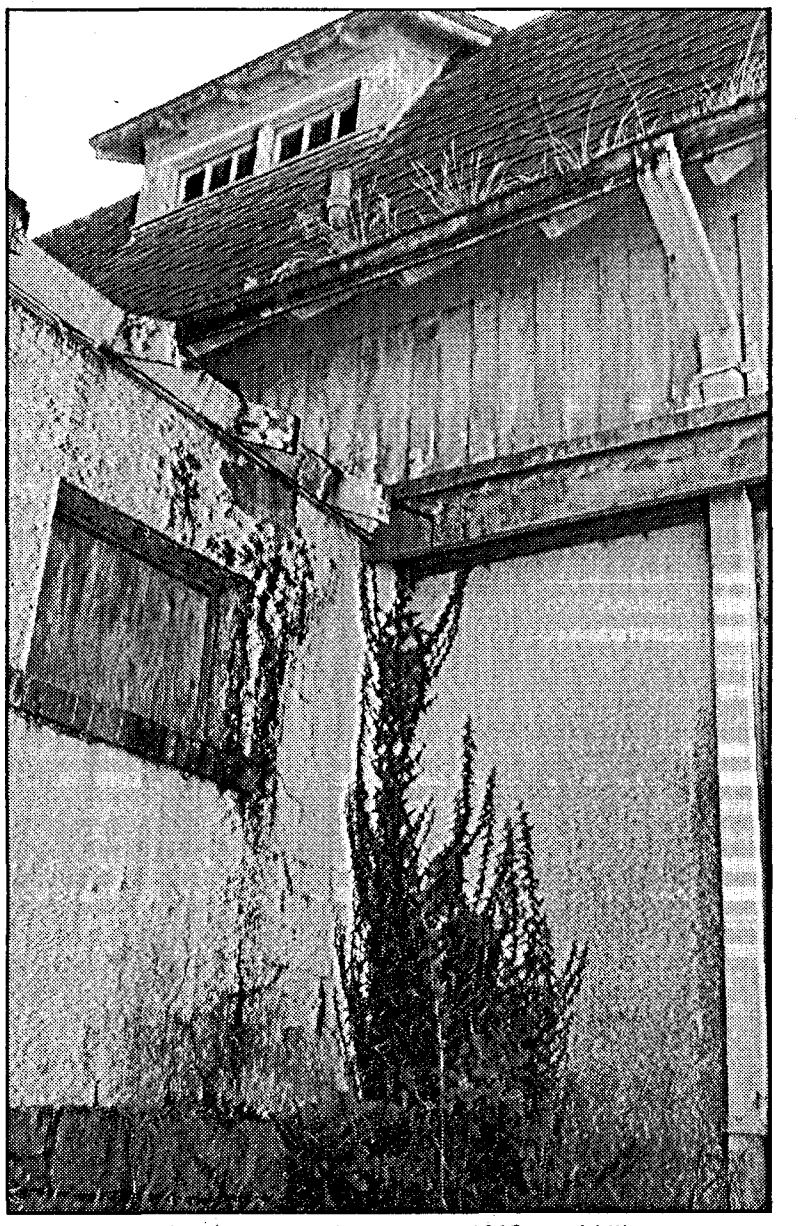
Kingsmill also hopes to landscape the surrounding area.

"We plan to have student gardens, little plot gardens in there, so that students who would find it satisfying to run a little garden could take a ten by ten plot and grow carrots."

Fraser, meanwhile, said that the second building would try to incorporate themes of sustainability typically associated with the south side of campus, which is currently home to the UBC farm and the natural food co-op.

"The plan is just to have a natural food co-op office over there, perhaps something for the bike co-op, kind of just some more student social space, but that...fits with the allure of the south side of campus," Fraser said.

While the construction timeline is still uncertain, Kingsmill hopes that next school year will see "the earnest construction of the remodelling of the barn." ❖


IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH: But the AMS would like to turn the Dog Barn into the next SUB. TARA WESTOVER/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO

National education act still a distant dream

by Alex Dimson

A shift in Ottawa's political winds has a national student lobby group hoping that the federal government will create national standards for education, though government officials say it's not likely to happen.

Mark Kissel, director of the Canadian Alliance for Students Association (CASA)—an organisation that represents UBC and 18 other universities—hopes that discussions to create national standards for education will resume soon.

"We have heard that along with the possible harmonisation of the Canada Student Loan program that's coming into effect right now, we're going to be talking about the possibility once again," Kissel said.

Kissel points to the Saskatchewan government's decision to combine its provincial loan program with Ottawa's as evidence that Canada is moving towards a more harmonised education system.

