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HELL IS AN  
OLIO FEST?  
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# THE UBYSSEY

SEPTEMBER 23, 2010

- VOLUME 92, NUMBER VI
- ROOM 24, STUDENT UNION BUILDING
- PUBLISHED MONDAY AND THURSDAY
- [FEEDBACK@UBYSSEY.CA](mailto:FEEDBACK@UBYSSEY.CA)

# AGRICULTURE

**WE DIG TO THE ROOTS OF UBC'S AGRICULTURAL STRATEGY  
PAGES 5-7**

SEPTEMBER 23, 2010  
VOLUME XCII, N° VII

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## THURSDAY, SEPT. 23



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In March, we heard your ideas about where to locate permanent transit facilities on campus and how to improve pedestrian and cycling experiences. Now, we're back to report on how we used your ideas and present three options for your feedback. Your input is important, so please join us in-person at our open house or submit your feedback online at [planning.ubc.ca](http://planning.ubc.ca). • 5-7pm, Michael Smith Lab 101.

## FRIDAY, SEPT. 24



### TERRY GLOBAL SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS K'NAAN

UBC students, faculty and staff are invited to witness performing artist K'NAAN share his experiences in Somalia and his reflections on peace, conflict, and the power of music through speech and poetry. His spoken performance will be followed by a question and answer period. • 12-1:30pm, Chan Shun Concert Hall in the Chan Centre. Tickets are available for pick-up at the Chan Centre Ticket Office to UBC students, faculty and staff only. Valid UBC Card must be shown, limit of one per person. Tickets are free, but required for admission to the event.



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Join us for a delicious community meal in partnership with the Institute for Aboriginal Health Garden from the UBC Farm: The Feast Bowl, held the last Friday of each month. We meet at the FNHL Longhouse at 3:30pm and travel up to the Farm to harvest produce from the garden before heading back to the Longhouse to begin cooking at 4:00. Dinner will be served at approximately 5:00. • 3:30pm, Sty-Wet-Tan Hall, e-mail [ubcfarm.indigenous@gmail.com](mailto:ubcfarm.indigenous@gmail.com) for more information.

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# NEWS

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## Fraternities, animals, land-use plans and governance: Toope talks at Town Hall

ARSHY MANN  
news@ubyssey.ca

On Monday, faculty, staff and even a smattering of students sat down in the Chan Centre to participate in President Stephen Toope's annual town hall meeting.

Along with providing an update to UBC's strategic plan, Place and Promise, Toope took questions from the audience on a number of issues including land use, governance, animal experimentation, transfer credits and fraternities.

Toope was adamant that UBC was well-positioned to become one of the most important universities in Canada.

"I believe that UBC is better positioned than any other university in Canada, and at the height of where we could be in North America to strengthen our programs and expand our influence," he said.

"I do not exalt in the misfortunes of others. There are some really tough situations that some of our sister institutions are facing, across Canada and in the US particularly and soon in the United Kingdom, but we are not in that position and it's our moment to take advantage of that relative strength."

STOP UBC Animal Research, a group that over the past month has protested animal experimentation at the university, held up signs during the question period accusing UBC of, among other things, testing on cats.

"The short answer to that is that UBC does not do that," replied Toope. "There's reference to past work that was done by one of our researchers. That work is no longer being done."

He argued that only a small number of tests are performed on animals, and that UBC will "only involve animals in research when...no alternatives exist."

It was, however, the issue of land use planning that dominated the question and answer period.

For South Campus, Toope said that his biggest priority was



Stephen Toope (centre) talks with Board of Governors representative Andrew Irvine before Monday's town hall. GEOFF LISTER PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

focusing on more density, with less emphasis on family housing.

"We did a survey of our faculty and staff last year and we discovered that a very high percentage of our faculty and staff live either alone or with one other person and they're looking for smaller units that are hence more affordable," he said.

UBC *Insiders* Editor Neal Yonson questioned Toope on why the university wasn't incorporating student feedback into decisions about the Gage South neighbourhood.

"I'm just wondering how we can have an honest, good faith discussion about Gage South

neighbourhood, because it doesn't seem to be on the radar of Campus and Community planning and they don't seem to be willing to engage in discussion over whether [it] is appropriately located," said Yonson.

Toope argued that students will be thoroughly consulted, but all stakeholders need to compromise.

"There are lots of places where making choices will not be perfect from everyone's perspective, but I think we do have to find ways of living together as a community, and that's what we're going to have to figure out for Gage," he said.

The final question came from a student who argued that the police incident at the fraternity village two weeks ago proved that Greeks don't contribute positively to the university.

Toope defended the fraternities' role on campus, but argued that they need to ensure that their events are controlled.

"I was never a member of a fraternity, so I didn't experience the life in a fraternity, but I do talk to many people from UBC and elsewhere that did experience that life.

"For many people it is the place that they find their grounding and really their home in a

very large institution. So I don't think I would join you in saying that fraternities and sororities don't play an important role," said Toope. "I think for many people on a huge campus, it is the place where the big is made small.

"[But] the one thing I am sure about is we cannot let what happened at some sister universities happen here, where an out-of-control element developed over a number of years, so the university comes to be known as the drinking school... where in some cases whole activities had to be completely shut down. I don't want to get there." ☺

## Land use update: AMS lays down principles for negotiations

ARSHY MANN  
news@ubyssey.ca

The AMS has passed a document that will guide their lobbying for the upcoming round of land use consultations.

During last Wednesday's meeting, Council nearly unanimously passed a motion that included support for the preservation of the UBC Farm, more affordable student housing, and the designation of the Gage South and University Boulevard neighbourhoods

as "Academic" and "Village Academic," respectively.

The inclusion of the latter two points resulted in AMS President Bijan Ahmadian voting against the motion—the only person to do so.

"So the council decided that they want particular zoning for several areas," said Ahmadian. "I don't know if this strategy will work."

These will be the principles that the AMS will use to negotiate with the university over amendments to the Land Use Plan that will be ongoing over the next few months. The process has been

mandated by the provincial government and will result in zoning changes at UBC for the first time since the implementation of the Official Community Plan in 1997.

Ahmadian disagreed with council pursuing specific zoning designations for these neighbourhoods. He said that he should instead be given the discretion to negotiate with the university to pursue broader results for these neighbourhoods, such as making them transit amenable and making sure they drive enough traffic to

the new SUB. He further argued that coming to the university with divisive proposals would not serve the AMS in good stead.

"What you have to keep in mind is that the university has other interest groups that they have to cater to as well—it's not just students," he said.

"And the fact that we're 46,000 and we're bigger than them doesn't mean the university is going to care about us more than they're going to care about the university endowment lands, the University Neighbourhoods

Association members, the alumni, faculty and staff."

The majority of councillors, and even members of his own executive team, disagreed with him.

