

THE UBYSSSEY

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SLUTTING IT UP SINCE 1918

Reported attack puts focus on safety

by Sarah MacNeill Morrison

Following a recent on-campus attack, UBC safety officials are encouraging students to make use of personal security programs on campus.

On Friday, signs were plastered around UBC residences warning that a student had recently been attacked by a stranger while walking on campus. The student was able to call out and receive assistance, and managed to get away from the attacker.

"All are reminded to exercise caution when walking during evening hours," reads the notice, released by UBC Housing. "We recommend that people walk in pairs or groups."

The suspected attacker is described as male, approximately 40 years old, between 5'8" and 5'10", of medium build, and with olive-coloured skin, brown eyes, and "greasy" short brown hair straight to the ear and parted on one side.

"We've put up the notices to tell

residents that this did occur and this has been reported, and to remind them of the safety services that are available," said Janice Robinson, assistant director of residence life for UBC Housing.

Robinson said that making students aware of the recent attack is part of an ongoing attempt to make safety an important issue on campus.

"We try to keep students informed about [safety issues]," said Robinson. "It's something they always need to be aware of—not

frightened about, but aware of."

Students in UBC residences receive handbooks and newsletters on safety. Floor and house meetings in the junior residences also address safety issues.

The RCMP will be releasing more information on the suspect of the most recent attack later this week. Staff-Sergeant Barry Hickman said that since the attack, the RCMP has been working with UBC Housing and Conferences to ensure that students are safe.

But while this attack was report-

ed to the police, Alma Mater Society (AMS) Safety Coordinator, Sue Brown, worries that because most attacks are not reported to the RCMP, many students believe their campus is safer than it actually is.

An RCMP crime summary from 2001 notes 28 assaults reported on the UBC campus. Three sexual assaults were reported, but Brown believes the actual number is much higher.

"Over the years, the stats stay the

See "Safety" on page 3.



Getting ready for the push

THE STARS ALIGNED...and Thunderbird teams of all sports had a phenomenal weekend. Men's and women's volleyball never lost a single set. Men's hockey made their first sweep of the season. The men's basketball team's (above) solid play and planning took them to their sixth straight win. The women were close behind with a split. Pages 4-5. NIC FENSOM PHOTO

Owen responds at Teddy Bear forum

by Kathleen Deering

While many people oppose the federal government's controversial anti-terrorism legislation, Vancouver-Quadra MP Stephen Owen believes the views of the Canadian public are much more diverse than those expressed by protesters.

Owen spoke to an audience of about 50 people at a public forum held at UBC on Saturday. The forum was organised by the Teddy Bear Brigade, an organisation opposed to Canada's proposed anti-terrorism legislation and the recently passed Bill C-36.

"This is one very legitimate, concerned, important part of the public," said Owen at Saturday's forum. "There was a consistent message here that doesn't necessarily represent the broad majority of the people in the country."

Passed on December 24, 2001, Bill C-36 defines 'terrorist activity,' and places in the Criminal Code an 'investigative hearing,' where a person may be required under threat of imprisonment to give evidence to a peace officer investigating terrorist activity.

The bill also introduces into the Criminal Code the power of preventative arrest, which allows a person

to be arrested if there is reasonable suspicion that a terrorist activity will be carried out, even if the suspected terrorist has not committed a crime.

"The definition of a terrorist is too broad," said lawyer Connie Fogal on Saturday, whose impassioned speech drew applause from the forum's audience. "Police officers will interpret 'reasonable and probable grounds' to 'reasonable grounds' for everything. It's happening right now."

"If these bills are used as they have the potential to do to criminalise dissent, then that affects every single political cause that we have," said Clayton McKee, a UBC student who helped organise Saturday's event and a member of the Teddy Bear Brigade.

But Owen defended the new law, denying that protesters will be targeted.

"[Bill C-36] specifically excludes dissent, protest, work stoppages, even if they're unlawful," he said. "It's the major categories of extraordinary crime, like killing or major damages to essential services or the safety of the public [that are targeted]."

Owen acknowledged that abuse of the powers is possible, but insisted that the already passed bill

will not threaten civic freedoms.

"There may be some overuse of powers, but there are safeguards. It's not going to be a police officer in a small town in some corner of the country, it's going to be the Minister of Justice or the Attorney-General of the province who makes the decision to charge someone as a terrorist," he said.

"Every year we're going to review [the legislation], with a report on how it's been used," he said.

He said the September 11 terrorist acts on the US made people aware of Canada's vulnerability to terrorist attacks and motivated the federal government to pass Bill C-36 rapidly.

"We can't just wait until [a terrorist act has] happened," he said. "We've got to—as much as possible—get an idea beforehand, so we can prevent it."

Others disagreed, however, saying September 11 is being used to justify unacceptable measures.

"The events of September 11 are an excuse to give increased powers to...executives, and will prevent dissent," said Lindsay Lyster, spokesperson for the British Columbia Civil Liberties

See "Forum" on page 2.

BC HEALTH CUTS SQUEEZE STUDENTS

by Ted Chen

BC residents are starting to feel the effects of recent cuts to health services, critics say, and more cuts may still be coming.

Since the Liberals took office in May, the provincial government has cut physiotherapy, eye examination, massage, and chiropractic services from the Medical Services Plan.

Eye examinations for BC residents aged 19 to 64 have been cut, saving the province \$12 million. Only people under 18 and over 65 will continue to be covered by the plan. Other residents must now pay between \$45 and \$85 per examination.

Health Services Minister Colin Hansen has said more cuts are necessary, since the province's \$9.5 billion health budget is currently \$300 million over budget.

And health care providers are worried about where this will leave BC residents.

"I am concerned that students are not covered for massage and physiotherapy services under

their supplemental health plan and that they find it difficult to pay for such services," said Dr Patricia Mirwaldt, director of UBC's Student Health Services. "My concern is that people will stop going or not go when they need those kinds of services because the rates have gone up quite a bit."

Mirwaldt said, however, that she accepted cuts to eye examinations, although they were unfortunate, since the new provincial health plan is more in line with those of other Canadian provinces.

