3 Icy
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5 Pop
Oasis go the distance at the Garage

8 Fizzles
Ballet BC Sores at the QE Theatre

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Mighty merger strips AMS of banking posture

by Chris Nuttall-Smith

There's a new twist in the deal that's intended to give the Royal and Hong Kong banks a monopoly at UBC after Royal and the Bank of Montreal announced Friday they intend to merge into one humongous bank.

The merger deal, which still needs federal approval, could mean the Bank of Montreal—UBC's long time bankers—won't be leaving their campus location in SUB as they were expected to do.

The deal's framework, approved by the UBC Board of Governors last month, called for quick negotiations with the Bank of Montreal in hope of replacing the branch with a Royal Bank location by September.

"Maybe just the sign will change," said Byron Braley, UBC treasurer in an interview Friday. "Our old bankers are our new bankers and our new bankers are our old bankers."

But the merger can't change an AMS council decision last week to effectively prevent a campus banking monopoly.

The AMS, which holds part of the lease to the Bank of Montreal branch in SUB, as well as leases for Toronto Dominion and Vancity bank machines, decided last week to enter negotiations with the Royal and Hong Kong banks.

The decision to negotiate, however also stipulates that any eventual deal will preserve, or expand banking options in the SUB.

But the AMS' biggest bargaining chip—control of the Bank of Montreal site in SUB—transferred to the Royal Bank before the student union even got to the negotiating table.

"I guess the Royal Bank now has a lease in the SUB," said Bernie Peets, the AMS general manager.❖

Tibet flag debate gets heated at GSS

by Liam Lahey

The Graduate Students Society (GSS) held a stormy open meeting Thursday to decide whether to apologise to Chinese students offended when the council flew a flag of Tibet over its offices during the APEC leaders' retreat held at UBC last November.

Kevin Dwyer, the GSS president, spent much of the meeting defending his actions and public comments about the flag, which RCMP removed after threats from people sympathetic to the Chinese military occupation of Tibet in 1950.

Some councilors also insinuated that Dwyer's public comments after APEC in the press and via e-mail were racist. At a post-APEC forum last week Dwyer accused foreign nationals of infringing on the civil rights of Canadians.

"I cannot believe what I'm seeing," Dwyer told a packed council chamber Thursday. "You want to revise the events that happened here? Are you telling me the pressure is so great that you want to alter the truth? I'm flabbergasted."

"When we [the GSS] go and occupy the UBC President's office in protest, we offend her and that office's staff," Dwyer said, referring to the GSS protest over hikes in international tuition last year. "Do they come over here afterwards and demand an apology? Of course not. I was threatened, other members of this council were threatened. I do not take kindly to that."

While Steve Wilson, the past GSS president who chaired Thursday's meeting attempted to keep the situation controlled, several people there barked their support or disgust with the GSS's actions during APEC. And the pro-China contingent seemed to have their sights set on fingering Dwyer as the culprit for flying the Tibetan flag.

"The Tibetan flag signifies more than human rights, this flag represents a symbol of feudalism and tyranny by the nobility," said one irate Chinese student.

While Wilson attempted to bring focus to the debate over a possible apology from the GSS for its actions, interruptions continued throughout the three and a half hour session.

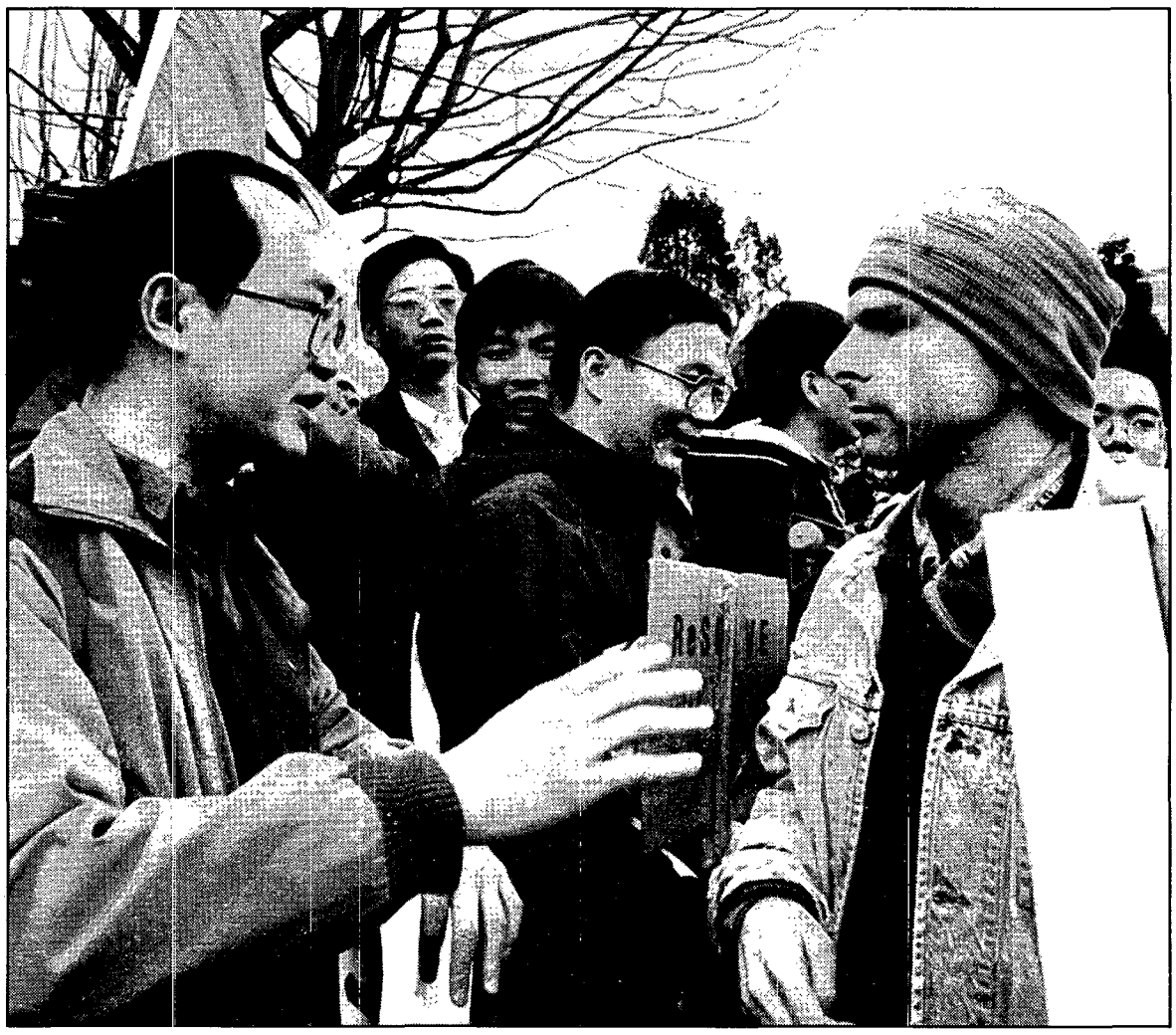
"I applaud your actions, Kevin," said another student. "If you [the GSS council] back down and apologise for this, you'll have to apologise for everything because no matter what you do, you'll always offend someone."