This week's Speech from the Throne also emphasised education and knowledge themes.

"To secure our continued success in the 21st century, Canadians must be among the first to generate new knowledge and put it to use. Our objective should be no less than to be recognised as one of the most innovative countries in the world," Governor General Adrienne Clarkson told the House of Commons Tuesday.

Under the Constitution, education is a matter of provincial jurisdiction, while the federal government deals with accessibility issues like a national student loan program and research grants to universities.

The education act, which CASA calls the Pan-Canadian Agreement on Education, is the centrepiece of CASA's federal lobbying strategy. The agreement calls on the Ottawa to set national goals for accessibility, harmonise the student loan program and ensure mobility between the provinces.

While CASA believes a national education act would even out inequalities between the provinces, Lenore Burton, associate director general of Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), said that she is not sure if federal legislation is the right approach.

"It certainly is an interesting idea and one that the non-government sector has advocated and called for for a long time," Burton said.

"But this is pretty sticky-wicket stuff, education is firmly...a provincial jurisdiction. I like to think that if there's good will and we work hard together we can accomplish a lot of the things we want to do without a national education act."

Burton said that rather than forcing legislation on the provinces, which could prompt anger over federal powers, she would rather work with provincial authorities to establish a consensus.

For its part the BC government is unwilling to consider the possibility of a national act.

"As far as we're concerned education is a provincial matter, so I don't see how that could happen," said Ministry of Advanced Education spokesperson Nikki McCallum.

Brigitte Nolet, press secretary for HRDC Minister Jane Stewart, also cast doubt on the idea.

"If we're talking about education, per se, that is the responsibility of the provincial governments," she said. "What we do see is the federal government wants to create a sense of lifelong learning...and wants to work with the provinces on the ideas of building a new skills agenda."

Burton cites a report on post-secondary education conducted by the Council of Ministers of Education (CMEC), which begins to identify priorities for post-secondary education, and was signed by all the provinces, as an example of how consensus can be achieved without legislation.

But CASA maintains that a national act is necessary to ensure that the education system is fair across the country.

"The first step towards the improving of the current situation is the implementation of national standards for education that would be recognised at both the federal and provincial levels of government," read CASA's policy statement.

A bill similar to CASA's act was tabled in the House of Commons two years ago, but was defeated during second reading. ❖

THE UBYSSEY

FRIDAY, GROUNDHOG DAY, 2001
VOLUME 82 ISSUE 32

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Duncan M. McHugh got the broom. Sarah Morrison got the dustpan, and Laura Blue held it steady so that Hywel Tuscano could sweep up all the dirt out from under Tara Westover's desk. Tom Peacock found the mop, and Nicholas Bradley washed the floor. Graeme Worthy threw out the mouldy fruit found in Tristan Winch's desk, and Julia Christensen took out the garbage. Holland Gidney supervised Daliah Merzaban and Alex Dimson, who were dusting, while Michelle Mossop took a break. Regina Yung steamcleaned the couch after Alicia Miller collected the change from between the cushions, and Kat Siddle cleaned out the fridge. Nic Fenson washed the dishes, Irene Isaacs did Lee-Ann Siu's laundry, and Greg Ursic and Greg Amos returned all of the empty bottles to the recycling depot. Michelle Bastian caught all of the rats, and eventually the *Ubyssey* office was clean.

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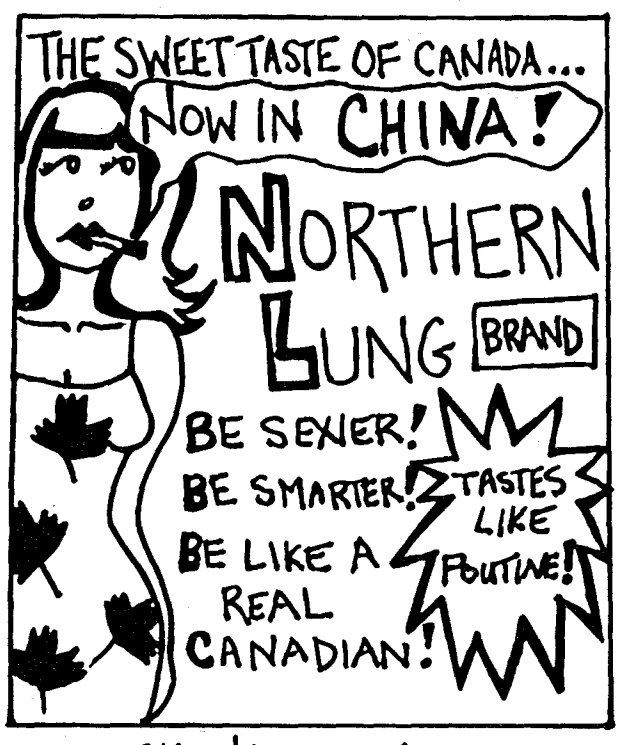
CANADA 2001



CHINA 2001

jc

Red China, black lungs

Hypocritical and exploitative.