Dr Don Nixdorf, executive director of BC Chiropractors' Association, was more critical of the BC Liberals' cuts to chiropractic treatment.

"Over the past month the government has willfully ignored evidence, reports and research which would have identified how to fund Medicare appropriately, namely by simply increasing the premium from \$36 to \$38, a simple \$2 increase," he said. "We presented

See "Health" on page 2.



REPRESENTING: Stephen Owen emphasises that protesters do not always represent the majority. CHRIS SHEPHERD PHOTO

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"Health" from page 1.

consistent information, independent research, as well as the government's own statistics from workers' compensation and other areas that identified how to improve Medicare and make sure that BC residents got the right treatment."

UBC students are also concerned about the government's health cuts.

"I recently paid \$30 for an eye examination and it seems that privatisation is on the rise," said third-year sociology student Christine Megg. "I am totally against the BC Liberals' privatisation efforts of the health system."

According to Alma Mater Society (AMS) Vice-President, Finance, Yvette Lu, the AMS/Graduate Student Society Health and Dental Plan does

not currently cover eye examinations or chiropractic treatment since these services were covered by the provincial government when the extended-benefits plan was last negotiated.

The AMS is currently renegotiating the health plan, and Lu says she has received a large number of requests to include vision care in the plan.

"There does seem to be a lot of interest in including eye exams," she said. "It is something that we are looking at."

In response to numerous requests, Lu is also looking into physiotherapy coverage, but she said it is a very expensive service to cover. She added that any changes to the plan's premiums or coverage will need to be approved by referendum. ♦

"Forum" from page 1.

Association and a speaker at Saturday's event. She said that the new anti-terrorism legislation eliminates citizens' right to be silent.

Bill C-35 and C-42, two other controversial anti-terrorism bills that have not yet been passed, were also discussed at the forum. Bill C-42 would allow the minister of national defence to declare a military security zone—from which citizens could be forcibly removed—anywhere in Canada.

The Teddy Bear Brigade hopes to educate the public about the threat these two bills pose to civil liberties and prevent the government from passing the bills. But Owen maintains that the powers outlined in the bills are necessary.

"I agree with the need for

accountability in military zones," he said. "We have an obligation to provide security."

In December, members of the Teddy Bear Brigade occupied Owen's office for three days, asking him to participate in public discussions on the controversial anti-terrorism bills and asking that his government eradicate all three bills.

"So many people just see this happening and feel totally alienated from the powers that be, and feel unable to do something, and don't realise how much each person's individual voice does," said McKee. McKee commended Owen for listening to the public's concerns.

The Teddy Bear Brigade plans to hold another public forum on Canada's anti-terrorism legislation early in February. ♦

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Elections 2002

AMS Executive Report Cards

2001-2002

Analysis by Ai Lin Choo and Sarah MacNeill Morrison

Will student politics at UBC ever change?

Another year, another Alma Mater Society (AMS) executive elected entirely from one slate. Are there any UBC students who remember a time when the executive did not present a united front? Although a one-slate executive can mean more effective realisation of common goals, UBC has seen a lack of innovation and initiative from AMS executives in the last two years.

One year after they were elected, the AMS executives are finishing up their terms. And this is how *the Ubyssy* rates of their performance:

This year's AMS president, Erfan Kazemi, said in his election campaign with Students for Students that one of his top three priorities was taking "a firm stance against tuition deregulation." This is great, and it's been especially challenging this year with the BC Liberals leading the provincial government. But beyond a firm stance, could the AMS do more?

While student unions across the province have been planning protests and rallies in anticipation of the imminent end to tuition freeze next month when the new provincial budget is unveiled, the AMS has been absent from any sort of mass student movement. As a Canadian Alliance of Student

Although a one-slate executive can mean more effective realisation of common goals, UBC has seen a lack of innovation and initiative from AMS executives in the last two years.



KAZEMI

Associations school, this may be the AMS's style: to lobby instead of protest. There have been numerous attacks on students—bus strikes and cuts, the 'first-job' training wage and, in all likelihood, the thaw of the tuition freeze—and numerous causes that could have benefited from the support of the student union of BC's largest university.

One thing Kazemi has worked towards is a more representative environment for UBC's diverse student population. AMS Council approved the creation of an International Student Commissioner last November, and while a single commissioner hardly makes for effective and comprehensive representation, it's a good start.

Kazemi has appeared at least to make an effort to represent students, repeatedly calling on councillors to bring forward ideas and concerns at meetings.

Compliments should also be given to this year's AMS for its attempt to finally change its incredibly outdated bylaws. Even though the referendum eventually failed—it also failed to make quorum—students can be proud of their Council for the eight hours of debate the councillors endured as they tried to make a change for the students they represent.

In fact, it's almost commendable that the AMS decided to debate the bylaws and put them to referendum in the first place, given the stringent voter-turnout requirements for such changes to pass. Unfortunately, the \$40,000+ spent on the referendum ultimately



HORIE

proved a waste.

The bylaw reform was part of this year's executive's commitment to long-term planning. Although Kazemi's five-year plan for the student society has yet to be released, his efforts to prepare the AMS for the years ahead show at least a desire for innovation.

The executive chaired long-term planning groups to prepare for a future that presently looks financially shaky, following a failed referendum to increase student fees and loss of revenue when UBC's exclusivity deal with Coca-Cola ends in 2005.

Taking on one of the more challenging executive positions, Kristen Harvey came to her role as vice-president, external, with little experience. She had a busy year. A bus strike, bus-service cuts which left students without late night public transit, ongoing negotiations for a universal bus pass for UBC students, a provincial election, the overzealous chopping of the new provincial government and the introduction of a 'first-job' training wage have all fallen under Harvey's portfolio this year. And her response to everything has been much the same.

Her most common phrase at Council meetings this year has been: "We are lobbying." And maybe this is a good thing. She met with federal Finance Minister Paul Martin twice.

Provincially, Harvey has been fairly successful ensuring UBC's inclusion in government consultations with student groups. The AMS, which is not a member of the Canadian Federation of Students student group, has often been left out of such discussions in the past. Harvey has met with BC Advanced Education Minister Shirley Bond twice this year to discuss the tuition freeze and funding. The



HARVEY



FRASER



LU

results of those meetings won't be apparent until after the budget is released on February 19.