"I personally do not believe a lobbying strategy built on one man to convince an entire university is a good idea," said Katherine Tyson, chair of the University and External Relations Committee.

VP External Jeremy McElroy argued that the AMS should be clear with the university.

"A policy without teeth is not a good policy," he said. ☺

# \$200,000 roof later, pool still faces problems

**NADEEM HAKEMI**  
Contributor

In October 2009, the UBC Aquatic Centre installed a roof over the outdoor pool at a cost of \$200,000. Yet the facility still faces serious maintenance and heating issues.

Lloyd Campbell has been the Aquatic Centre's manager for the past four years. "We needed to make the facility year-round... the roof did that job for us," he stated. Campbell described heat as a large expense, requiring economical solutions. "It was getting expensive to heat the outdoor pool...long term, this move will pay for itself." The comfort of coaches while conducting practices in the rain was also a "considerable benefit from the project."

Swimmers haven't warmed to the idea. "I'm out there most mornings and it's freezing... how am I supposed to train?" said a young frequenter of the pool. "There are always maintenance issues with the structure...things that get in the way of my training."

Aquatic Centre staff witness first-hand the inconveniences caused by pool repairs and inefficiency of the roof. One lifeguard said it's no secret that "there are obvious problems...we have issues on a regular basis."



No more drunken nighttime inverted double-twist somersaults for UBC students. **GERALD DEO FILE PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY**

The student who said she is a four-year veteran of the centre, wants to see "a new centre within the next few years...it has to happen."

The question is when. According to AMS President Bijan

Ahmadian, "There is no doubt that students need a new Aquatic Centre...this is a top concern." Although Ahmadian promises progress "in the next few years," he admits the process is slow. "Swimming is not the most profitable

sport, funding becomes difficult to find and right now it's just not possible to move any quicker."

Campbell claims a new pool could cost as much as \$20 million. Currently there is scarce funding from athletics, reiterating Ahmadian's

sentiment. The current outdoor pool was built in 1954 for the Empire games, but the once state-of-the-art facility faces problems. The infamous UBC high-dive's stairs are now condemned, further reducing functionality. **U**

## The same old bull from Sauder

### Wally the Bull makes his appearance

**NICOLA GAILITS**  
Contributor

Sauder's new mascot is not a llama. It's not a phoenix, either, or a wrinkly shark—though these were all options. It is, in fact, Wally the Bull, and here's how it happened.

Prina Pachchigar, third-year representative to the Commerce Undergraduate Society's (CUS) Board of Directors, led a contest this past summer to design a new mascot for Sauder. Of the 16 designs selected, Okima the Lion won \$200 for first place. But because the lion, "was the spitting image of the Lion King" and "the connection wasn't there between a lion and our faculty," it wasn't ratified, Pachchigar said. After sending some of the designs off to mascot companies, the Board of Directors settled on Wally the Bull, who was unveiled during Sauder's frosh week.

"With Wally, we have the relation to Wall Street, and we have the bull which is on Wall Street too," said VP Marketing Paulina Aksenova. "We tried to play on stereotypes of commerce and make fun of ourselves because that's what the mascot is there for."

Ultimately, the CUS Board of Directors made all final decisions.

"[We] sent Okima and a few other designs to mascot companies and they came back to us with feedback and sketches. With these sketches, it just ruled out a few of the designs because [they were] just not doable," said Pachchigar. They considered various aspects, from the price of the mascot, to whether all students would want to wear striped tights to embody BeeCom the Bee.



Generalissimo Wall-toro. **DAVID CHEN GRAPHIC/THE UBYSSEY**

"One example was Fernando the D-Lam Llama, which was kind of funny, [but] it wasn't representative of Sauder," she said.

"Wally the Bull is kind of like the standard mascot, and it's easy to wear and anyone can fit in it, compared to like a llama where you had to have two people there, which was odd." At the end of the day, Aksenova's "happy with the final mascot we have gotten."

The vote took place over the summer, in order to be ready for first week, and garnered 288 votes out of 2700 Sauder students. Voter turnout was, according to Pachchigar, "satisfactory but not ideal." However, she maintained that "[the result is] still a student representative. Maybe it wasn't the decision of 2700 students we had enrolled in that year but it was a decision made by students, for students." **U**

## Back by popular demand: AOII "recolonizes" UBC



"Building better women," one colony at a time.

**ANNE TASTAD GRAPHIC/THE UBYSSEY**

**REBECCA LARDER**  
Contributor

UBC will be welcoming its eighth sorority to the Greek system this fall. Over the next few weeks, Alpha Omicron Pi (AOII) will be establishing a "colony" on campus. The UBC Panhellenic Council—the governing body for sororities on campus—selected AOII to meet the growing needs of UBC's Greek women.

AOII Educational Leadership Consultant India Bounds describes UBC's reception of its newest Greek letter organization as "more than welcoming."

"AOII will add to sorority diversity on campus, making it easier for girls looking to get involved in Greek life to find a community that will fit them," she added. "The colony experience provides an unusual opportunity for members because they will be making the traditions for future UBC AOII's to follow."

"UBC sorority membership has seen 106 per cent growth in the last five years," said Panhellenic advisor Anna Kinna. "Campus

is speaking to us through these figures about the demand for a new chapter."

When asked why AOII was selected over other sororities who applied to open chapters at UBC, Kinna said that "AOII's history on campus was a big factor."

AOII initially colonized UBC in 1931, but the chapter disappeared in the eighties due to low membership. Planning has been underway for the last two years, and now the sorority is officially leaping into Greek life.

Leslie Johnstone, now an author of science books for children, was a member of the original UBC AOII chapter in the early eighties.

"There is lots of excitement in the UBC AOII alumni group at the chapter's recolonization," she said.

Bounds said that although many people are only familiar with sororities through their representations in pop culture, she sees AOII as much more.

"[Sorority life] is not about the stereotypes that you might associate with sororities. We're here to build better women." **U**

# AGRICULTURE

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## EDITOR'S NOTE



**KALYEENA MAKORTOFF**  
kmakortoff@ubyssey.ca

Many would claim that this is the perfect time for recognizing the importance of agriculture and farming. In the age where sustainability movements are gaining speed and greenwash abounds, I would argue it's long overdue.

In my four years working and volunteering for *The Ubysey*, I've probably written more articles about the UBC Farm than papers for my classes. This supplement isn't entirely about the Farm, but its importance is not to be overlooked. Those of you who are new to campus may not be aware of the long struggle surrounding the fate of south campus, so I hope that the articles and perspectives provide some

context to the irreplaceability of the 24-hectare space that lies beyond 16<sup>th</sup> and University Blvd.

Many have argued that the UBC Farm is unique for a variety of reasons, but my own interest, as a political science student, draws me to analyze the abilities of our leaders—whether government or administration—to adapt, and pursue innovative sustainability goals. Our campus politics should always provide a space for student and community input, and we need to maintain that we are not transient, but responsible actors shaping our future.