These are two words that come to mind when we think of the Canadian government's policy on smoking. Even as the government of Canada is doing an exemplary job of fighting the "national evil" of smoking, it is simultaneously promoting Canadian tobacco products to the developing world. More specifically, to the largest market in the world—China.

Trade and tobacco go hand in hand for the Canadian government. For Canada's latest trade mission to China next week, representatives from the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board will be joining the government to negotiate trade deals for their products.

This might be acceptable if China took an active role in educating its citizens on the dangers involved in smoking.

But the reality is that there are roughly 300 million smokers in China and, according to a study conducted in 1997, 70 per cent of these smokers believe that smoking causes little or no harm to their health.

They don't know that smoking can cause lung cancer, chronic lung disease, esophagial cancer, stomach cancer, liver cancer, heart disease, etc. They aren't aware that China is home to the largest number of deaths from smoking of any country, far out-striping even the US. Two thousand people each day. One million people each year. A British study in 1998 concluded that a third of all young men in China will eventually be killed because of their tobacco use if current smoking patterns persist.

But rather than helping to lower these disturbingly high statistics, Canada, which is also a key power in international negotiations to reduce the number of smokers worldwide, is allowing tobacco companies to participate in a trade mission that could well augment the number of smoke-related diseases and deaths in China.

By allowing the tobacco industry to be party to trade negotiations with China, Canada is supporting a mission that will take advantage of the ignorance of the vast majority of Chinese smokers.

The reality is that China, much like the rest of the developing world, does not spend money to educate youth about the dangers of smoking. There are no television ads, or warning labels to dissuade potential smokers. And Canada, with its goal to reap the economic benefits that a large market like China can provide the tobacco industry, is just standing back and allowing it to happen because it doesn't see any legal provisions to bar the tobacco industry from the mission.

At home, the government is showing a much different face. Next week's trade mission to China comes on the heels of a federal legislation that requires full-colour graphic images of smoke-related diseases on 50 per cent of the front panel of each cigarette box. Diseased lungs and mouths will be clearly and grotesquely illustrated on cigarette boxes. Each box must also include information on how to quit smoking. Coupled with Canada's extensive ad campaign and education drive about the dangers of smoking, the habit is quickly becoming discouraged in Canada.

Too bad people in China don't benefit from the same information.

Canada's economic interests are clearly being allowed to supersede its humanitarian policies. At a time when the demand for tobacco is dwindling in Canada, the tobacco industry, with the sanction of the Canadian government, is looking to recoup its losses in the under-regulated developing world.

It's a hypocritical and exploitative policy. Canada should be supporting efforts to increase awareness about the dangers of smoking in the developing world, not allowing its tobacco industry to take advantage of foreign markets. If Ottawa is going to take such a firm stance on national policies, it should apply the same standards internationally. ❖

Letters:

We love to get them.
Keep them coming.

feedback@ubyssey.bc.ca

Don't forget to include your name, your student number, your year and faculty, and some way for us to contact you.