This year, Harvey has organised several student discussion forums. Some were fairly well attended, and some even probably answered some questions for students wanting to learn more about differential tuition and bus service. But beyond this, there has been little innovation, or risk.

During last year's all-candidates' forums, Yvette Lu seemed nervous and inexperienced, but as vice-president, finance, she has proven to be one of the most hardworking members of the executive.

Lu's work on the AMS's finances and the AMS/Graduate Student Society Health and Dental Plan has been noticed. In her supervision of the health plan this year, she worked with the plan provider to allow students to opt out permanently of the health plan. Opting out of other services has also become easier.

As VP-Finance, Lu produced the AMS's \$9 million budget, and so far, has been keeping expenses under budget.

More quiet than the other executives, Lu, however, has taken a fairly non-participatory role in AMS meetings. When she does speak, her ideas are intelligent and well thought-out, but one hardly finds her offering opinion and leadership apart from her executive report.

The VP-Administration has, arguably, the easiest job. Overseeing the operation of the SUB, overseeing the facilitation of clubs, constituencies and occasionally breaking up Genocide Awareness Project/Students for Choice fights—all in a day's work for vice-president Mark Fraser.

Finishing up his second term in the position, Fraser has overseen the extensive renovations to the SUB. This year, he supervised the moving of the *Ubyssy* office and the development of resource group space in the northeast corner of the second floor. There was also the development of the new bagel shop, and renovations to Blue Chip Cookies and Pie R Squared.

SUB renovations are regularly overbudget, behind schedule and often have problems after completion. The utility of renovations to Blue Chip is questionable—in interviews with *the Ubyssy* last summer, one employee called them 'pretty good,' and another called them 'a total waste of money.'

How much does Fraser even have to do with this? At AMS Council meetings, he hasn't always known the status of construction in his SUB; much of the work seems to be done by the staff workers.

After campaigning on promises of improvement to campus safety, and online resources, VP-Academic Evan Horie has had a somewhat uneventful year. Horie has been working on the Safety Advisory Commission for most of this year, the results of which are still unknown. While lots of new information about the dismal state of safety on campus has been recorded, so far not a lot has been done to publicise it. Nonetheless, knowing that there are people working to make our campus a safe place is reassuring.

In terms of ensuring that students get the most out of their academic experiences at UBC, Horie has not done much to distinguish himself. Student representation and input into all academic issues is incredibly important, but in the area of initiative, his term has been invariably lacking.

This year's execs came in, and did their jobs decently. But since the same slate has swept all positions two years in a row, if only to fight apathy on campus, next year's AMS executive should not be drawn from a single slate. The executive is becoming stagnant, set in its ways, and needs an influx of ideas from different groups. Maybe then there will be more innovation—or public fighting. ♦

Safety officials encourage awareness

"Safety" from page 1.

same. There's a very high percentage of young women who will likely experience being violated on campus and will never ever report it to the police," said Brown. "So there's that dynamic that it is happening, but it's not being reported, so it's very difficult for the community to have an accurate picture."

But UBC says the university tries to inform campus residents of possible assaults, even when

assaults are not being reported.

"Usually if...information [about safety incidents] comes forward, the university investigates it, and on occasion even if something isn't reported to police, we take initiative to inform the campus community that something has happened," said UBC Personal Safety Coordinator Paul Wong.

Robinson said that if a resident complains about an attack or an attempted attack, Housing will encourage the student to report the incident to the RCMP. If stu-

dents do not want to report the incident, Housing will inform Wong without disclosing the victim's personal information so measures can be taken to maintain safety.

"It's not that our staff hear about great numbers of attacks that go unreported," said Robinson. "When we do hear about attacks and assaults, we encourage that student to make a report."

In the US, the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security

Policy and Crime Statistics Act require universities to gather all reported crimes into a central report and distribute it to students and employers. In Canada, no such law exists, but Brown believes that UBC could learn some lessons from the accountability required by US schools.

Showing a file of pink incident reports from Safewalkers, Brown said that there are numerous incidents never reported to the police. She plans to compile these into a report nonetheless.

The AMS has been encouraging the community to become involved in safety and has created a 'community safety watch board' in the SUB where students can report crimes and learn about the status of safety on campus.

Robinson encourages students living in residences to use the locks on their doors and not to let strangers follow them in to buildings after unlocking doors.

"It's important to use the security measures that are provided," she said. ♦

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B-Ball Birds leave Wesmen in the dust

by Rob Nagai

The UBC men's basketball team lit up War Memorial Gym this weekend, trouncing the University of Winnipeg Wesmen and taking their fifth and sixth straight wins. Team captain Kyle Russell led the Birds in scoring both nights and is now reanked fifth nationally and third in the Pacific Division.

Before the winter break, the Birds struggled in the paint. This weekend however, they owned the inside. On Friday the Birds put the first six points on the board within the eighteen-minute mark of the first half—all of it under the boards.

The T-Birds, playing tight defence, shut down the Wesmen and never lost the lead. Going into the second half, UBC was up 42 to 31 before Winnipeg tightened up its defence and was able to slow down the Birds.

At times the game got ugly. Winnipeg played hard in the key and even instigated shoving matches. UBC forward Jason Bristow, who was tossed for fouls, said after the game, "I am going to step up and I'm not going to take that shit in our house anymore."

Despite having three key play-

ers ejected for fouls, UBC still came out with a 85-76 win.

Russell led the Birds with 35 points, 12 boards and 5 assists. While many of his points were made at the free-throw line, he was able to penetrate the Wesmen defence numerous times. With 18 points, Corey Ogilvie continued his hot streak and showed promising leadership when Russell was on the bench. Grinder Jason Bristow picked up his presence under the boards, giving the Wesmen some scuffles for the play.

But by Saturday night the Wesmen had pulled it together. They picked up their defence and were aggressive inside the key. Winnipeg led early in the first half, by the 12-minute mark they were up on the Birds by ten points.