Through food and agriculture, a commodity and a practice that tie us all together, I do have hope that we will continue to promote the preservation of our green spaces, explore rights of those who protect and cultivate it and give due attention to those who speak to maintain it.

Enjoy the issue! ☺

## Tracking Farm food on campus

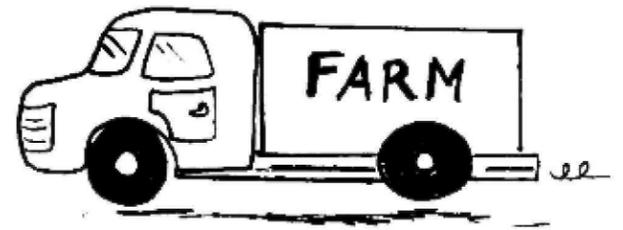
**NGAIO HOTTE**  
Contributor

For many, the UBC Farm is a mystery. In terms of active projects, crop cultivation is an obvious guess, but where does it all begin? Who is responsible for the laborious work? What happens to the produce?

Amy Frye, a UBC graduate student and the marketing coordinator of the Farm, explains that students, both current and recently graduated, make up the core staff, with volunteers as an integral part of the working team. Many of the crops are a direct result of student-led projects, such as the effects of a new organic fertilizer on certain fruit.

"The farm has always been a student-driven initiative," she said. "Growing food is integrated into the teaching and research we do there."

Around one third of these academic-based fields distribute



A cartoon farm truck. VIRGINIE MENARD ILLUSTRATION/THE UBYSSEY

their produce through sales, which are critical for sustaining the Farm's educational programs. About 20 per cent of the UBC Farm produce sales go to food outlets on campus (for example, Ike's Café, Sprouts, AMS Food and Beverage Services, etc.) as well as restaurants in Vancouver.

The Saturday Farmers' Markets claim another 60 per

cent of the sales, while the remaining 20 per cent is made through the CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program, which offers weekly boxes of fresh organic farm produce for community members and students.

"[The farm is] a pretty amazing, unique part of campus," said Frye. "UBC is pretty lucky to have this resource." ☺

## TRANSPORTATION CONSULTATION 2010

### Phase Two September 14-30

In March, we heard your ideas about where to locate permanent transit facilities on campus and how to improve pedestrian and cycling experiences (Phase One). Now, we're back to report on how we used your ideas and present three options for your feedback (Phase Two).

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## PERSPECTIVE

**FARM LAND IS SECURE, BUT IT HASN'T BEEN "SAVED" YET**

**ANELYSE WEILER**  
Contributor

When people ask Friends of the Farm whether the UBC Farm has been "saved," we're careful to let them know that although its land security is in a much better position than it was two years ago, much of the original checklist of criteria that we established to delineate what it would mean to "save" the UBC Farm remains unfulfilled.

Unlike in 2008, we are certainly not facing imminent market housing development on this farm-forest agro-ecosystem. Our debt of gratitude for the progress toward securing the Farm owes itself largely to the outpouring of support from the public for the Farm's continued existence, which was echoed by representatives from numerous levels of government and political stripes. President Toope consistently references the importance of the UBC Farm in making UBC a leader in sustainability.

At the top of our checklist, UBC's new Land Use Plan presents the university with a chance to finally remove the Farm's "Future Housing Reserve" label. Both the AMS and Friends of the Farm support changing the designation to an unambiguous, top-level "UBC Farm" label that specifies its 24-hectare size and references the South Campus Academic Plan "Cultivating Place."

Nonetheless, speculation about the future of the Farm will likely endure if the "Green Academic" zoning is adopted...

**ANELYSE WEILER**  
PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF THE UBC FARM

In a recent meeting with Campus and Community Planning, we examined the detailed definition for the "Green Academic" zoning that UBC is putting forward to replace "Future Housing Reserve." Although we strongly prefer the recognizability and transparency of "UBC Farm," the proposed designation explicitly refers to the UBC Farm, its academic plan and its correct 24-hectare size.

Without a doubt, we would still like to see a top-level "UBC Farm" label, and this would provide a much less confusing message to the public about the university's commitment to preserving the UBC Farm.

The detailed definition of the "Green Academic" label includes the necessary parameters to protect the Farm as a working agro-ecosystem within the lifetime of the upcoming Land Use Plan, and "Green Academic" is far more palatable than "Future Housing Reserve."

Nonetheless, speculation about the future of the Farm will likely endure if the "Green Academic" zoning is adopted, and UBC administration may be continually called upon to defend its use of this label. ☪

—Anelyse Weiler is the President of Friends of the Farm.

# UBC Farm to become "Green Academic" space

**TREVOR RECORD**  
features@ubyssey.ca

After several years of consultations, conflict and cultivating (place), the UBC Farm will soon be part of the university's ongoing campus plan.

The area that the farm sits on is in the process of being amended in UBC's Land Use Plan to a "green academic" space, as defined by the document "Cultivating Place." The Farm, which lies on land which had previously been designated for future market housing use in UBC's Land Use Plan, has been in a precarious position for years.

During phase four of Campus and Community Planning's (CCP) consultation phase in October 2008, plans which would remove the farm and replace it with residential housing were introduced. Over 15,000 individuals responded with a petition that was handed to UBC President Stephen Toope by the Friends of the UBC Farm, an AMS club and advocacy group.

Joe Stott, the Director of Planning for CCP, said the conflict stemmed from the Board of Governors' (BoG) previous

plans and the space's growing academic role.

"We found a lot of interest in the UBC Farm, because a lot had changed," said Stott. "The UBC Farm, as it is currently constituted and used, didn't exist in the 1990s. Through the different rounds of the consultations, there was increased community interest in building a case for the future retention of that land for academic use."

Following support from both Metro Vancouver and Stephen Toope for keeping the Farm, the BoG decided to form a committee to make an academic plan for the Farm. Andrew Riseman, who was made co-chair of the committee, said the plan was stipulated to be "academically rigorous and globally significant." The end result was "Cultivating Place," a document which set the academic guidelines for the use of the UBC Farm and set the groundwork for the space to be designated as "Green Academic."

Stott says that the BoG had decided to designate the land as 'Green Academic' because it serves as an umbrella term. But Friends of the Farm President Anelyse Weiler says that her

group was initially concerned that the space was not designated as the "UBC Farm."

"We were concerned it could mean building houses with a bunch of solar panels on the Farm," said Weiler, adding, "I think a lot of people, when they hear green, they think 'greenwash.'"

At the same time, she said that "the parameters for what they've defined as 'Green Academic' provide protective measures to ensure the Farm can continue working as a farm/forest system."

However, she says she still would have preferred the space to be designated as a "farm."

"There'd probably be much less speculation regarding the university's commitment regarding saving the Farm... It would show a really strong commitment to UBC Farm as a farm, and a place of food production."