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photos 2:30
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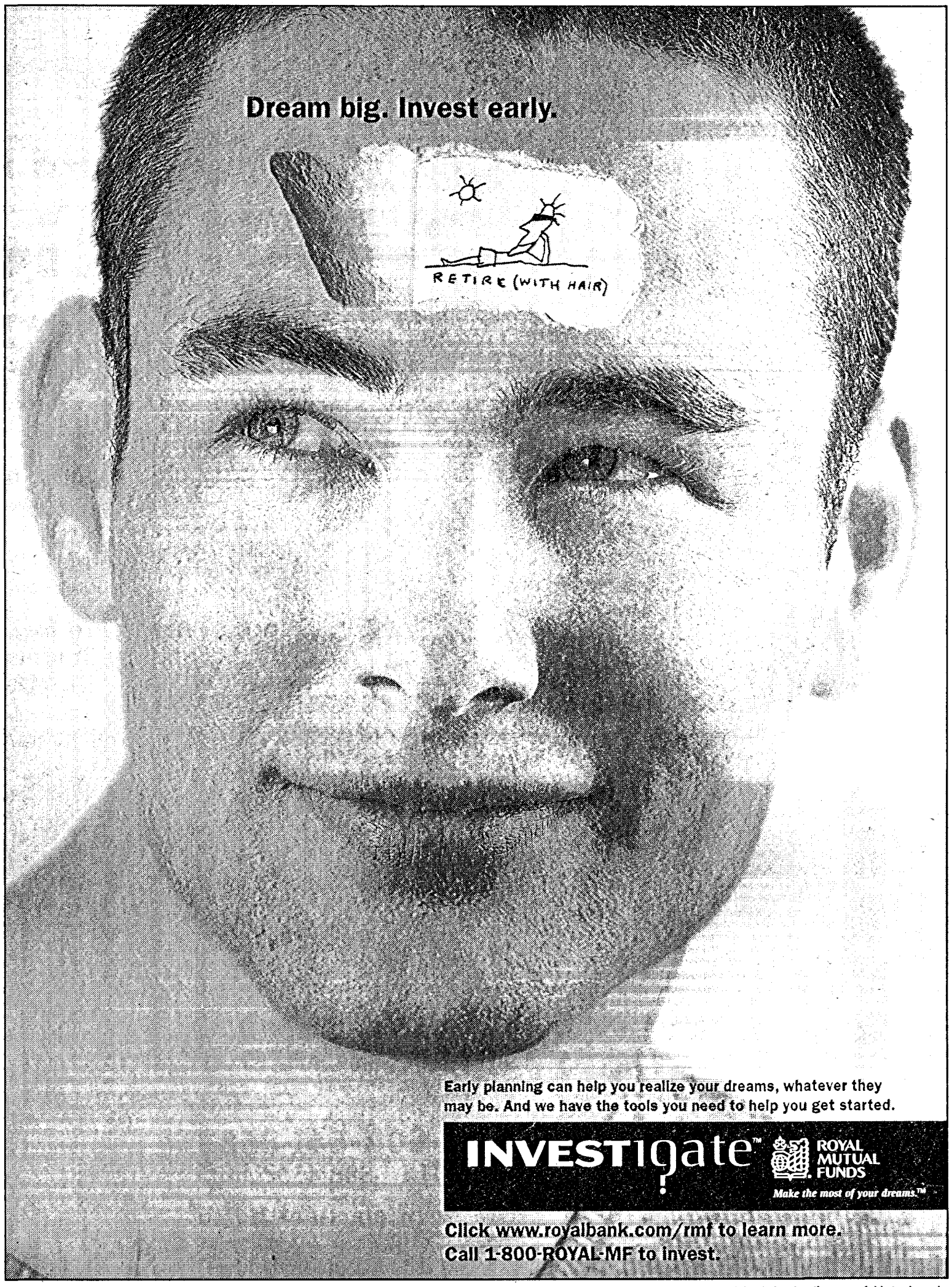

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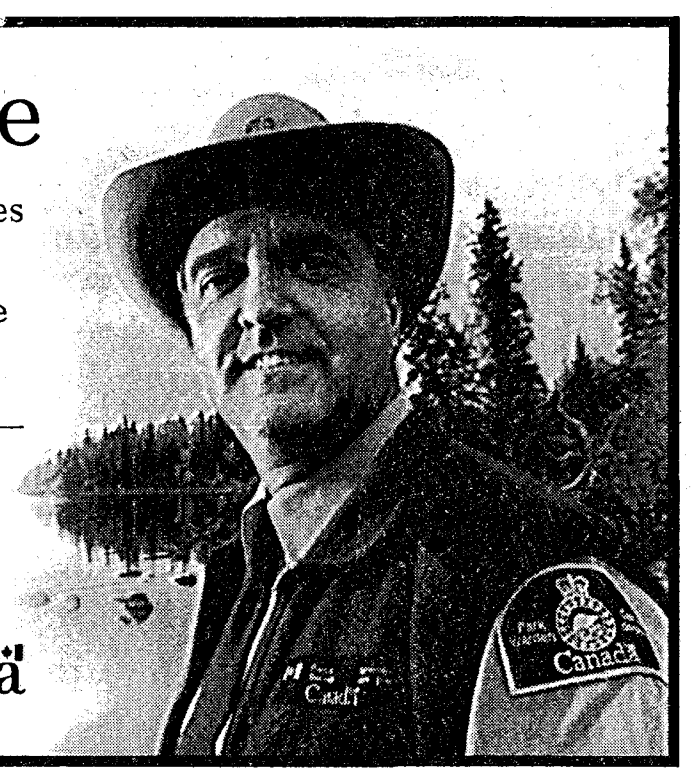

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