The sentiment was echoed by Councilor Nick Kontogeoropoulos. "Obviously, there are a lot of people here that are not happy about this," he said. "But if we pass a motion to apologise for this, we upset a different group of people. What do we do then? Retract the apology? Every decision we make will upset someone, so do we have to apologise for every decision we make?"

At times, the meeting got lost in its own bureaucracy. With no clear decision made as the meeting stretched into its third hour, Phillip Ziegler, GSS councilor, suggested the society study whether an apology is warranted.

"For fear of making an ignorant decision here that may upset more people, I move we adjourn for now," Ziegler said. "I'd like to see more debate on this issue that involves the entire student body of UBC. There's no sense in making a rash decision here tonight."

The GSS plan to hold a referendum February 2 to 6 asking grad students whether the GSS' actions during APEC were appropriate.❖



TWO STUDENTS face off during the November 25 APEC protests. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

Students in frenzy over fee fight

by Sarah Galashan and Douglas Quan

Last Thursday's Supreme Court ruling that two UBC ancillary fees contravened a provincial tuition freeze might prevent an athletic fee increase at UBC and could spark a flurry of fee refunds at other schools around the province.

The 1997/98 increase to the Student Aid Fund and the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund fees, together worth 1.6 per cent of tuition or about $1 million, will be reimbursed to students or credited to future tuition payments.

But despite the decision, UBC officials are still positioning to raise the Athletics and Recreation Fee, currently $130.25 per year, by $3 a year over the next five years.

Maria Klawe, vice president of student and academic services, says without the fee increases Athletics programs like varsity sports and intramurals will be the first to face cuts.

Dennis Pavlich, associate vice president of academic and legal affairs, said it's a possibility that raising the Athletic fee would not be considered illegal. "Remember [the Student Aid and Learning Enhancement fee] was a fee that was built into the tuition base and as a result of being built into the tuition base it was deemed to be tuition and therefore illegal," he said.

Any Athletics fee would have to be structured specifically so it doesn't fall under the precedent set by BC Supreme Court Judge Ronald Holmes' ruling.

Cameron Ward, the lawyer who represented four UBC students in their fight against the fees, says students shouldn't assume that all ancillary fees contravene the tuition freeze.

"The question in every case when looking at the particular fee is

See 'Students' p. 2

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Students push to see Coke contract

by Daliah Merzaban

A group of students has upped the ante in their fight to see the monopoly contract between the AMS and Coca-Cola, requesting that the student union's ombudsperson intervene to make the document public.

But the decision will have to wait until the AMS fills the ombud's position, which has been vacant since Michael Curry resigned in December.

Last fall the eight students insisted in a petition that the AMS follow its bylaws, which state that students may inspect "any records" during business hours. But the contract with Coke has a confidentiality clause and despite the student union's admission of the deal's approximate value—some $130,000 per year over ten years—the contract is guarded under lock and key.

"I told them [the students] that our legal position is that we cannot show them the contract without violating the provisions of the contract, which would cause us to be sued," said Ryan Davies, the AMS president.

He also argued that the students were more interested in making an issue of the AMS' secrecy than over the details of the contract. "Essentially they're trying to prove a point, is what I believe. It's not really a secret what is in the document. I think they know how much it's worth and I suspect that they've actually even seen it. They just want legal permission to see it."

Last fall the eight students insisted in a petition that the AMS follow its bylaws, which state that students may inspect "any records" during business hours.

The deal, signed in 1995, makes Coke the only cold beverage supplier in SUB.

But Trina Hamilton, the Student Environment Centre president who signed both the petition and the latest request, said the issue goes beyond having legal permission to view the contract.

"For me it's an ethical issue," said Hamilton. "The AMS is representing students and therefore students should have access to anything the AMS does and all the ramifications of that."

Hamilton said she wants the AMS to see that students are upset about the secrecy and she wants the council to keep students fully in the loop about future agreements.

Desmond Rodenbour, the AMS policy analyst, said after seeing the students' letter that they have a right to see the contract. "It's my understanding that such a deal would be viewable by the members" said Rodenbour. But he underscored the importance of waiting for an ombud's ruling before making a decision.

Council has already taken steps to ensure that a possible deal with the Royal and Hong Kong Banks stays open. In deciding to negotiate with the banks, council last week stipulated that any deal that comes from the negotiations must not be confidential.

The AMS is advertising the Ombudsperson position, applications are due January 30.❖

Students from p. 1

whether the fee is in effect tuition. Something that is earmarked for a different purpose wouldn't fall within the definition of tuition, and wouldn't be caught by the freeze act."

Meanwhile, students across BC are hoping the ruling will prevent their administrations from implementing similar fees.

"It's a landmark decision," said Mihran Keurdan, student ombudsman at Vancouver Community College where college officials are considering implementing an $80 technology fee.

Malaspina Student Union President, Steve Beasley, is equally hopeful the administration there will drop a proposal to install a $90 per year parking fee. "I think it'll have an impact."

Beasley says the college wants to transfer one-third of the projected $450,000 the parking fee would generate into its general budget.

But at least one college is confident that it's in the clear, even though it implemented a technology fee averaging $210 after the tuition freeze was put in place.

"It's not going to impact us," said Toni Eitzenberger, director of communications at the College of the Rockies. "We're not worried about it."

The court decision is a boost to National Day of Action activities. Tomorrow, students across BC will be rallying to demand the province extend its tuition freeze and that it include ancillary fees in the definition of tuition.

"In the long-term, we definitely need the legislation to be more specific with regards to ancillary fees," said Maura Parte, BC Chair of the Confederation of Students.

"It shouldn't be left up to students to take this to court."❖

STUDENT SOCIETY OF UBC

AMS UPDATE

student input makes it happen

THERE WILL BE A REFERENDUM ON FEBRUARY 6, 9 AND 10TH. TO ASSIST UBC STUDENTS IN MAKING AN INFORMED DECISION THE AMS EXECUTIVE HAS PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING REASONS TO VOTE NO.

The Alma Mater Society is owned and operated by the students of UBC and operates many successful businesses in SUB, such as Pie R Squared, The Pit, Subcetera, Copyright and many others.

The AMS intends to open a student owned and operated retail store. An AMS retail store, as opposed to The Thunderbird Shop, would create more student jobs, pay a higher wage to student employees, offer a wide product selection - and ALL profits would go back to students.

100% of all proceeds from AMS businesses go to support student activities such as Speakeasy Peer Counselling, Safewalk, Joblink, CiTR Radio, Tutoring Services etc.

The AMS currently receives about $62,000 per year in rent from The Thunderbird Shop lease. With all profits going to the AMS, rather than an off-campus private business, this figure could double or more.

The Thunderbird Shop's lease expired, after two option extensions, on April 30 1997. They were granted a further extension, until April 30 1998, in order for all parties to consider their options. The owner of The Thunderbird Shop has been aware of the AMS's intention not to renew the lease since June 1996.

The following is the referendum question:

Do you agree that the A.M.S. should enter into another five year lease with Thunderbird Enterprises Ltd. ("The Thunderbird Shop") so The Thunderbird Shop can continue to provide its services to the student body and to the University community? Yes/No

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Hockey Birds do the split

by Wolf Depner

While this past weekend did not decide UBC's playoff future it did set the tables for arguably the two most important games the Birds will play this season.