Riseman says that the focus on sustainability was intentional, as more faculties being able to use the space was one of their key goals.

"You'll notice that when you read [Cultivating Place], food is

mentioned very little and the Farm is mentioned very little, but the principles of sustainable agriculture are well-represented," said Riseman. "For instance, one of the recommendations says any development must not result in a net loss of agricultural land."

Stott says the process of making the space "Green Academic" still needs to pass approval from the BoG as well as the Province's Minister of Community and Rural Development before it is official, but said that he is optimistic that this will happen over the next year. Once designated, the land would have to have its designation modified in order to be developed on.

"Say 25 years from now, there's a different set of ideas [for farm use]," said Stott. "The university would have to go through the same amendment process as we are now... We'll be working on language that is enabling. We want the Botanical Gardens and the Farm and everyone else to have some feeling that they aren't holding uses for the university. We're not going to be building neighbourhoods in them." ☪



KELLAN HIGGINS FILE PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

## From here: a look at the Farm's future

**KALYEENA MAKORTOFF**  
kmakortoff@ubyssey.ca

Now that South Campus is on its way to having its land use amended, UBC is beginning to think of new ways to use the Farm. The change in thinking is fundamental, right down to the Farm's name.

"The official name of the Farm is [currently] the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems," explained Andrew Riseman, Co-Chair of the South Campus Academic Planning Committee (SCAP). "When the BOG made their decree...they said they wanted a Centre for Sustainability."

According to Riseman, the misconceptions of what the 24-hectare space "does" may have hindered various groups' involvement in the past. However, a broader vision of the space promises to bring in more stakeholders and project participants at the UBC Farm.

The motto of the UBC Farm, is, fittingly, "No one thing does just one thing."

While supporters in the past have cited the Farm's importance in crop cultivation, Riseman said the reality is that the farm cannot produce enough food for campus. "We might be able to provide all the endive that campus uses but...the point of the Farm is not to be a production facility. It's a teaching-learning resource," he said.

The UBC Farm is currently on track to becoming designated as "Green Academic" space in the university's land use plans, which, according to Mark Bomford, program coordinator for the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at UBC Farm, have the potential to draw a wider range of university faculties and Vancouver community groups.

"It's often challenging to do the interdisciplinary work that is part of UBC's strategic plan," Bomford explained. "However,

doing this is fairly easy on this site."

While not just a space for cultivation, Bomford says that when it does come into question, food can still serve as a common reference point where people will jump off, adding, "the Farm is a place where you can begin these conversations."

"The types of activities that 'Cultivating Place' [the academic plan for South Campus] outlines is really broadening the interactions across all academic campus units," said Riseman. "Not just Land and Food Systems, not just Forestry, not just Education—those have been the primary stakeholders on the site so far. But we want to engage Sauder, we want to engage Science, we want to engage Law, we want to engage the Arts. All faculties can find connections to 'Cultivating Place' if they look for it."

An example lies in a current project based on health and medicinal plant use of pan-American

aboriginal groups, where involvement included not only students from horticulture, but nutrition and anthropology as well. In order for "Cultivating Place" to become real, it needs research and development funds, and the university has started to put funds toward the Farm very recently, said Riseman.

"We see this all as very positive engagement. We've been given the green light to fundraise, which is something we've never had before. The university never gave the Farm any money directly—through Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund grants and indirect support, yes, we don't pay rent, we don't pay for utilities, so there's been support, but we're getting some cash now that we never had before."

Now that the fear of reduction of the Farm and potential development is calming, Bomford says, "The excitement of what we can do in the future is building." ☪

# Agriculture and farming: coming to a city near you

**NGAIO HOTTE**  
Contributor

City folk, prepare to get up close and personal with your veggies—urban farming is poised to turn BC's agricultural sector upside-down.

The BC Agriculture Plan says we need to produce more healthy food at competitive prices, while turning up the heat in the fight against climate change. The problem is, only three per cent of the province's land is currently used for agriculture. These tiny, hard-working fields are no match for the hungry mouths of BC's 4.5 million residents, not to mention foreign markets in the US and elsewhere. The solution? Convert unproductive urban space to thriving urban farms and markets.

Mike Levenston is the executive director of CityFarmer, a non-profit organization that provides community education programs focused on urban agriculture. He's been educating urban farmers in Vancouver since the late 1970s, and is happy to have the province's support in making more space for agriculture within city limits.

David Tracey, columnist for BC-based news source *The Tyee*, agrees that urban farming will be the next frontier for

agriculture in BC. Tracey believes that urban farming can be a pillar of strength for citizens by providing healthy food while shielding citizens from erratic world food prices and reducing our impacts on climate change. By cutting back on fertilizers, pesticides and transportation fuels involved in large-scale farming, he explains, we can lessen our impact on the climate at the same time.

The City of Vancouver has also thrown its weight behind urban farming. Citizens of Vancouver clucked with approval at the City's decision to allow residents to raise egg-laying chickens in their backyards in May of this year. Dane Chauvel, a backyard chicken advocate, applauds the decision but feels it was long overdue.

"Virtually every major American city already allows chickens," he says. "It's greener, it's sustainable, it's healthier. And it teaches city people about the nature of food production."

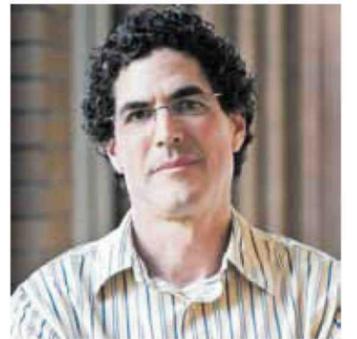
How does the BC government plan to turn its dream of widespread urban farming into a reality? The government's five-part plan pledges funding and programs to promote BC-grown foods, work farmland into community planning and increase public awareness and interest in farming. 



An urban garden on Davie street. **JESSICA LANDING PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY**

## PERSPECTIVE

**REALIZE YOUR SUSTAINABLE POTENTIAL AT THE UBC FARM**



**ANDREW RISEMAN**  
Contributor

The UBC Farm's future is bright. Our committee recently presented the new South Campus Academic Plan, Cultivating Place, to President Toope and the Board of Governors, who received it warmly. We now have the green light to bring this plan to life.

In it, we envision a truly sustainable community integrated with a productive land-base. A place that promotes and exemplifies environmental and social sustainability. A place that serves the needs of students, professors, staff and the surrounding communities.

A place where integration across disciplines, domains of knowledge, perspectives, beliefs and attitudes is commonplace. A place where our campus's themes of "living lab" and "agent of change" become real. A place where academics are rigorous, and our impacts felt globally.

A place where we develop and refine innovative teaching content and methods. A place that fosters lifelong learning and teaching among generations. A place where new knowledge is created and translated into action. In short, the UBC Farm is a place for you to realize your "sustainability" potential.