Five minutes before the end of the first half, UBC guard Mark Tasic came alive. Tasic made several big plays, firing up the UBC line-up. He rallied the Birds, scoring several points inside the paint and hitting a fade-away jumper at the ten-second mark to tie up the game for the first time Saturday night.

The Birds entered the second half down by two points. It didn't

stay that way for long as Paul Naka—UBC's new point guard—hit a three pointer from way downtown.

From that point on, Winnipeg couldn't catch UBC. The Birds rolled their team together and played tight defence and aggressive offence. They were rewarded with a 79-65 win and Tasic was named player of the game with 22 points and 7 boards.

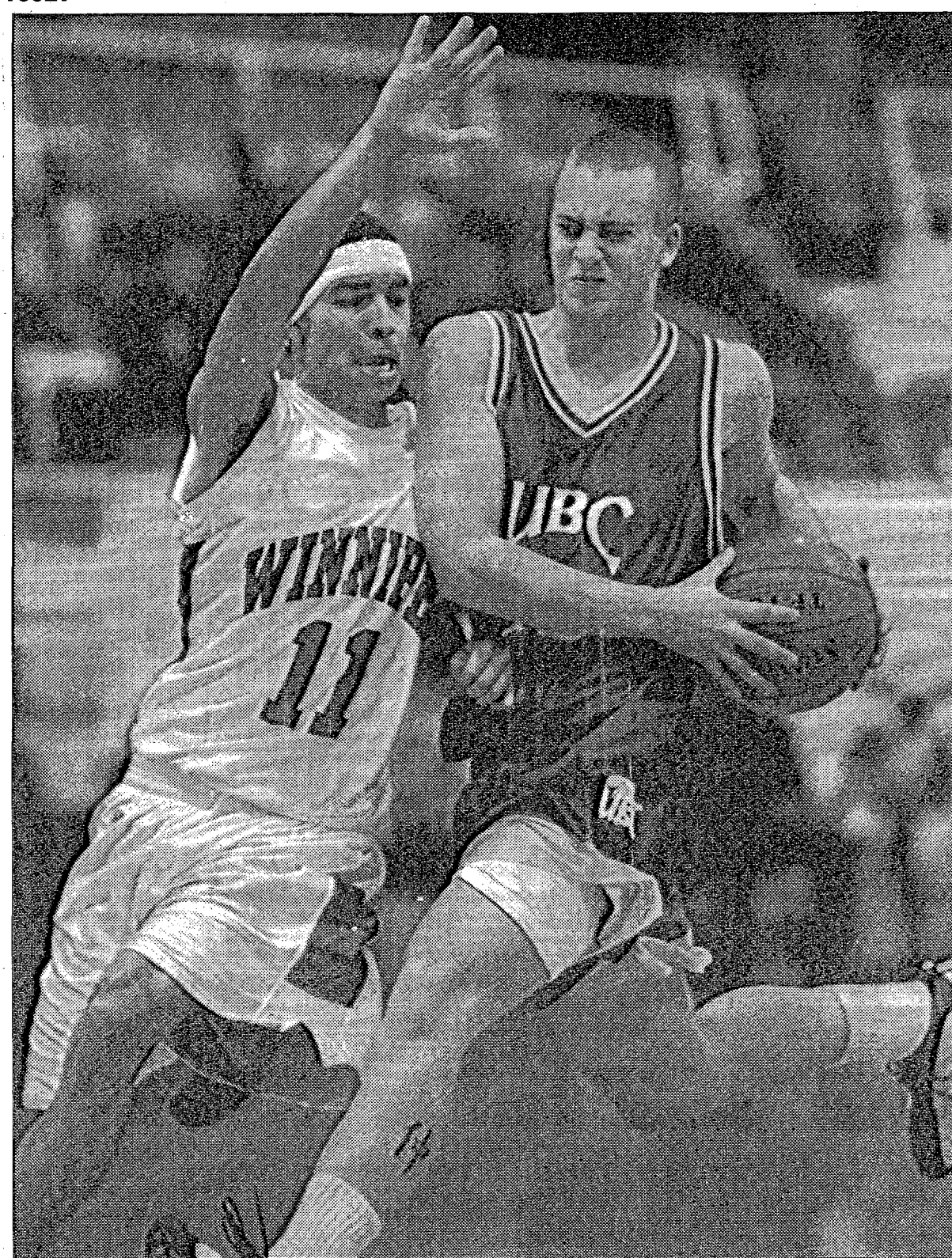
But Tasic was not the only bright light. UBC's rookie guard Naka looked a lot more confident handling the ball Saturday night and filled UBC's point-guard void. As he gets the confidence to shoot more, Naka is certain to be one of UBC's premier players.

But for now Russell leads the team, and despite describing his condition as "sore, tired and old," he's averaging a superb 22 points per game, making him not only UBC's leading scorer but also one of the top players in the CIS.

The Birds are definitely picking it up on the road and at home. UBC now owns second place in Canada West, one win behind their cross-town rivals: the SFU Clan. Expect a lot of action from the Birds in the weeks to come as they chase the Clan for top spot in Canada West. UBC will play at Victoria next weekend before returning home to play Trinity Western. ♦

GAMESCORE	
85	76
79	65
UBC	Winnipeg

HERE WE GO! UBC's new starting point guard Paul Naka charges ahead Saturday night. Naka fills a void in the team's line-up. NIC FENSOM PHOTO



Women split surly Wesmen

by Sarah Conchie

So much for a parade. UBC's women's basketball team had a little rain this weekend, courtesy of the Winnipeg Wesmen, who stormed into town and ended UBC's sunny six-game winning streak Friday night. There's a reason the Wesmen haven't changed their name to suit these gendered times. Big, surly and boasting the greatest number of fouls committed in a single CIS game this season, Winnipeg's women are some of the toughest in the conference.

The UBC mascot wasn't the only one cowering Friday night as the black-suited Wesmen took over underneath the hoop early on. Although Thunder birds point guard Charmene Adams lit up the board with some sizzling threes and teammate Carrie Rodgers scored 17 points, the Birds couldn't stop the rangy Wesmen from grabbing 32 rebounds and scoring 40 points in the paint. With a season-high 82 points posted against them and a third-place ranking slipping away, the Birds were handed their first loss of the New Year by the seventh-ranked Wesmen. UBC coach Deb Huband wasn't surprised.