After doing the win-one-lose-one shuffle against the Saskatchewan Huskies, the Birds will travel to Lethbridge trailing the Pronghorns by four points with eight games remaining in the race for the third and final playoff spot. And you can bet Lethbridge, currently on a four game winning streak, will be looking for the kill.

There is good news though. UBC has won five out of its last six games against the Horns and the Birds have been playing well recently—witness their recent three-point road trip to Calgary and Friday's hard-earned, but well-deserved 3-2 win over the Huskies, argubly one of the best teams in Canada.

But despite their good play, the Birds, now 7-11-2 on the season, have not been able to close the gap. In fact, they have lost ground in the standings since the season resumed and they cannot afford to lose any more if they want to have a realistic shot at making the playoffs.

"We would need to win one game," said UBC head coach Mike Coflin after Saturday's 7-2 loss which broke UBC's three game unbeaten streak, the team's longest this season.

"But I think we are also taking the view that is going to come down to our performance over the next eight games," he added. "We gotta be really careful about how we approach Lethbridge. As big as it is, we turn around and go to Manitoba which is a real tough place to play the weekend after and there is every reason to be up for that weekend too."

The Birds certainly showed Friday night that they can respond to adversity. Playing without leading scorer Sandy Hayer, who was out with a bad wrist, the Birds took a physical pounding early, but did not yield and played one of their best games this season by all accounts.

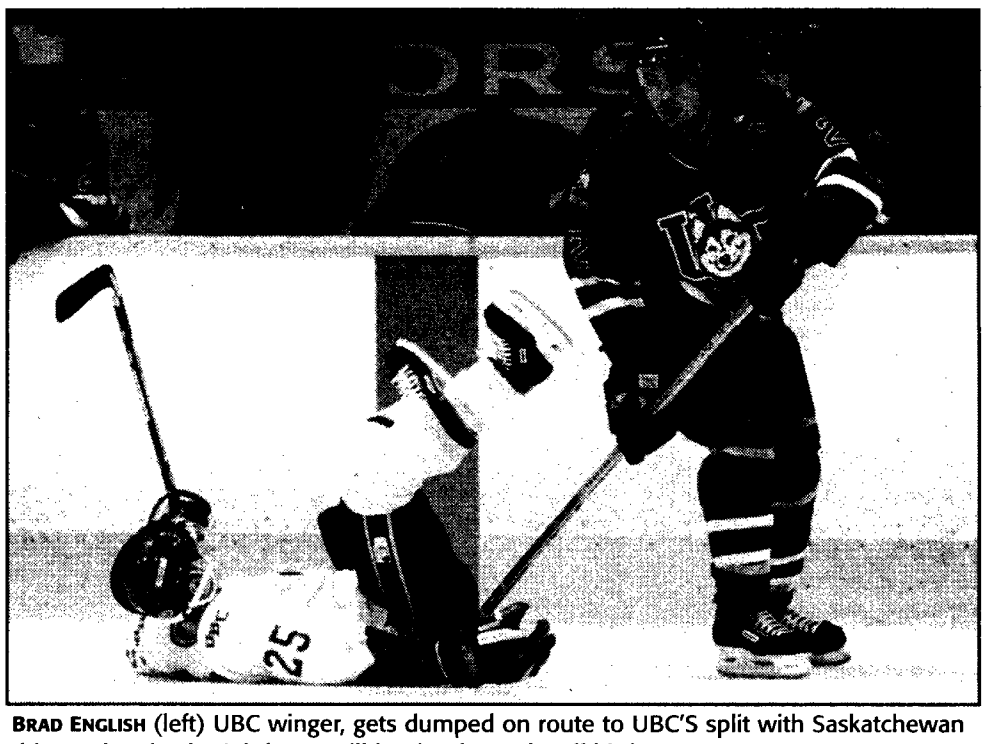
Jon Sikkema had a strong performance en route to making thirty saves and Geoff Lynch scored his team-leading eighth goal of the season at 4:13 of the third period to break a 2-2 tie. While Friday's win pushed the Birds' home ice record back to the .500 mark (5-5-1), it left UBC's blueline corps battered and bruised. Jamie Burt, Pavel Suchanek, Brian Josephson, Trevor Shoaf, Chris Kerr and Andrew Kemper all played hurt Saturday night.

"I really give those guys all the credit in the world," said Coflin. "Unfortunately, [Saturday's loss] takes the luster off that a little bit, but it shouldn't. They stepped forward and that's good. That's very encouraging for us in the long run."

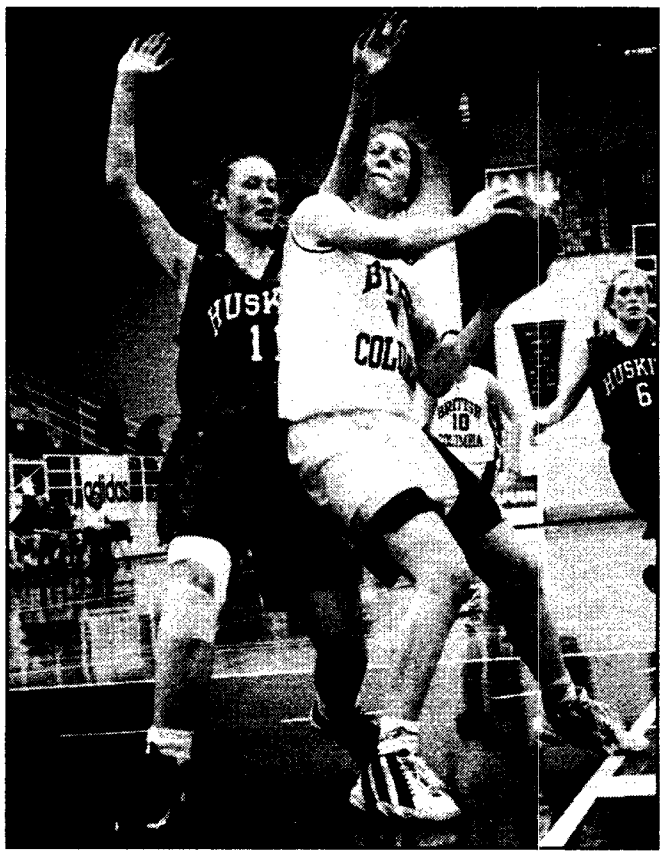
But UBC's strong show of character was not enough to overcome shaky goaltending—Sikkema gave up six goals on 30 shots and was pulled early in the third period—and three shorthanded goals, including two within fourteen seconds during the second period which gave the Huskies a comfortable 3-0 lead.

"I think it was very deflating for our team to recognise the fact that the [second], [third], and [sixth] goal of the game were shorthanded," Coflin said.

Chris Low and Loui Mellios scored for UBC Saturday night while the Huskies got a hat-trick from Ed Lowe.❖



BRAD ENGLISH (left) UBC winger, gets dumped on route to UBC'S split with Saskatchewan this weekend. The 'Birds are still hoping for a playoff birth. RICHARD LAM PHOTO



BOA Jessica Mills wills her way inside. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

UBC women score much needed wins

by Bruce Arthur

The UBC women's basketball team took two steps in the right direction this weekend with only their second sweep of the season.