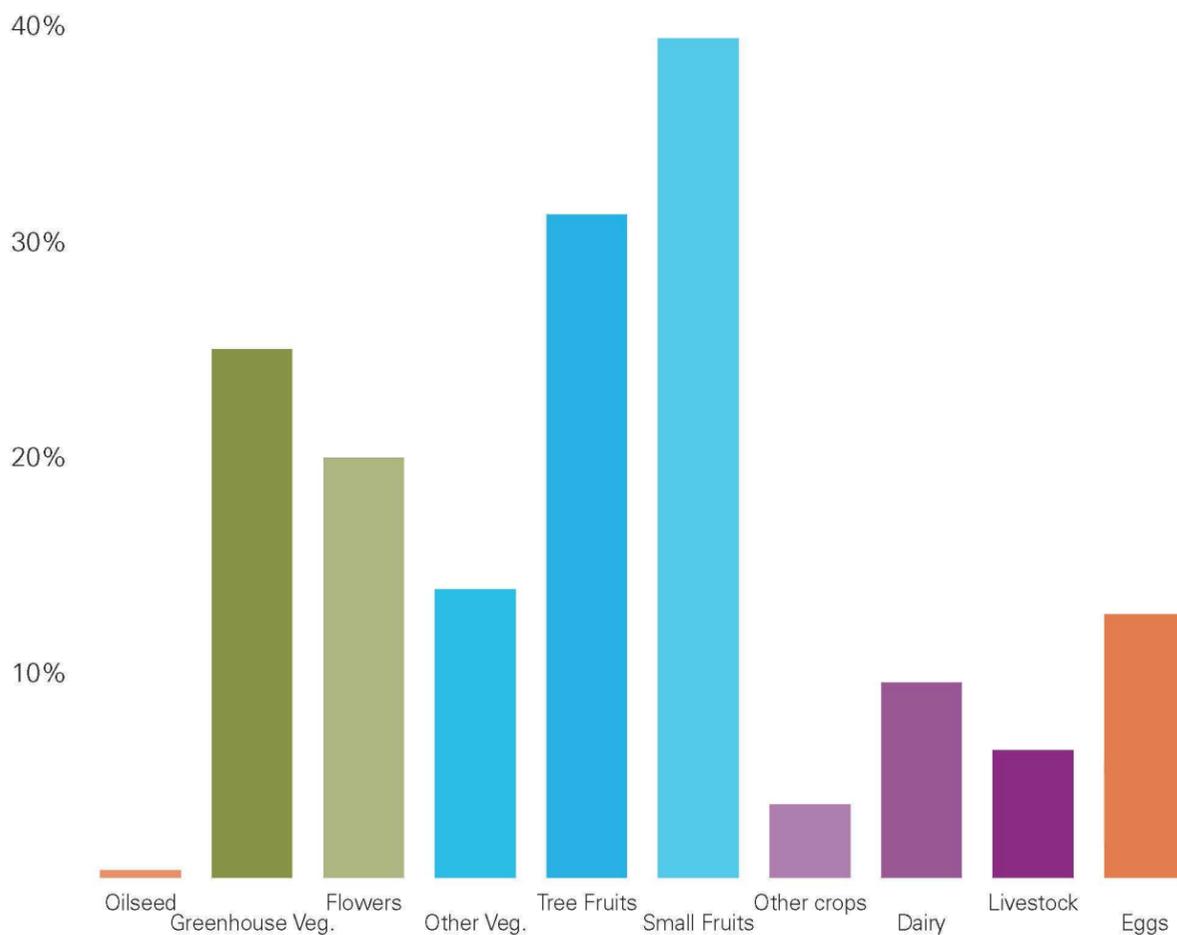
Regardless of your major, field of study or interests, we guarantee you can find a connection to this place.

Maybe it's with the Vancouver Native Health Society's Urban Aboriginal Community Kitchen Garden Project, or the Faculty of Medicine's honey bee immunity project, or civil engineering's Service Learning projects, or the Faculty of Education's Intergenerational Learning and Landed Learning children's projects, or the Faculty of Forestry's forest management projects, or the Faculty of Science's biofuel projects, or the College of Health Disciplines' Institute for Aboriginal Health teaching and research plots, or the Faculty of Land and Food Systems's poultry research, or drafting a business plan for a new innovative project on site, or participating in alternative education events such as the Free School, or attending large public events such as guest lectures by Michael Polan or local food and music celebrations such as the annual FarmAde, or improving our sustainability practices through a SEEDS project, or maybe it's just that you love good food, good friends and good times. Across all of these activities, the whole of UBC connects to this place.

I invite you to read Cultivating Place, to visit the farm, to envision how you can help create a more sustainable future and find your connection to this place. 

—Andrew Riseman is an associate professor, Land and Food Systems and a co-chair of the South Campus Academic Plan Committee.

## BC PRODUCE AS A PERCENTAGE OF CANADA'S TOTAL OUTPUT



## Okanagan fruit pickers' poor conditions a growing concern

**MICKI COWAN**  
Contributor

For seasonal fruit pickers in BC's interior, conditions are dependent on numerous factors, with country of origin at the top of the list. However, issues that are typically thought of as endemic in developing countries can be found right here at home.

UBC Professor Dr Patricia Tomic, author of a recently published article on the topic of living conditions of Mexican migrant workers in the Okanagan, has been heralding attention to these issues in BC's interior. Migrants brought from Mexico are beneficial to the cherry and apple farms, while Canadian

workers are more sensitive about upholding their rights.

"Canada does not pay for any of the costs involved in reproducing a worker and his family. The costs of food, shelter, education, health, dental, recreation, etc, if any, are incurred in Mexico, not here. The worker must leave as soon as the work is over," she said.

These workers are relied upon to put up with unstable working conditions and wages. Tomic found they may work a few hours a day or much more.

"Sometimes they work twelve or more hours a day, seven days a week. It is possible to feed a family only because the family is reproduced in Mexico. I think that for Canadians and

Canadian governments these workers are very cheap."

Although farms save costs by hiring foreign, inexpensive labourers from Mexico, housing and necessities are still hard to come by. Leila Verkerk was one of the Canadian workers for over four years in the early 2000s. She thought the conditions were very good, provided you enjoy that kind of lifestyle. "It was a way of life for maybe a couple of years. We either tented it or we had a van for a while. A lot of the farmers we knew, we met through friends, and [they] would let us camp out on their property," she said.

After the harvest season was over, Verkerk would move into town and find a job until the next

season. "I was 17. I could never really go back to that for money or for a real job. It's something you grow out of, especially as a way of life," she added.

Verkerk's experience was similar to a part-time cherry picker from Salmon Arm, who preferred to remain anonymous. "The wages were pretty bad. I was only there a month and a half and I only made \$400. I was 12," he said, but he added that he saw potential for the job if you were willing to work at it.