"Defensively, we let ourselves down tonight. They're big, they're athletic and they play a

style of basketball that's unique, and we just didn't play to their strength," she said.

On Saturday night, the Birds were ready to fight. The Wesmen cracked under the sudden pressure of UBC's newly employed zone defence and were kept off the boards. By double-teaming the Birds forced the Wesmen to try for buckets around the perimeter, ending the half 40-27.

As Winnipeg racked up six fouls in a scant six minutes and a rabid crowd hurled abuse at the referees,

the Thunderbirds stayed calm enough to claim a 67-49 victory. Carlee St. Denis led the onslaught with 16 points, and Carrie Rogers and Annie Krygsveld had seven rebounds apiece.

Huband felt that Saturday the Birds turned the tables on the Wesmen and played the game on their own terms.

"We played a lot more zone defence, and that caused them problems," Huband said. "We out-rebounded them, we worked hard on the boards and we almost doubled them in boards, which made a big difference."

The win brings UBC's record to 8-4, keeping the Birds in second place in Canada West. This weekend they face Victoria, whom they've swept once already this season. ♦

GAMESCORE	
72	82
67	49
UBC	Winnipeg

Hockey team sweeps Calgary Dinos

by Dustin Cook

Stuck eight points behind in the playoff race and with only two wins this season, the Thunderbirds men's hockey team came into its weekend series against Calgary looking like a bunch of dodo birds on the verge of extinction. Even though the T-Birds were facing the nation's fourth-ranked team and their anemic offence had not scored a goal in two games, UBC refused to die.

The Birds started strong on Friday night and never looked back. From the start to finish in a game that went down to the wire, UBC outplayed Calgary in every aspect of the game—except for the power play. In fact, the Birds' play with the man advantage was nearly their undoing.

After the scoreless first period, the Birds got sloppy on the power play and ten minutes into the second, a shorthanded Calgary scored. Going into the third, the Birds had not scored a goal in over eight periods of hockey.

"We were heading...deep into our ninth period without scoring a goal," said coach Mike Coffin after the game. "It was pretty easy for guys to give up, but we didn't."

With four minutes left, the Birds were desperately trying to score when their listless power play was given one last chance to redeem itself—and this time the Birds realised that playing five-on-four makes it easier to score. Matt Reid scored to tie the

game and force overtime.

Then, with the script calling for a fairy-tale ending, a hero came along. With just over one minute played in the extra frame, Nils Antons, the Bird's top sniper, raced down the wing and rifled home his eighth goal of the season for the game winner.

"To get a win from a team that is ranked in the top five like Calgary is a good feeling," said rookie defence-man Tito Kamel.

"It was the first overtime win I've seen at UBC for the last three years," added goalie Robert Filc. "It was really a huge win, probably the biggest."

Coffin felt that Antons's stellar play was crucial. "Nils made two huge plays down the stretch and that was the difference," he said.

A modest Antons attributed the victory to his teammates' resolve. "Guys got down a little bit, but we pretty much stuck to the game plan. We knew we could come back," said the player of the game. "We got a little lucky in the end, so it was great."

Lucky or not, the Birds would not have won without goaltender Robert Filc. The Birds relied on his brilliant—often miraculous—play to stay in the game. Filc made 27 saves total, including stopping a breakaway and making a fantastic pokecheck save on a three-on-one.

On Saturday, the Birds had a chance to win two in a row for the first time this season and they didn't waste it. Casey Barten scored a career-high four points to help take the Birds to a 5-4 victory, completing their second major upset in as many nights and their first weekend sweep of the season.

By going 2-1-1 against Calgary this season, the Birds proved that they're not just cannon fodder for the Canada West's premier teams. And with two Lethbridge losses this weekend, the Birds are only four points behind the Pronghorns, putting UBC within striking distance of the last playoff spot in the CIS Mountain Division.

On January 25 the Birds will face Lethbridge in a series likely to decide which of the two teams secures the final playoff berth. With a 4-2-2 home record, playing in Vancouver could well be a huge advantage for the Birds.

But before that contest, UBC will fly to Saskatchewan. To keep pace with or gain on Lethbridge, the Birds will need to overcome their 0-8-2 away record in the Prairies.

Nonetheless, with the Birds playing more home games than Lethbridge and having an easier schedule down the final stretch, Coffin likes the Birds' chances.

"I don't know why, but as a coach you get a feeling about groups that you work with, and I've just got some inherent feeling inside me that something good is going to happen with this team." ♦

GAMESCORE	
2	1
15	4
UBC	Calgary

Canada West men's ice hockey standings

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Great Plains Division							
Saskatchewan	13	10	6	2	69	47	22
Manitoba	13	9	8	1	61	62	19
Regina	13	7	7	4	50	57	18
Brandon	13	2	13	3	40	82	7
Mountain Division							
Alberta	18	13	2	3	79	34	29
Calgary	18	10	7	1	68	54	21
Lethbridge	18	6	8	4	62	71	16
UBC	18	4	10	4	46	68	12

THE UBYSSY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2002
VOLUME 83 ISSUE 29