The Birds, now 7-5 in Canada West, scored two much-needed wins over the lowly Saskatchewan Huskies, winning 77-54 on Friday and 79-49 on Saturday. "There's no question," said head coach Deb Huband. "We needed a sweep." UBC's big three of Laura Esmail, Jessica Mills, and J.J. Rawlinson were the key—all three played well on both nights for the first time since the preseason. "I don't remember the last time that happened. A lot of people contributed," said Huband.

Mills bounced back from last weekend's tough weekend against Alberta to dominate. She had her way inside, shooting a sparkling 15-for-18 in the two games to finish with a 37 points total. Rawlinson played some of her best ball of the season, and Esmail showed the leadership that this up-and-down team has been sorely lacking.

Once again, the Birds looked uninspired Friday night. Then, behind Rawlinson's defensive stops and pinpoint passing, UBC took a 32-21 lead with 3:20 left in the half, but again lost focus. The Birds let Saskatchewan close the gap to five and entered the half leading only 36-31.

After the break, however, Esmail took over. Held to three first half points because of foul trouble, she grabbed the Birds by the throat and carried them along. Esmail shouted at teammates, shut down Saskatchewan star Kim Grant, crashed the offensive boards, and scored 13 points to finish with 16.

"Everything opened up—it was so much fun," exclaimed Esmail.

"The thing with Laura is she's so physically strong that she can play post, and she's so mobile and so fast," said Mills. "She's unguardable."

The entire team fed off Esmail's energy and dominated the Huskies until the final buzzer.

"She is our definite leader, on and off the floor. Usually, we can't keep it going for twenty minutes," said Huband. "We did tonight."

Saturday, UBC finally put 40 minutes of excellent basketball together, never letting the Huskies into the game. The Birds ran out to a 41-20 halftime lead behind Rawlinson's 11 points, and cruised the rest of the way en route to a thirty point victory.

Despite the sweep, UBC remains tied with Alberta for third place, but if the season were to end to today, UBC would be fourth. Moving up in the standings, however, can be difficult.

The Birds have only two home games left, and still face tough road games against Calgary, Victoria, and Alberta, all of whom have beaten the Birds this season.❖

Basketball Birds swamp sad-sack Saskatchewan in weekend sweep

by Bruce Arthur

After last week's physically grueling sweep at the hands of the Alberta Golden Bears, UBC got a much-needed break as the powder-puff Saskatchewan Huskies came to town.

UBC creamed the 1-11 Huskies twice to move back to .500 (6-6) in Canada West play.

"Man, we needed that sweep badly," laughed a relieved head coach Rich Chambers.

Friday's game was an absolute cakewalk. UBC led 24-4 after nine minutes, and cruised to an easy 73-46 victory. Saskatchewan shot just 32 percent from the floor, missed 13 out of 23 free throws, and committed 20 turnovers.

How UBC split with Saskatchewan earlier in the season is a complete mystery.

Swingman Nino Sose was the star of the weekend, having recovered from the mild concussion he suffered against Alberta to post 22 points in each game. He scored them

in a hurry, too, as he played only 27 minutes in each game. Centre Joel Nickel also made a strong comeback from injury. He scored 20 points on 8-for-8 shooting Saturday, and added three blocked shots and three steals.

"We need him," said Chambers. "Joel is more key to us than a lot of people think."

Saturday, it looked as if UBC was content to mail their effort in, as they struggled early. The game was tied at 16 when the Birds turned on the jets for the last eight minutes of the half. They went on an incredible, back-breaking 28-2 run ignited by Nickel's ferocious two-handed and led 44-18 at the half.

Sose and Nickel each had 11 at the break, and the second half saw the UBC lead climb as high as 52 points before the teams settled on a 101-63 result.

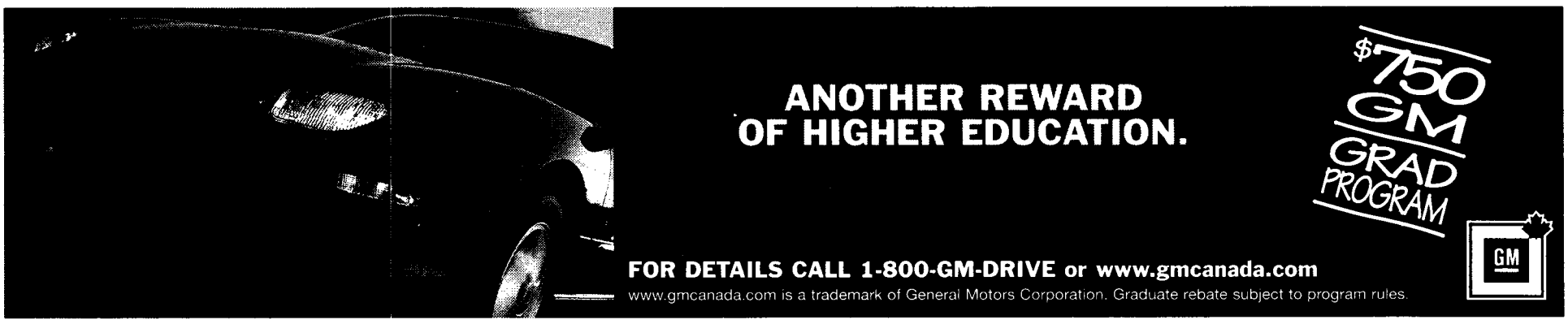
"It was a very nice win for us, because everybody got to play," said Chambers.

The fact that star forward and leading scorer John Dykstra played only 10 minutes and went scoreless for the first time this season only emphasised UBC's complete dominance.

"I think we'll play well from now until the end of the season," asserted Chambers. "We needed to really play well both nights, and we did. I think it's a turning point for us."

UBC's schedule gives them another break next weekend, as they play the 2-10 Calgary Dinosaurs on the road. They will then play Victoria, Lethbridge, and Alberta in successive weeks to close the season.

UBC is a combined 1-6 against those three teams.❖



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OASIS ARE DEFINITELY COMPLETE ASSHOLES AND IT MAKES THEIR MUSIC THAT MUCH BETTER.

by John Zaccarini

There's a part in the Doors' In Concert double album where Jim Morrison looks out at the crowd and screams, "You're all a bunch of fucking idiots!" And the crowd howls in approval of Saint Jim's proclamation. You got the feeling on Friday night that had Liam Gallagher stared out into the GM Place crowd with that startlingly blank look of his and pronounced them "all a bunch of fucking idiots," they too would have yelled back. But it wouldn't be the yowl of offended delight that Morrison's outright attack provoked, it would have been something a bit different. It would have been more of a pleased scream at the fact that Oasis (and particularly Liam

They've been here n

Gallagher) are definitely complete assholes, and it makes their music that much better.

Now, at this point in their career, Oasis concerts breakdown to being a lot like U2 concerts, at least in their choice of songs. You know, play a couple songs from the album, play a couple obscure b-sides and/or covers, and pour out the hit singles. What the audience gets, and what it wants, is the Greatest Hits concerts. So everyone here knows what the concerts are going to be like overall, it's just the details—like which obscurities they'll play, how well they'll play THE BIG SONG, and to what degree Liam will be an ass today.

Friday's Oasis concert was all this and more, and I'm pleased to report, as I must, that no shoes were thrown. Oasis simply started in with "Fuckin' Here Now", the title track from their new album, and with commendable speed in executing the next song, kept rolling. And, as the saying goes, it was all good. "Don't Know What I Mean" and "Champagne Supernova" were slightly mangled by being rushed, "Don't Go Away" lost a bit of its power by being relegated to an acoustic number, "All Around the Word" wasn't played, and "Wonderwall" came off as just another song thanks to its newly fashioned electrified version.