"People make a killing doing that. Some guys make \$300 a day. Of course he was a legend. If you work long days and you're really fast with your fingers [it's possible]." 

# CULTURE

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# OLIO

SEPTEMBER 23-26

## OR, THE 778-604 ULTRA 420 JAM-SONIC SHOWCASE!



**JONNY WAKEFIELD**  
culture@ubyssey.ca

When you're new to Vancouver, getting a handle on the music scene can be intimidating. For one, it's hard getting from campus to the East Van venues where the hip shit is happening. There is no real "Vancouver sound," and even the city's best bands sometimes seem like well-kept secrets.

Today we're focusing on the Olio festival, because we feel it demystifies local music in Vancouver. Over four days—starting today—more than 80 local musicians, bands and DJs will be performing around downtown and East Van. If you're interested in hearing what's on offer in Vancouver, it's all laid out this weekend—and for a reasonable price.

*The Ubysey* got in touch with Olio organizer Jason Sulyma, also known by his DJ moniker MY!GAY!HUSBAND!, for a run-down of the festival.

**Ubysey:** Where did the idea for a festival like Olio come from?

**Jason Sulyma:** Me and [co-director] Dani Vachon everyone that's on the festival attended other festivals out of town and we got sort of jealous that they weren't in Vancouver. We have festivals like Music Waste and New Forms Festival which are amazing, but we wanted to have something with local acts mixed with international acts of all mediums.

**U:** What's an Olio?

**JS:** We were sitting around going through names, putting them into an online thesaurus. "Olio"

means a hodge-podge of ideas. I'm also really nerdy and into graphics and I liked the two 'o's in it. I thought that could look really nice on a poster one day. Instead of us calling it the 778-604 Ultra 420 Jam-Sonic Showcase.

**U:** How many acts are local this year?

**JS:** About 85 per cent of the acts. This year we have way bigger out of town headliners.

**U:** Do you plan to grow the festival?

**JS:** We didn't expect it to grow this much from last year. In five years we hope to have the greats of the city behind us. We want to do more outdoor events, more free events for the public. More day events. And we want to try and get the whole city involved instead of just all our little East Van venues. ☺

## SHI-YI

Experimental is too constrictive a word to describe Shi Yi. Guitarist Scott Russell describes his collaboration with drummer/vocalist Erika Petro as a "fifties" band. The qualified version is more complex: "We are a fifties rock band whose songs are fucked up on opiates and who is disillusioned with rock music, and managed to find a hopeful shamanistic vision of being dragged by the hair through the decades, starting with the fifties."

That's actually a fairly accurate description. Formed in March 2009, Shi Yi is moody goth-pop that somehow avoids the genre-standard trap of being so depressing you can't breathe. Petro's vocals are lush and seductive, reminiscent of early Portishead, and carry a sort

of mysticism over the steady drums and loose guitar.

Though the diversity of Vancouver's music scene allows for experimentation, it doesn't offer much opportunity for new bands. "There are very few places to play, so establishing yourself is a challenge... Maybe that's why a lot of bands leave Vancouver," says Russell.

Though they've recently returned from shows in Paris and Berlin, Shi Yi don't consider themselves an established group. "We've just been super lucky to play some cool shows with cool bands."

—Ginny Monaco

*Shi Yi play the Frances Lawson Gallery on September 25. They are also playing CiTR's Shindig on October 5.*

## HUMANS

Peter Ricq and Robbie Slade, also known as Vancouver-based electro-soul group Humans, are an eclectic duo. When I asked Ricq and Slade to describe themselves in three words, they responded with "French, avocado and eager," followed by "wooden, loud, and stinky." Who wouldn't want to rock out with the wooden avocado guys?

Their cleverly crafted music video for their track "Bike Home" shares the same quirky-fun viewpoint. In it, cops crash—and then join—some lucky housepartiers.

According to Robbie, the best advice he's ever received is to "never, ever, lose your sense of humour." Peter contends that Arnold Schwarzenegger's famous

"stop whining," from the 90s hit *Kindergarten Cop*, are his favourite words of wisdom—even though "Arnold never said it to me directly."

Though their upcoming US tour is a first for the Canadian duo, they're no strangers to Olio fest, which features Vancouver's best and brightest in art, comedy, music and film. But they seem to think they're strangers to UBC students: when asked if they had any last words for all their fans, Peter fired back with, "We have UBC fans?"

—Ashleigh Murphy

*Engage in our favourite activity, proving bands wrong, on Friday, September 24, at The Cobalt.*

## RACOONS

Formed in 2008 in beautiful Victoria, British Columbia, the Racoons have shredded their way across Canada, playing festivals like Rifflandia and Big Time Out. They took a moment to speak with the Ubysey about their upcoming Olio show.

**Ubysey:** The name Racoons, or variations on it, seems to be pretty popular. Why did you choose it?

**Murray McKenzie:** The Racoons is a name we picked back in our days as a garage rock band and even though we've changed a lot and changed members, we still have it. It's really not the best name and we've thought of better ones, but we just keep going with it and see how far we can take it.

**U:** How does your EP *Islomania* differ from your live sound?

**MM:** Playing live now, we do a whole new set of songs, which reflect where we've gone. It's definitely a louder, rawer sound. That's kind of who we are.

**Jeff Mitchelmore:** We've always been a live band first. I mean, when we started out we never thought about recording until our friend literally said "Hey, Why don't you come over to my house and record?" We've always

been a band that really enjoys playing live.

**Matt Lyall:** We still haven't really been able to translate our live show onto CD. I think that's something we are really excited about doing when we record our next album.

**U:** Who would you most like to tour with?

**ML:** We toured last summer with The Von Bondies and they would probably be top five of bands I would like to tour with again.

**U:** What do you guys do to prepare for a show?

**ML:** It's funny that you mention that. Our thing we do is we get in a little huddle and we yell out a Von Bondies song.

**U:** You mentioned a full-length album. Any idea when that will be out?

**ML:** I told a lot of people that it would be out now about six months ago, so we've stopped making projections. Definitely, conservatively in the next three years.

—Phil Storey

*The Racoons play the Five Sixty Night Club on September 23.*

# FILM AT OLIO ROCKS THIS JOINT!

**CATHERINE GUAN**  
Contributor

A self-confessed man-hussy, writer and director Dan Code is the film curator for Olio Festival 2010. I had the chance to talk to Dan about this year's features. They include Blaine Thurier's (of *New Pornographers* fame) *A Gun to the Head* and the music documentary *No Fun City*. Also playing are skateboard fantasies *Harvey Spannos* and *Machotaildrop*, both by Corey Adams. Ryan Arnold's anti-romance *Skid Love* and Harmony Korine's mockumentary *Trash Humpers* are shown as a double feature.

**Ubysey:** What was the selection process like for this year's films?

**Dan Code:** A lot of the stuff we chose was really local. There were a couple of things we liked from Corey Adams. I'm a really big Harmony Korine fan. The only movie of his that I haven't seen is *Trash Humpers*.