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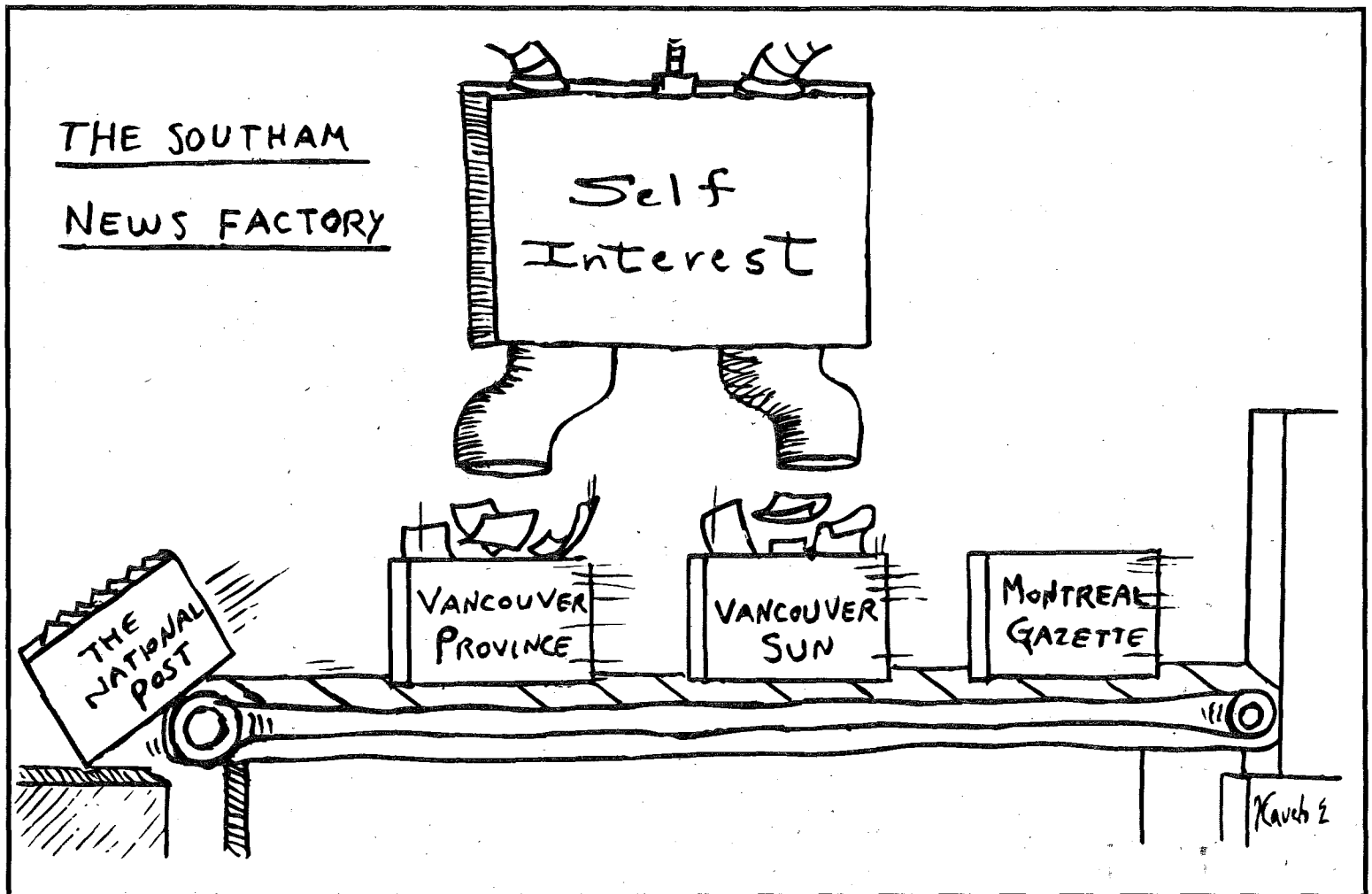
AD DESIGN

Shalene Takara

Sarah Conchie was riding home on the bus one night. She had just got back from watching her favourite basketball players, Scott Bardsley and Ron Nurwisa, when she overheard Nic Fensom's brother, Duncan M. McHugh, talking about the female Ubyssy staff. "Sarah MacNeill Morrison and Laura Blue are such sluts," he said. "And who knows where Hywel Tusciano and Julia Christensen have been? Ai Lin Choo and Alicia Miller are just whorin' it up all over town." Graeme Worthy was furious with Duncan's misinformed opinions on the sexual habits of the Ubyssy staff, and Chris Shepherd vowed to get him back. Kathy Deering and Sara Young found out incriminating information about Duncan's childhood, which Courtney Bannon published in the next issue. Tiffany Kan put Nair in his shampoo and Ted Chen put honey in his shoes. Lisa Denton made sure he would never get a date in this town again, while Rob Nagai and Dustin Cook tar and feathered him. Boy, did Duncan look like an idiot.

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Censorship all the same

Who would have ever thought that journalists would one day look back fondly to a time when Conrad Black controlled Canadian print media?

Late last year, that was exactly what happened as Canadians saw corporate media sink to a new low. The Asper family, owners of Canada's largest media company, CanWest Global Communications, decided that they should control what opinions could and could not be printed in the newspapers they own.

That's a big deal when the Aspers own *The Vancouver Sun*, *The Province*, *The Calgary Herald*, *The Edmonton Journal*, *The Ottawa Citizen*, *The National Post* and *The Montréal Gazette*, among others. Currently those newspapers, some of the most influential in the country, must every week run three national editorials penned by CanWest head office. The Aspers—or those that work for them—have also begun to screen content at their daily papers, looking for stories, opinions and views that contradict those held by the Asper family.

If it sounds like censorship, well, that's because it is. The Aspers are using their

papers not merely as vehicles for profit, but also as propaganda tools, pulpits from which they can spread their views, and silence those they do not want the Canadian public to hear.

Take the example of Lawrence Martin, a popular and widely read Southam columnist: because of his investigations into shady deals that the prime minister made in his home riding of Shawinigan his contract was not renewed. He was, in effect, fired for doing what journalists do best, investigating matters of public interest. But because the Aspers are close friends with the Prime Minister and staunch Liberal supporters, Martin paid the price.

There's also the example of Peggy Curran, an arts writer with *The Montréal Gazette*. She had a story on a CBC documentary about Palestinian journalists who were killed by the Israeli military. The story was sent to the CanWest head office for 'editing.' Unfortunately for Curran, her story, which was critical of the Israeli army, would have ruffled the feathers of the strongly

pro-Israel Aspers.

Journalists and editors at *The Montréal Gazette* who criticised the Southam policies were also quickly silenced. The *Gazette's* publisher, Michael Goldbloom, resigned over the new policies. When a number of other journalists at that paper raised a stink and began speaking to the public they were warned in a rather sinister internal memo that those who "disregard their obligations to the employer" could be suspended or lose their jobs. Soon after the memo, reporters and others from the *Gazette* no longer spoke about the matter publicly.