But these are just small quibbles in the face of Oasis' take-over of GM Place. They *are* stadium rock and it was glorious to hear them in a venue befitting their egos. All the requisite pieces were in place, the drunken redneck fans, the obsessive air guitarist in the next seat, and the comfortably inflated t-shirts prices. It was truly an Oasis concert. What more can you ask for?❖

California's Goldfinger is punk, ska punk

GOLDFINGER
Jan. 23
at the UBC Party Room

by Vince Yim

Do these guys ever get any sleep? Amidst a gruelling tour schedule, Goldfinger found time to come to Vancouver for two shows. In a free warm-up performance to their gig at the Starfish Room later that day, the Californian natives graced the SUB Party Room with their presence, playing tracks from their self-titled debut and their most recent album, *Hangups*. In a high energy set, they managed to overcome the limitations that come with a smaller venue, rocking the room with infectious tunes such as "Superman" and "This Lonely Place."

With their ska-punk style, they are often compared to No Doubt and Green Day, although their musical style does tend to stray from the safe boundaries that other bands stick to. Tracks like "SMP (Skiers Must Perish)" sound more like a Rage Against the Machine tune than anything else. Their music pushes against the extremes of Jamaican rocksteady and Epitaph hardcore punk, leaving their performance as unpredictable as the weather.

Goldfinger like to have fun on stage. Not only does their music have a lot of humour like "My Girlfriend's Shower Sucks" and "Fuck You and Your Cat," they also improvise a lot. Mini-covers (Chumbawumba's "Tubthumping" and Metallica's "Enter Sandman") managed to find their way into Goldfinger's set. They even interrupted "The City With Two Faces (Fuck LA)" with an almost flawless cover of Kool and the Gang's "Jungle Boogie," complete with brass section. A vital element of any ska band.

Sad, but true, the old axiom still applies—there is still no such thing as a free lunch. Less than an hour long, the set was rather short and unless you are really, really tall, the Party Room is not the most ideal place to watch a concert. Were it not for lead vocalist John Feldman surfing the crowd, I would have thought I was watching a prerecorded act. On the plus side Goldfinger managed to play with near crystal clear sound (Remember the Foo Fighters' performance in the Rec Centre?).

Despite those minor quibbles and the fact that I'm really getting sick of all-ages concerts—I wonder how many high school kids cut class to be there—Goldfinger turned out a solid set.❖

Cornershop mix Brit and Indo pop

CORNERSHOP
Jan. 23
at GM Place

by Sarah Galashan

Their show capitalises on a mix of funky fonts, 60's prints and a sound that no one else has. They're Cornershop. And with Oasis showing an interest everyone else is sure to follow.

Four of the five band members line the stage sitting cross-legged on cushions cradling the instruments responsible for their unique mesh of Brit and Indo pop. The minstrels never move from the platforms on which they're perched. The warm lights and cushions give the stage a Middle Eastern feel. And only vocalist, Tjinder Singh, seems to be a performer. What a show.

Images of a sitar, Tamboura and a row of bongos and chimes are flashed onto three massive screens. For a band as stationary as Cornershop, there's a lot to keep the eyes moving. Pop culture and graphics take over the screens, at times turning the show into an MTV video.

Opening for Oasis is their biggest gig yet. The crowd is enormous, and perhaps more diverse than Cornershop would like. Their sound is still new, the lyrics float back and forth from Punjabi to English and the guy who will later play air guitar and thrash about to Wonderwall is probably not getting their groove.

But it doesn't matter because others are. Filing into GM Place, the sound from the stage has many quickly taking their seats.

Lit by the graphics projection, the silhouette of a famous mop appears on the far left corner of one of the on-stage screens. Look down and a new member has joined the group with his guitar.

The music is so enticing that Noel Gallagher decides to put aside his ale and foul spirits to warm up with a few Cornershop tunes before his band takes the stage.

Cornershop is new to the mainstream but they're not unfamiliar with it. True to the Oasis-make-it-famous-formula, Cornershop find ways to incorporate Beatles rifts with their Indo-pop—pick up their latest album to hear the first ever Punjabi version of Norwegian Wood. And despite the arrogance of Oasis it's to their credit that they choose to highlight a band as innovative and talented as Cornershop.❖

DESPITE THE ARROGANCE OF OASIS IT'S TO THEIR CREDIT THAT THEY CHOOSE TO HIGHLIGHT A BAND AS INNOVATIVE AND TALENTED AS CORNERSHOP

Short films a brief reprieve

CINEWORKS
Jan. 22
at the Western Front

by Nyranne Martin

Mostly quirky; bizarre at worst and captivating at best. This was the range of the short films presented by Cineworks Independent Filmmakers Society on Thursday night. Vancouver's only filmmakers co-op chose a selection of films for the evening that had previously been screened at the 1997 Vancouver International Film Festival. And the revival was well worth it.

The evening began with *July 18th* directed by Cees Van Muiswinkel. This personal story about reliving the car crash that killed the filmmaker's father was like a series of black and white pictures from a family album. Unfortunately, the awkwardness of this five-minute production overshadowed an otherwise touching topic.

The following film was David Birnbaum's *Darkly Machiever*. This moody film depicted the life of a man caught in the corporate machine without any sense of purpose. Reminiscent of just about every existentialist story, *Darkly Machiever* has a somewhat interesting take on a familiar theme. The repetition of the man's seemingly useless life, although key in the development of the story, becomes boring for the audience when drab lighting and basic camera angles dominate. However, the film is saved when tricky camera work reveals the purpose of Darkly's job of endlessly pushing a single button. Not only does it make toilets flush, but it makes bombs go off. The pretentious edge of the film mildly dissipates into an ability to laugh at the world and at ourselves.

The next selection, *Once Upon Our Times*, featured seven three minute films on modern day fairy tales. Due to low-budgets and short time, the filmmakers were limited. Most of these films were self-indulgent since the point of these shorts remained completely ambiguous to the audience. Of all the versions, the most interesting in terms of artful camera work, imaginative lighting and creativity in general was Bridget Hill's *Eerie Tale*.

The second half of the screening was Kenneth Serman's *The Time Being*. From the first scene of this sensual and powerful film, it was clear that things had risen to a new level. *The Time Being* deals with one man's struggle with having assisted the death of his partner who was sick with AIDS. Not only was the content of the film emotionally powerful but the skill of the director was apparent. The movie flawlessly slid from home movies, to dream-like black and white scenes, to sharp colour segments and occasional blank scenes with voice-over. The music was touching and highlighted the sometimes gentle, sometimes erotic relationship between the two lovers. By addressing all the complex sides of a strong, yet imperfect relationship, Sherman successfully avoided cheesy clichés. This movie was a definite climax to an otherwise ordinary evening of film.