**U:** Which other films get you excited?

**DC:** *Machotaildrop* is pretty cool, like *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* meets skateboarding. It's in a way a sequel to *Harvey Spannos*. They shot it on a 16mm, supersaturated film, where it makes everything look really bright and bubbly. There are movies like *No Fun City*, which really kind of stands for the audience that's coming out to [Olio].

**U:** We're so used to seeing blockbusters churned out by major studios. What makes independent productions different?

**DC:** They really stand apart in the concept. *Trash Humpers* is about a bunch of people having sex with garbage cans. In *Skid Love*, there's a girl ... selling her bodily fluids. You really have to be bold with what you're saying.

**U:** Dan, you are pretty active in the Vancouver independent

scene. What kind of changes are you noticing?

**DC:** The recession is having a big effect. We are, you know, doing things illegally. For instance, there's a skateboard video that I was involved with. There was no way in hell that we were going to afford [permits] besides shooting it and hoping we could get away with it. And we did. It was very close.

**U:** As a grizzled veteran of the industry, what advice would you give to young filmmakers?

**DC:** Just get out there and get it done. Build your craft in every direction—directing, and editing, and cinematography.

**U:** Any last words for our readers?

**DC:** Just come out and buy a pass. You'll get a taste of what is happening in Vancouver and what the scene is like. ☺

# Building new worlds with comics

## COMICS WITH MIRANDA MARTINI



At the end of August, in preparation for the Vancouver Comic Con on September 12<sup>th</sup>, Heritage Hall on Main Street hosted Comic & Stories, a day of alternative and small press comics.

It was great to see so much wonderful local work connecting with an audience, and it got me thinking about the way comics can create pockets of community where otherwise unrelated

people become connected. In this age of fragmentation, an individual can choose or create the world they want to live in.

Heck, most people live in two or three worlds most of the time. Some people think this means isolation, but comics readers recognize the important functions world-building can serve for shaping a better, more meaningful society.

Ken Boesem, who was plugging the collection of his strip *The Village* at the Con, welcomes his readers into the candy-coloured and rainbow-flagged world of Vancouver's Davie Village. *The Village* has launched a new online element that allows readers to actually join the community from the comic, interacting with characters and other fans.

The fact that one can be part of an online version of a fictionalized version of an actual physical community could be a commentary on fragmentation in and of itself. But then, part of why comics exist is to offer this kind of alternative, to bend reality's borders just enough to make it funnier, smarter and maybe a little bit brighter.

Not all the worlds created by comics are blissfully escapist. Joey Comeau and Emily Horne's popular online strip *A Softer World* is undoubtedly a first-rate exercise in world-building: the comic tells complete stories over the lifespan of a three-panel strip.

As Horne told me at Comic & Stories, part of the challenge of writing *A Softer World* is that

the characters must be complete within their first and only act of life; "whoever they are is whatever they said in that moment." Often these characters' worlds are harsh and brutal, verging on the grotesque. Still, Comeau and Horne assert that the overall arc should be read as one where hope and vitality are significant, if not dominant, driving forces.

This same kind of exploration of worlds in miniature can be seen in the work of artist Josué Menjivar, who talked to me about his collection *People Who Eat Alone*.

The premise is exactly as simple as it sounds. The worlds created in the images require little explanation and almost no text, and yet somehow they encapsulate rich narrative strands:

displacement, loneliness and the search for small connections within isolation. From postcard sketches to the broad canvas, from queer Vancouver to a table for one in a café, comics break apart the universe we all share into the thousands of different universes we pass through every day.

When I see fans and artists interacting over these shared mental spaces, I'm reminded of the good that can happen when art is allowed to shape society and society to shape art. So while I'll always encourage you to support local artists, I'd also ask you to remember that, in a strange way, all comics are local, because they give us the opportunity to escape to the same small worlds, for a little while, together. ☺



COMIC COURTESY EMILY HORNE AND JOEY COMEAU / *A SOFTER WORLD*

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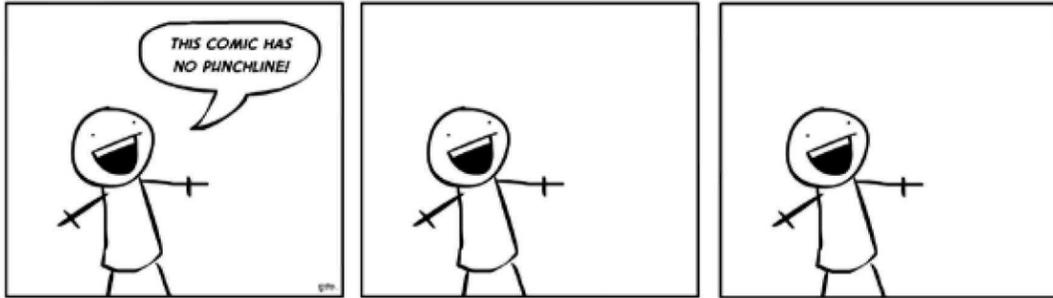
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# GAMES & COMICS

ROYAL PANDA CLOUD REVOLUTION, BY DAVID MARINO



CORPUS CHRISTI, BY ROBERT E. LEE



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# OPINIONS

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## EDITORIAL

### RYAN, RYAN, HE'S (NOT) OUR MAN

*The Ubyyssey* realizes we may be boring you with all this talk of constituencies. But it's important that we beat this dead horse one last time.

All Arts students, regardless of their general level of interest in politics, need to be paying attention to this week's election. Why? Because not only is the AUS incompetent and completely out of touch, it's looking to stay that way.

Last March's abysmal turnout for AUS elections resulted in an unclear finish, with Ryan Trasolini and Brian Platt tied in votes. After much to-do, vacancy of the presidency and petty scandals, AUS Council appointed Trasolini interim president, to reign until this round of by-elections. Now, the two face off again in the election for president. And like so many hackneyed sequels, this time, it's personal.

So what—with his job on the line—has Trasolini been doing to convince voters they should place their faith in him? In the four months he's been president, he's overseen Imagine, where, according to his campaign materials, the AUS collected some 900 emails for its mailing list. In those same four months, the society had its accounts frozen for failing to submit a budget. During Tuesday's presidential debate, Trasolini attributed this lack of budget to his failure to understand AMS deadlines.

Collecting 900 signatures from disinterested freshmen is an accomplishment—if you're a social coordinator, or a couple of guys with a sign that says 'beer.' But from the president of the largest undergraduate constituency on campus, with a financial responsibility in the hundreds of thousands, we'd say that failing to understand deadlines or budgets far outweighs your ability to get pens on paper, regardless of your so-called branding strategy.