The journalists who write for the *Post*, the *Journal*, the *Gazette* and the *Citizen* are amongst the most talented and respected journalists in the country. They have a job to do and the Aspers ought to let them do it. Let them have their own opinions, give them a stake in the newspapers they produce.

The longer policies like these continue, the more the Asper family shows its contempt, not simply for its employees, but also for the public that buy and read their papers. ♦

LETTERS

An open letter to the candidates in this year's elections

I write you today with a clarion challenge: divest yourselves from that which gives you an unfair advantage. Stop binding the mediocre with the magnificent. Let people be judged by the strength of their ideas and experience over their associations and alliances. *End slates at UBC.*

Perhaps in my years here I've grown jaded, but I've seen too many good people summarily trounced by a system that stops our electorate from considering candidates on their individual merits. Likewise, I've seen our student society harmed by those whose strongest point is simply with whom they are running. Slates limit choice and ideas and are patently unfair to those with the courage to run alone, both electorally and financially. They are also brutally effective. Well, I'm tired of it.

In response to these concerns,

I've heard nothing but fear-mongering: that by ending slates we'd drop voter turnout. Well, in response, I would retort in two parts. Firstly, do we want an ill-informed electorate to vote? Because that's what slates do; they encourage people to generalise and not have to think of candidates on their own virtues. Secondly, I would counter that a varied election, with many candidates actually challenging students to think (dare I suggest that's why we're here), would actually increase voter turnout.

One might raise the argument of freedom of expression. Well, how about the expression of the independents? Expression that could greatly benefit our student society, if only they could get their message out past the onslaught of vapid and unrelenting communication from the slates. Further, it's not a freedom, it's a privilege granted in exchange for agreeing to and abiding by certain restrictions. You agree to limit it every day, and quite frankly, I think this would be a far more useful limitation than some of the others we

have in AMS elections.

We talk about engaging the student body. Of becoming more relevant to them. Of challenging the nearly insurmountable apathy toward the AMS on our campus. Well, if we want to make the student body open to us, we have to first open ourselves to them. Slates just advantage the hacks and the hacks-to-be. They cause entry into our system to be prohibitively difficult to any outsider, and as such, limit our democracy.

Ms Harvey, Mr Nagai, Mr Dhillon: In two weeks, one of you will be our president-elect. Show the student body that our candidates are competent enough to run on their convictions. Tell us that you'll ask people to stand on their own ideas. Take a stand for our students and against party politics. Pledge now that you will work to make this the last AMS election with slates.

I eagerly await your replies.

—Christopher Eaton
Arts 3

UBC Senator, AMS Councillor

THE UBYSSY WORLD IS...
a world of meetings
TUESDAY
11:30... CULTURE
12:30... NEWS
13:15... WOMEN'S CAUCUS
15:30... NASH
15:59... MEDS
16:00... PWRCUP
17:00... EDITORS'
18:00... GOLDPLAY
19:00... "PONYPLAY"
puttin' up with Tiffany since 1918

In search of The Other

by Courtney Bannon

THE OTHER
at The Roundhouse
Jan. 12

This winter holiday, I was one of many frustrated travellers who faced daunting lines at the airport and got hassled by airport security (who knew that needle-nosed pliers were considered weapons?). So when references to airport security interrogation began emerging in *The Other*, I was in stitches.

A traveller in *The Other* removes everything from his pockets, takes off his coats and even holds up his shirt up to his chin to expose his innocent chest. I anxiously waited for the moment when he'd be asked to remove his shoes. It didn't happen. Montréal dance company Pigeons International created the show in the spring of 2001—and at the time—its creators would have had no idea just how opportune and prescient its references to the absurdity of airport security would be.

The Other is a dance-drama piece about the search for one's beloved, inspired by the novel *Balthazar and Blimunda* by Nobel prize-winning Portuguese novelist José Saramago. Choreographer and director Paula de Vasconcelos has created a whimsical, comic and imaginatively staged multilingual work for seven performers.

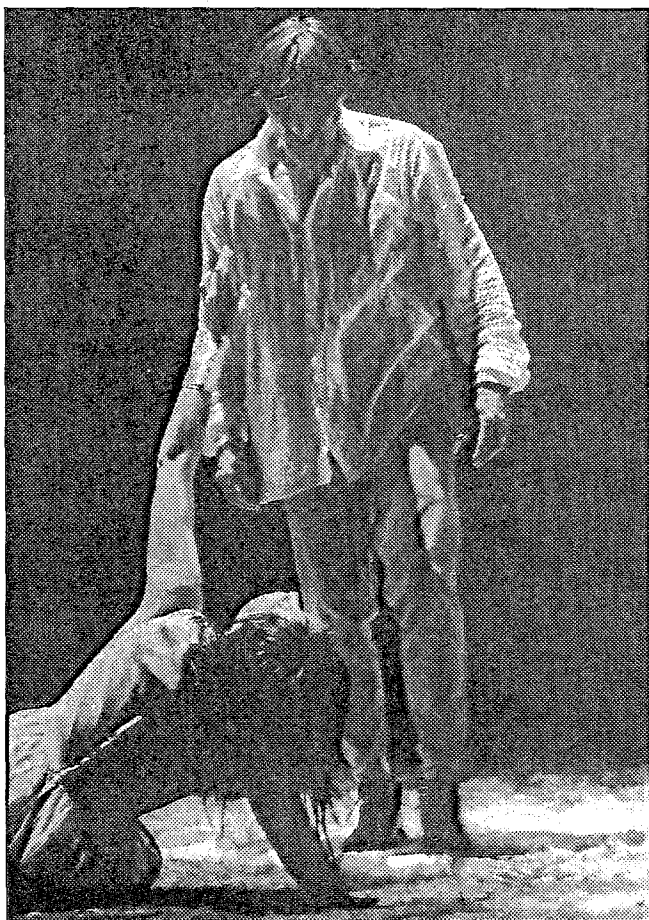
There are three sets of characters: an arctic huntress and a cave-dwelling hermit, a king and a queen, and an airport security officer, a Ukrainian man and a frail woman in his suitcase. After the captivating introduction of these three very distinct sets of characters, I wondered where this piece could possibly be going. Judging from the nervous laughter in the sold-out auditorium, I wasn't the only one who found delight in the bizarre combination of seemingly unrelated characters.