When it comes to independent films, you really never know what you're going to get. Yet sitting in a semi-dark, broken-down building, surrounded by the nervous energy of up and coming filmmakers presenting their own work, is something that "Cineplex Odeon" can never provide. Mostly thanks to Kenneth Sherman, an evening with Cineworks was worth the effort.❖

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JANUARY 27, 1998 • VOLUME 79 ISSUE 28

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What will *the Ubyssey* order for dinner tonight? Douglas Quan was happy with his gumballs, but he promptly chocked on a jawbreaker and died, again? Sarah Galashan knew that trouble was a brewin' when Chris Nuttall-Smith demanded KFC for dinner. Liam Lahey was only too happy to partake in some good southern eating when a new anti-grease faction formed in the Ubyssey office. Daliah Merzaban was only too happy to join, but Wolf Depner was a meat eater to the death, which was soon to come when Bruce Arthur opened fire with his uzi. Vince Yim was also shot, which was strange because he did not care what was for dinner. John Zaozirny declared that he was in fact the mission General Sanders, because coronel just was not good enough. Nyranne Martin named herself Queen of the anti-KFC militia and ordered the death of all who oppossed her, Richelle Rae, Richard Lam and Joe Clark were the first to go. Holly Kim and Ron Nurwisah hid under the new couch while Federico Barahona and Jamie Woods could not decide between the original or extra crispy. Todd Silver made his own dinner.❖

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Rights? Responsibilities? UBC didn't really mean it

Go ahead and cheat, because academic discipline doesn't mean much at UBC.

Forget about your right to appeal if you get caught—the appeal process doesn't really exist.

If you get AIDS and you work at UBC, just remember the university reserves the right to fire you.

Your right to freedom from harassment and discrimination? Here today, gone tomorrow.

UBC's policy handbook was once an authoritative compendium of the values, rights and responsibilities of university staff, faculty, administrators and students. The book's policies on academic discipline, while stern, were also authoritative. The book laid out rights for people with AIDS. It also laid out freedoms from harassment, guidelines on conflict of interest, and safety policies.

But in his ruling last week on four students' appeal of tuition and ancillary fee increases, Judge Ronald Holmes of the BC Supreme Court accepted UBC's argument that the policy book is worthless. In the words of UBC's lawyer, the university's policies are only for the internal guidance of faculty and staff.

Don't take them literally.

The policy on consulting students about tuition fees was "vague, internally inconsistent, and only a statement of principle." Does UBC have to follow its policies to the tee? Nope.

UBC also argued that students who don't know about a policy shouldn't expect to be treated according to that policy. Because students didn't know they had a right to be consulted about tuition increases, they didn't actually have that right. Right?

From the university's side of things, it's helpful that only faculty and staff are given copies of the policy book. Changes are printed in *UBC Reports*, the feel-good fluff sheet that doesn't exactly fly off the stands in student circles.

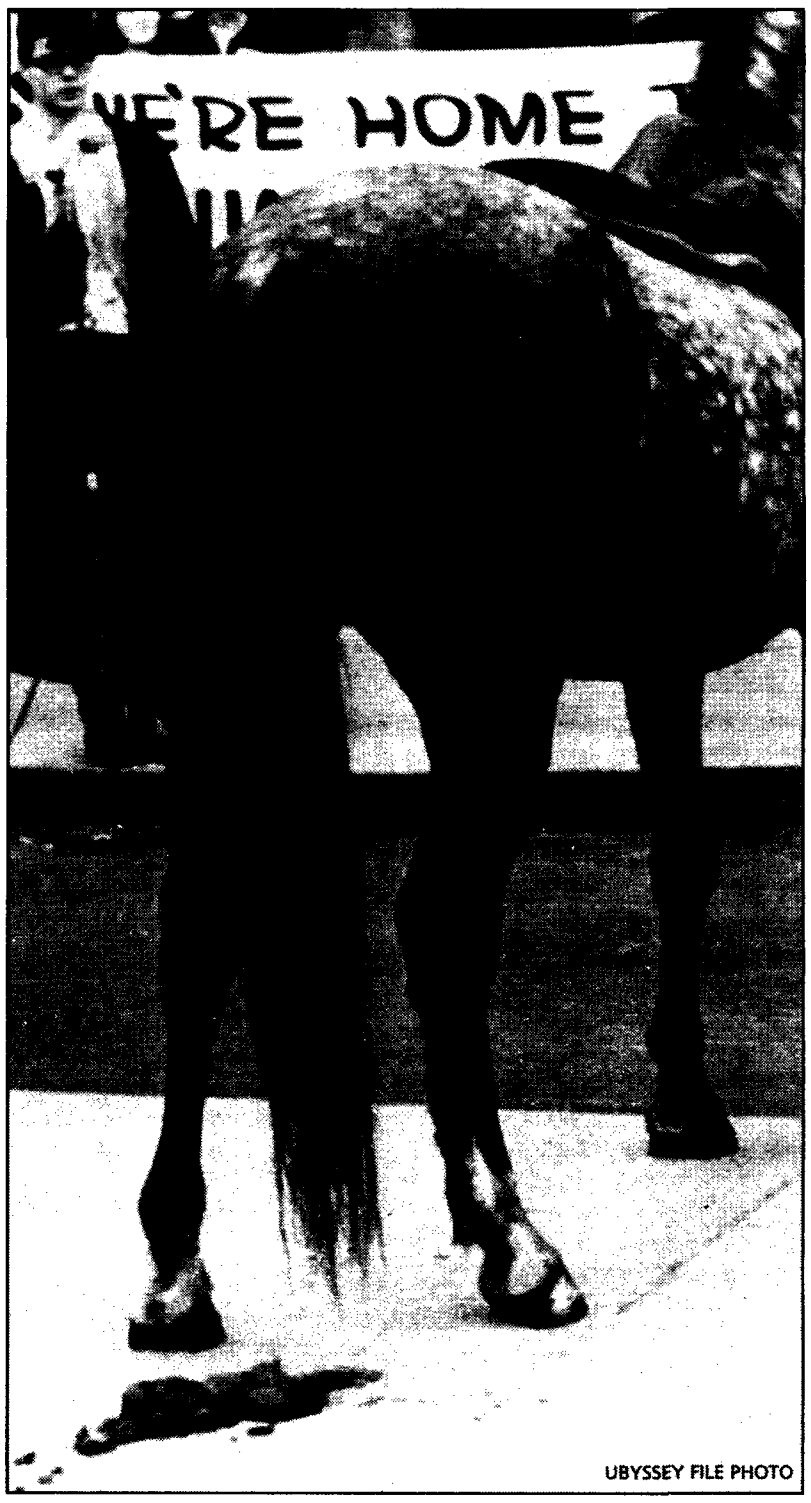
Some of the university's policies are listed in the university calendar. Is the calendar just a vague statement of principle as well?

There are a few lessons we've learned from UBC's arguments. First, you *can* put it in writing and take it back later. Words are cheap.

Second, what you don't know can hurt you.

Third, our university is audacious enough to employ arguments one and two, as odious as they are, against its students.

Lesson to be learned? Read the book and know it, but don't feel obliged to follow it. The UBC policy handbook is nothing more than a spiritual guide. Good for moral fibre, but not much else.❖



UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO

letters

National Day of Action important

On January 28, students across Canada will take to the streets for a National Day of Action. The day will focus on accessibility to education and increased government funding for post-secondary institutions.

It is time to draw public attention to the fact the increasing level of student debt is creating a serious barrier to post-secondary education in Canada. Years of fiscal restraint by the government have balanced the budget; however, the burden of debt has not disappeared, it has merely been shifted onto students. Over the past six years, the average student debt incurred during an undergraduate degree has more than tripled, rocketing from $8,500 to an expected $25,000 this year.