This summer was Trasolini's chance to prove he could hack it as AUS president. Instead, he's landed the society in its biggest screwup in recent memory. His platform cites his ability to engage students, but in this case, actions speak louder than words. If the AUS is going to pull itself out of its slump, it needs better leadership than what we've seen so far—any other leadership. We strongly disendorse Ryan Trasolini for AUS president. ☹

### UBC'S BIG BAD BUREAUCRACY

Tuesday's Town Hall with our esteemed President Toope was an annual rite of passage where dozens of faculty and various bigwigs sat solemnly through a presentation explaining that, by all accounts and measures, UBC is hot stuff, and can expect to be hot stuff on an international scale for years to come.

But amidst the 100 or so people in the crowd, one can always spot a few students who will actually—gasp—ask a salient question or two. This year, one such denizen stood up and complained that UBC's policies make it nigh impossible to carry over equivalent credits when transferring over to another university. Toope responded with empathy, and invited her to speak with him privately later to resolve the issue.

While this was nice for her, virtually all of us have had a simple issue get tied for months in emails and meetings with middle managers, and they don't have the luxury of taking it straight to the president.

Too often, students have to slog through, hoping that someone will see the light of day with their tuition/housing/professor/credits/graduation/missed deadline problem. Make no mistake, bureaucracy is a problem at this school—bring it up to a senior official, and the nervous chuckle will confirm it.

So what's to be done? Just because UBC is large and has an even larger reputation for red tape doesn't mean it always has to be this way. Two years ago, the university created a new Ombuds office to specifically ensure that UBC students can learn and work in a "fair, equitable and respectful environment." UBC should do all it can to promote the office, to let students know they can take advantage of it and to do what it can in reducing the layers of tape students have to navigate in order to get their degree. ☹



The keener wing of tables at clubs days. ANNE TASTAD GRAPHIC/THE UBYSSEY

## LETTERS

It seems rather pathetic that DJ shows are the most creative solution UBC Athletics can come up with to help finance the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre. Perhaps there is a connection between booze, rock music and athleticism that escapes me. Surely our "world class" Sauder School of Business faculty could spare a few minutes to come up with a viable business plan. Check out the Richmond Olympic Oval. While other VANOC sites have been decommissioned or successfully reconfigured, our UBC Olympic legacy building seems to be drifting like an empty shell towards the rocks.

The utility bill is a staggering \$50,000 per month. Perhaps the marketing folks who have given us all those inspiring UBC slogans ending

with, "...from here", could add a touch of realism with, "Design a white elephant, from here."

—B.H. Seghers  
Science '67

Dear Ubyyssey,

I am writing with regard to your September 16<sup>th</sup> article on the relations between the fraternities, the RCMP and UBC, entitled "Frats and UBC meet over officer assaults." *The Ubyyssey's* coverage of the fraternity system over the past several years has been very good, in particular the editorial on September 12<sup>th</sup>, "Fraternities should stop turtling."

Of concern is the photo accompanying the article featuring me and Jesse Ory. This photo was taken for *The*

*Ubyyssey's* satire issue and we participated in the understanding that it would be used in a humorous context. While *The Ubyyssey* had every right to use the photo and to make the digital alterations that they did, we feel uncomfortable that a picture taken to poke fun at the fraternity stereotypes has been used out of context to accompany an article addressing a serious topic.

In your recent editorial you spoke of how quickly "perception becomes reality" and we would like to take this opportunity to state, with the greatest emphasis that we do not, in fact, ever wear multiple polos, nor do we pop our collective collars. Thank you for allowing us to address this sartorial misconception.

—Blair McRadu

## TOO SEXY

### JUDICIOUS READERSHIP,

This week we're taking a brief hiatus from answering your questions to pose some of our own. We're about to share with you one of our own experiences with a view to provoking discussion amongst our readership (in addition to serving as a cautionary tale).

Beware; what you are about to read may shock you. But it also highlights some interesting issues surrounding fetishism, social taboo and moral obligation that we often don't have the time to get into in our regular advice columns. So break out the popcorn and read on, kids: it's *Too Sexy* storytime.

### SETTING: A PUBLIC COMMODE IN STANLEY PARK, DAYTIME

Enter: *Too Sexy* columnist Kasha Chang

Our protagonist enters the washroom, and is unperturbed to notice that the stall at the far end of the washroom is in use. The occupant makes no sound, leaving our protagonist no reason to fear anything out of the ordinary. She goes about her business.

Once finished, she washes her hands and notices something peculiar—the other bathroom denizen is still sequestered within his or her

stall, from which a faint and repetitive "shwip, shwip" noise now issues. Naively concluding that someone must be cleaning in there, our protagonist exits the public commode.

It is only later that, upon relating the incident to her traveling companion, she realizes that she—or rather, the sound of her urination—had become fodder for a public masturbator's public masturbatin'.

Supposing, gentle readers, that this rather rude form of self-stimulation is the masturbator's only avenue to sexual gratification, is the action in question a) inevitable, and acceptable in the name of sexual satisfaction as long as it is kept quiet; b) disgusting and morally reprehensible; c) funny; d) wrong and punishable by law; e) other; f) all of the above.

Items to consider when answering the preceding question are as follows:

**Does** the masturbator's right to sexual self-actualization trump our protagonist's right to privacy while peeing in public? Or vice versa?

**Is** being an eavesdropping tom less creepy than being a peeping tom?

**Can** there be a difference between listening to people pee and going home and masturbating about it later, and

maturbating then and there where the subject can hear you?

**If** you reach a point in your life where you hide in public washrooms to polish the pole/pearl to pee noises, do you fear someone hiding in the next stall waiting for fapping noises? Or does the possibility tantalize you?

**Did** something similar perhaps happen to a young Christine O'Donnell, setting her on her current campaign to ban masturbation in the United States?

**Suppose** the masturbator was not, in fact, masturbating, but simply making similar noises to make Kasha believe that he or she was masturbating. Is that more or less wrong?

**If** Kasha Chang, *Too Sexy* Columnist, had counter-masturbated, what would have been the outcome? Would it have turned the tables on Public Masturbation Man, defeating him in a titanic battle of wills? Or would it have formed a beautiful harmony of mildly antagonistic performances, a la duelling banjos?

It's up to you, gentle readers, to decide. Send your outraged tirades, thoughtful musings, and favorite pornographic images to [toosexy@ubyssey.ca](mailto:toosexy@ubyssey.ca).

# OUR CAMPUS



**KALYEENA MAKORTOFF**  
 kmakortoff@ubyssey.ca

Waves of blue could be seen on the west side of the SUB last week, enticing curious students to stop and ogle the megaphone-toting and longboard-riding crowd. In an attempt to promote its trips and organization, the UBC Surf Club, which usually brings its members to the coasts of Vancouver Island, Washington and Oregon, decided to try bringing the ocean to campus. Tarp surfing tried to simulate riding through a perfect barrel, as corners of a 40 foot tarpaulin were pulled over a longboarder as they rode across the pavement. 

GEOFF LISTER PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

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