The chaos is soon dispelled when a narrator takes the audience by the hand and begins to weave the story. We learn that the queen cannot decide if she wants to be a queen. She asks the hermit what a king and queen must do to feel like a man and woman. The hermit's response is like a Zen Koan. The answer, in this case, lies in the work. People should evolve, celebrate life and not be constrained by their roles.

The show takes place on a soft quilt of furs that add to the work's sensual nature. Performers and props enter and exit from either side of the stage in ways that often make the stage floor look as

though it was passing by like a conveyor belt. The three female performers are well-trained dancers, notably more so than the men. Fortunately de Vasconcelos's choreography was tailored to highlight the strengths of all the performers and their characters. Within the mix of spoken word and movement, the story unfolds in a fantastical, yet distanced manner.

The Other marked the Vancouver debut of Pigeons International, which de Vasconcelos founded with Paul-Antoine Taillefer in 1987. The company has been extremely successful, both in Montréal and internationally on its European tours, which makes it surprising that this is only their first visit to Vancouver. But if *The Other* is any indication, Pigeons International—with its ingenious multilingual mix of dance and drama—will certainly be welcomed back. ♦



WEDNESDAY'S STAFF MEETING

CAN'T YOU JUST TASTE IT??

...INTROS

...ELECTIONS

...SPECIAL ISSUES

...RADIO

...ATHLETICS

...OTHER BUSINESS

...CUP

...POST MORTEM

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Jewish newspaper slams Simon Fraser student press

by Stephen Hui
the SFU Peak

BURNABY (CUP)—The student newspaper at Simon Fraser University was condemned by a Jewish newspaper last month for publishing articles perceived to have a pro-Palestine bias.

A December 14 story on the front page of *The Jewish Western Bulletin*, written by one of the *Bulletin's* owners, calls *The SFU Peak*, "a hotbed of anti-Israel bias" and reports that Jewish university students have been intimidated by some of the newspaper's material.

Elliot Campbell, president of SFU Hillel and one of the article's sources, said he was concerned about the tone of the *Peak's* commentary on Israeli-Palestinian issues. The tone of

the newspaper might dissuade people from contributing to the student newspaper, he said.

"I have considered writing pieces for *The Peak* on this issue before. However, I have always been afraid that it wouldn't get published because my stance on the issue doesn't fit with the way that it has been typically covered before in *The Peak*," Campbell said.

Campbell said that he feels there needs to be more neutral coverage of the conflict, with several different voices being heard.

"To have it go either way too much, I don't think that's the right thing to do either. I think there is a balance we can strike and hopefully here we can all work together to strike that proper balance," he said.

Campbell said he plans to become more involved with *The Peak*, starting with a letter to the editor. He has written an e-mail message to *The Peak's* editorial staff expressing his dismay over the *Bulletin's* article about *The Peak* and clarifying his stance.

"I thought the [*Bulletin's*] article was a little harsh," he said.

Peak features editor Ian Rocksborough-Smith said he felt the *Bulletin's* article failed to uncover many of the facts behind the issue. Reporters at *The Peak* have merely been trying to put forth an alternative view, he said.

"Some people might try to associate [*The Peak's* perceived bias] with anti-Semitism, but I think that is a totally incorrect assessment," he said.

"If you look at the history of student newspapers, they have tended to be mediums of alternative journalism that are expressing a view that is not the status quo and challenging the conventions of journalism," he said. "Coverage in the mainstream media is not a balanced report." ♦

"If you look at the history of student newspapers, they have tended to be the mediums of alternative journalism that are expressing a view that is not the status quo and challenging the conventions of journalism."

—Ian Rocksborough-Smith
Features Editor, *The Peak*

Calgary mall uses renewable energy

by Andra Olson
the Gateway

CALGARY (CUP)—For the first time ever, a Canadian mall is using renewable energy to meet its electricity demands.

Chinook Centre, a major south-Calgary shopping complex, announced recently that Alberta electricity provider ENMAX has agreed to support the Greenmax wind-power development program.

Under the agreement, one per cent of the mall's energy bill will be spent on wind generation. The reduction in coal-burning will prevent over 160 tonnes of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere each year.

A mall retail manager, Marvin Holmen, said ENMAX's decision to support Greenmax allowed the mall to do its part for conservation, but was also just good business.

"Last January, when the electrical market became deregulated, we knew we needed to approach potential suppliers. When we approached ENMAX they came to us with a product that allowed us to buy our regular product at a competitive rate but supplement it with the Greenmax product."

"We want to support renewable energy. That's an important industry in our opinion for the future of Alberta," he said. "It's also an opportunity for us to become the first shopping centre in Canada to purchase a portion of their power needs through renewable energy."

ENMAX Energy is the deregulated retail division of Calgary's municipal electric utility. Since provincial deregulation of electricity in January 2001, the company has

become an energy provider to over 400,000 business and residential customers across Alberta.

Created in 1998, the Greenmax program was the first of its kind in Canada, incorporating the power generated by two turbines into the provincial power grid. Development costs, including the import of nearly all the equipment to construct the turbines, made the program costly to expand.

But with the development of companies which construct turbine materials within Alberta, and most recently with the support of large retail customers such as Chinook Centre, wind farms are popping up in some regions of the province.

Today Greenmax sells the energy of 42 turbines, and that number is expected to grow in the deregulated market, said company spokesperson Sineh Seetal.

"Wind-generated power is much more expensive than coal-generated energy—each turbine costs about \$1 million to construct," said Seetal. "The development costs are quite substantial, so the more people that support the program the more we are able to spread the costs. The more participants, the more efficient the program will be."

Seetal said partnerships with businesses like Chinook Centre and incentive programs that give subscribers discounts at major retailers across Alberta allow the program to generate the funds needed to expand.

But the most important consequence of the Chinook deal is the mall's reduction of coal use, and even one per cent makes a huge difference. ♦

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