Though we have had a tuition freeze for the past two years in BC, the long term perspective is more indicative of national trends. UBC tuition has increased by 265 per cent since 1981. At the same time, BC is experiencing record rates of student and youth unemployment, which hovers around 20 per cent.

There has been talk between the Federal and Ontario provincial governments of overhauling the financial aid system to allow for income contingent loan repayment schemes. The argument put forth by the Ontario government if that if student loan repayment is made easier, education will be kept accessible despite tuition increases.

A system of financial aid based solely on loans does not ensure equal access to education because students from disadvantaged economic backgrounds are especially averse to taking out a loan which under the ICLRS could take a lifetime to repay. To ensure real accessibility, we need to pressure the government to keep tuition affordable and institute a national system of grants based on financial need.

Education is an investment in jobs and in the future. For every dollar invested in education, the return through income tax, research and development, and infusion to the economy Is $1.89. The indirect social benefits of education are priceless.

Canada has the resources to educate our population with the skills needed to face the global challenges of the coming millennium. This ability is not only an opportunity for us to prosper, but a responsibility to contribute what we can.

We invite you to join the AMS at the Day of Action to show the UBC students are committed to adequate funding of and access to post-secondary education.

Maryann Adamec
UBC Planning Committee
National Day of Action

Artists retain their copyrights: VTV

I'd like to clarify what I think are a couple of important points in Todd Silver's opinion piece about a new television program VTV is launching February 8. This new half-hour show is being developed as a showcase for student filmmakers, dramatists, artists and the like. It'll be a first opportunity for many young artists to find a wide audience for their work and to make contacts with people in mainstream media. We'll both air pieces already produced for various student projects, and help students realise new ideas.

Ubyssey's Todd Silver walked away from a brainstorming meeting we held Friday, January 9 with the erroneous impression that the student creators of the various pieces aired on the show would lose all rights to their work. Not so. VTV has copyright on the show itself, as it is aired. *The artists retain all rights to their individual pieces.*

I'd appreciate a reasonable play on this correction, as this is clearly an extremely important point for people who might want to take advantage of this opportunity to show off their emerging talents.

I want to emphasise, too, that VTV isn't expecting people to produce pieces entirely on their own. We are happy to accept submissions that are produced with other facilities, but we are also providing camera and editing time, plus training in those skills, and in story-telling.

Sorry for any confusion, and thanks for the chance to clarify. For the foreseeable future, we'll continue to have open meetings at VTV for any and all interested parties. They're the first Sunday of every month at 2 p.m. Don't be a stranger.

Helen Slinger
Show producer at VTV

To the editor of UBC Reports

Is it by design or is it purely coincidence that the editorial bias we observe in *UBC Reports* is indistinguishable from its namesakes *Alberta Reports* and *BC Reports*?

Patrick Williston
Grad Studies Botany

more letters, next page

CSSA doesn't speak for all Chinese

I am writing in my capacity as President of the Vancouver Association of Chinese Canadian. We are a non-profit organisation formed in 1992 to advance an anti-racism, social justice, and human rights agenda. In our six years in existence, we have advocated for human rights for all people in Canada and abroad.

Over the last few weeks I have been disturbed by reports surrounding the flying of the Tibetan flag on the Graduate Student Centre during the APEC summit. I have been advised that certain student groups on campus took offence to the flying of the flag to the point where violence was threatened, and that the issue continues to be the subject of much debate. One report I find particularly disturbing is that there is a group called the Chinese Student and Scholar Association that purports to speak on behalf Chinese community in Canada in calling for sanctions against the Graduate Students Society. One of the fundamental principles that our organisation has always stressed is that no one organisation can claim to speak on behalf of all Chinese Canadians. The ethnic Chinese community in Canada is composed of people of many diverse origins and interests including Mainland Chinese, Taiwanese, Singaporean, Indonesian, Vietnamese, and of course, Canadian. Our organisation does not claim to speak for all or even any of these groups. What we do represent is a point of view.

In our view, the actions of the Graduate Student Society represent a legal and legitimate form of protest directed against a government that has a disgraceful record of human rights violations. Equally, they represent a protest against our own government which allows these violations to go unacknowledged in the name of economic growth. While the Chinese Student and Scholar Association has every right to disagree with these actions, to do so in the name of the Chinese Canadian community is misleading and offensive.

Kuan Foo
President, Vancouver Association of Chinese Canadians

GSS unfair to Chinese members

I would like to bring to the attention of graduate students a number of rather unfortunate actions taken by our council at the meeting of January 15, 1998. This meeting dealt with only one issue: how the Graduate Student Society (GSS) should deal with the fact that our raising of the flag of the Tibetan Army over the Grad Center has highly offended the Chinese membership. Our council made a number of very bad impressions, which make me ashamed to be a member. The first error was the segregation of the guests (Chinese graduate students) from the councilors. In my year of involvement with the GSS, we have never segregated guests from councilors at our meetings. This was a first, and very unwise given the racial overtones of the issue. Secondly, the Chinese graduate students were made to sit at the back of the room, while the councilors were seated at the front, with their backs to the guests. One could not help but feel excluded and marginalised, while segregated in the back facing the backs of councilors, even if this was not the intention of council. The president of the GSS has complained that Chinese students do not get involved in the GSS. A first step to reversing this trend would surely be to make the Chinese members feel welcome. The third embarrassment was a debate over the wording of the referendum question enacted by the Chinese members. The constitution allows the council to ensure that the text of the question reflects the intent of the signatories, and on this pretext, council proceeded to debate changes to the text while the enactors of the referendum question enactors of the referendum were in the room directly in front (or more correctly, behind) them! How council can presume know the intent better than the signatories themselves is completely beyond me. Again, while it may not have been intentional, the unavoidable impression was of a colonialist mindset: that we know what's best for the rest of the world, even if they disagree, and that we will proceed to force it on them. Fourth, some councilors made embarrassing and regrettably bigoted statements. One was to the effect that Chinese students shouldn't oppose council because we fought against tuition fee hikes for foreign students. The colonial "we know what's best for you, just let us take care of everything" attitude. Another was a suggestion that councilors might wind up in jail if they visited China, implying that there might be Chinese spies at the meeting. I can only apologise to my Chinese Colleagues for the behaviour of these councilors, and hope that they realise that the slights perpetrated by a few political activists are not representative of UBC students is general.

I know from my year as a GSS councilor that most councilors are well intentioned, even if they give the opposite impression from time to time. Unfortunately a couple of activists, smelling generous access to an unlimited wellspring ($200 000+) of mandatory society fees, have succeeded in hijacking what is meant to be an academic club, for their own political agenda; the views of UBC's resident foreign students be thusly damned.

Michael Kyba
Grad Studies Zoology

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AMS REFERENDUM FEBRUARY 6, 9, & 10TH

The President of the Alma Mater Society has called this Referendum, under the authority of AMS Bylaw 4, and upon the receipt of a petition duly signed by over 1000 AMS members. The question, to be answered 'YES' or 'NO', appears at the bottom of this ballot. To assist members in making an informed decision, reasons to vote YES (as put forward by the petitioners) appear on the left of this ballot; reasons to vote NO (as stated by the AMS Executive Committee) appear on the right.

Reasons to Vote Yes

WHEREAS The Thunderbird Shop has operated in the Student Union Building and provided goods and services; valuable work experience; and income to U.B.C. students for over 25 years;
WHEREAS The Thunderbird Shop has paid the Alma Mater Society in excess of $62,000 in rent for each of the last five years;
WHEREAS The Thunderbird Shop pays the University over one thousand dollars in royalties per month;
WHEREAS the staff of The Thunderbird Shop is approximately 70% students;
WHEREAS The Thunderbird Shop has contributed to the University community thousands of dollars in merchandise and cash donations;
WHEREAS in 1992, the A.M.S. required The Thunderbird Shop to relocate in the Student Union Building, which cost The Thunderbird Shop over $126,000 in renovations;
WHEREAS the A.M.S. has terminated the lease of the Thunderbird Shop effective April 30, 1998;

Reasons to Vote No

The Alma Mater Society is owned and operated by the students of UBC and operates many successful businesses in SUB, such as Pie R Squared, The Pit, Subcetera, Copyright and many others.

The AMS intends to open a student owned and operated retail store. An AMS retail store, as opposed to The Thunderbird Shop, would create more student jobs, pay a higher wage to student employees, offer a wide product selection - and ALL profits would go back to students.

100% of all proceeds from AMS businesses go to support student activities such as Speakeasy Peer Counselling, Safewalk, Joblink, CiTR Radio, Tutoring Services etc.

The AMS currently receives about $62,000 per year in rent from The Thunderbird Shop lease. With all profits going to the AMS, rather than an off-campus private business, this figure could double or more.

The Thunderbird Shop's lease expired, after two option extensions, on April 30 1997. They were granted a further extension, until April 30 1998, in order for all parties to consider their options. The owner of The Thunderbird Shop has been aware of the AMS's intention not to renew the lease since June 1996.

Do you agree that the A.M.S. should enter into another five year lease with Thunderbird Enterprises Ltd. ("The Thunderbird Shop") so The Thunderbird Shop can continue to provide its services to the student body and to the University community? Yes/No

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A still night's promise

BALLET BC
Jan 22-24
at Queen Elizabeth Theatre

by Rachana Raizada

Under John Alleyne's artistic leadership, Ballet BC dancers delivered the promise of a still night—a program of three dances, a vibrant palette of dreamscapes which, in Alleyne's words, symbolise the passage of "dusk to dawn."

The evening began with a departure into darkness with *In and Around Kozla Street*, created by Serge Bennathan. The title refers to an area in Warsaw faced with Nazi persecution during World War II. The costumes loosely represent street clothes of the period. The work has had time to develop and crystallise since it premiered in 1994. It has been performed on many occasions since, including the company's tenth anniversary gala in 1996. The company's experience with it was evident in the recent performance, even though four of the eight dancers—all the women, coincidentally were new to the piece. This was a bold and confident interpretation of Kozla, with the dancers venturing into the darkness as if they knew what lay ahead.

Thursday's interpretation of the *pas de deux* was danced by Lauri Stallings and Miroslaw Zydowicz; the duo conveyed the mature acceptance of an impending separation and the hope of a reunion. The work is far from grim—Arne Eigenfeldt's score is a lush and large soundscape. Its movements evoke a sweet emotional sensitivity, which depict the courage and passion of people faced with persecution.

Darkness led to night in the next piece, which featured ten naked light bulbs dangling across the stage at various lengths. *Petits danses pour mammiféres* by Myriam Naisy was created this summer in Banff with Ballet BC's dancers. Naisy, a French choreographer, has been described as a woman who knows exactly what she wants and has control over every aspect of the dance. For this piece Naisy was inspired by a picture of dead brown bear lying in the road. The work is a reflection of man as mammal. A rope on the stage represents the divide between two worlds. The light bulbs represent the souls of the ten dancers, and over the course of the dance, as they free their souls, the light bulbs are gradually retracted.

Set to a sonata by Corelli, the electrifying earthiness of the dance belies the purity of the classical music. It is not subtle. The movement is raw and untamed and the music is occasionally overlaid with other sounds—often disturbing—of death and violence, of procreation, of birth. An especially exciting point in the ballet was watching these very individual dancers moving together as a corps, long, bronzed limbs, extended and intertwined, as they cut definitive curves across the stage.

Dawn broke with *In the Course of Sleeping* by John Alleyne, the second in a trilogy (following *Sex is My Religion* performed last fall). As he approaches his 38th birthday, Alleyne is not only increasingly influenced by thoughts of mortality, spirits and fairytales, but he is also allowing himself to dream. He had promised "an incredibly beautiful" piece, representing "the moment between death and life, not life and death." If you keep your eyes open, you might catch that fleeting moment, barely long enough for "a dewdrop to fall from the stem of a rose to the ground."

The curtain opened on a dewdrop suspended from a stem, with fallen blooms lying on the stage. The dance came as a complete shock for Alleyne had been more true to his word than one would have thought possible. Perhaps, for the first time in his work, the woman wore flowing, gossamer light dresses. This was the cool angularity which is his trademark in choreography, but with a new twist—a pulsing, coursing legato. The score, *Double Concerto*, by Timothy Sullivan held surprisingly romantic overtones for a modern composition and provided a basis for the dancers to emotionally connect one step to the next.

It seems the company has come a full circle from the days when they danced so athletically in androgynous bright yellow leotards on a skeleton of a stage which was even stripped bare of its wings. It just goes to show, dream on, for anything is possible. ❖

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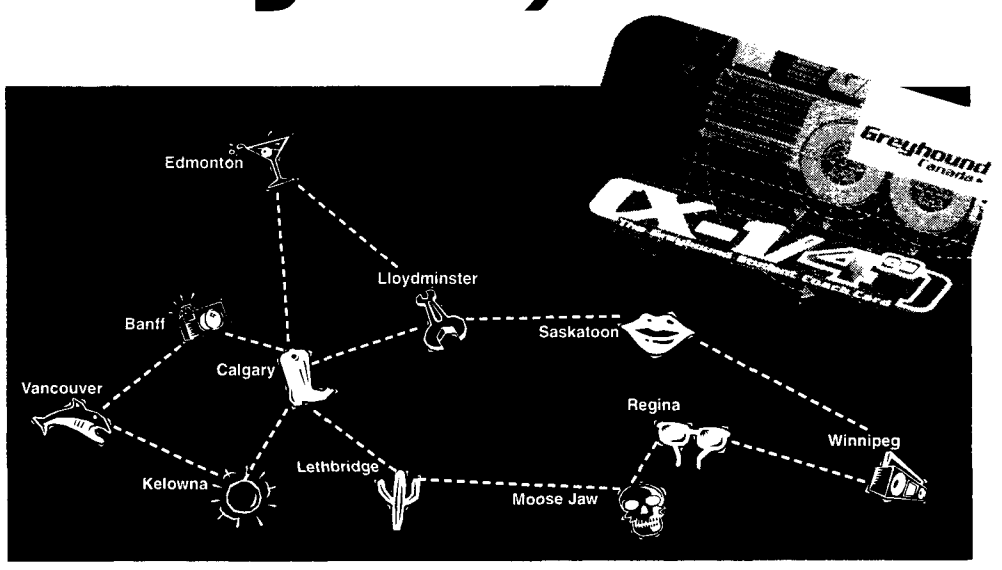

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