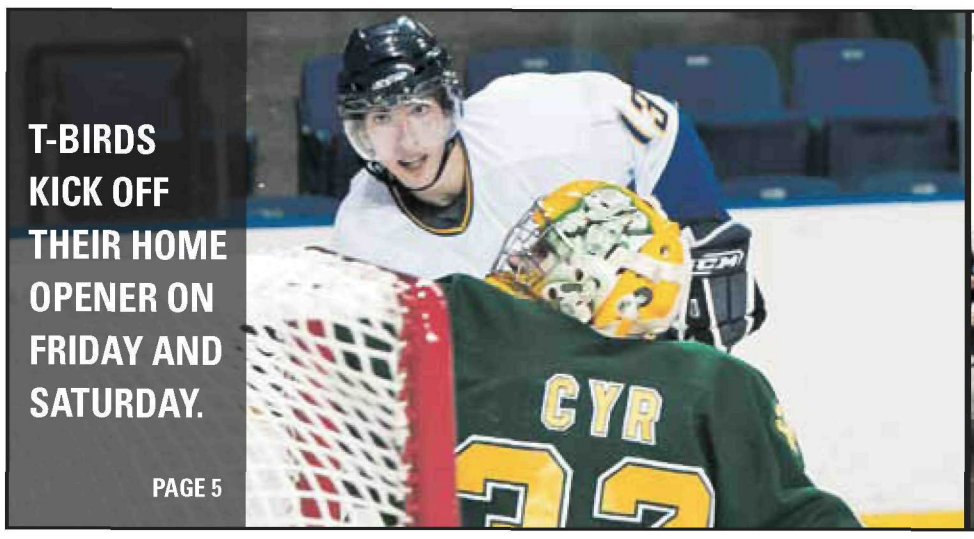

T-BIRDS KICK OFF THEIR HOME OPENER ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

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CANZINE WEST RETURNS TO VANCOUVER AFTER THREE YEARS.

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THE UBYSSEY

OCTOBER 18, 2010

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EDITORIAL

COORDINATING EDITOR
Justin McElroy : coordinating@ubyssey.ca
NEWS EDITOR
Arshy Mann : news@ubyssey.ca
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR
Sally Crampton : associate.news@ubyssey.ca
CULTURE EDITORS
Jonny Wakefield & Bryce Warnes : culture@ubyssey.ca
ASSOCIATE CULTURE EDITOR
Anna Zoria : associate.culture@ubyssey.ca
SPORTS EDITOR
Ian Turner : sports@ubyssey.ca
FEATURES EDITOR
Trevor Record : features@ubyssey.ca
PHOTO EDITOR
Geoff Lister : photos@ubyssey.ca
PRODUCTION MANAGER
Virginie Ménard : production@ubyssey.ca
COPY EDITOR
Kai Green : copy@ubyssey.ca
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
Tara Martellaro : multimedia@ubyssey.ca
ASSOCIATE MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
Stephanie Warren : associate.multimedia@ubyssey.ca
VIDEO EDITOR
Matt Wetzler : video@ubyssey.ca
WEBMASTER
Jeff Blake : webmaster@ubyssey.ca

Room 24, Student Union Building
6138 Student Union Boulevard
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
tel: 604.822.2301
web: *www.ubyssey.ca*
e-mail: *feedback@ubyssey.ca*

BUSINESS

Room 23, Student Union Building
advertising: 604.822.1654
business office: 604.822.6681
fax: 604.822.1658
e-mail: *advertising@ubyssey.ca*

BUSINESS MANAGER
Fernie Pereira : business@ubyssey.ca
PRINT AD SALES
Kathy Yan Li : advertising@ubyssey.ca
WEB AD SALES
Paul Bucci : webads@ubyssey.ca
ACCOUNTS
Alex Hoopes

CONTRIBUTORS

Micki Cowan, Miranda Martini, Kelly Han, Chantel Colleypriest, Karina Palmitesta, Bijan Ahmadian, Claudia Goodine, Gerald Deo, Tristan Menzies, David Elop, Jonathan Chiang

LEGAL

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EVENTS

MONDAY, OCT. 18

HUNTING FOR A NEW FORCE OF NATURE AT THE LHC

Green College hosts a presentation about the exploration for a fifth fundamental force at the Large Hadron Collider. • *8–9 pm, Coach House, Green College, 6201 Cecil Green Park Road, UBC. Go to* greencollege.ubc.ca *for more information. Free.*

GO GLOBAL INFO SESSION FOR FRST+LFS STUDENTS

Land and Food Systems and Forestry students, find out how you can make the most of your learning abroad opportunities at this info-packed session! • 12–1pm, FSC 1001, go to students.ubc.ca/global *for more information. Free.*

TUESDAY, OCT. 19

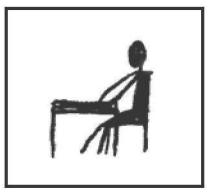
FIRESIDE READING BY MERILYN SIMONDS AND WAYNE GRADY

Merilyn Simonds, Green College writer-in-residence in 2006, will be joined by her partner Wayne Grady to read from their book, *Breakfast at the Exit Cafe: Travels in America. • 8–9 pm, Piano Lounge, Graham House, Green College. Go to* greencollege.ubc.ca *for more information. Free.*

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR GAMING AND ENTERTAINMENT

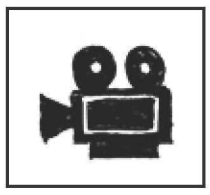
How can you effectively merge compelling gameplay with social media distribution? In this course, you learn about the fundamental community drivers in social media and how these can augment traditional game mechanics and entertainment experiences. • *Runs until Nov. 2, 6:30–9:30pm, UBC Robson Square, go to* tech.ubc.ca *for more information.*

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 20



WORK YOUR BA: PUBLIC SPEAKING 101 WITH TOASTMASTERS

The ability to communicate effectively gets you noticed in life and work. Learn the Toastmasters method from the experience of a veteran speaker. This presentation will cover key concepts for better public speaking, including the power of body language, eye contact, better formatting and more! • *1–2pm, GEOG 212, go to* secure.students.ubc.ca/workshops/careers.cfm#2156 *to register. Free.*



UBC FILM SOCIETY SCREENING: FIGHT CLUB

The UBC Film Society will be showing *Fight Club*, the hit film starring Brad Pitt and Edward Norton. This satirical cult classic full of underground fight rings, anti-corporate terrorists and soap is a must-see for all film buffs. • *9:15pm, Norm Theatre, SUB. $2.50 for members and $5 for non-members.*

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NEWS

EDITOR ARSHY MANN » news@ubyssey.ca
ASSOCIATE SALLY CRAMPTON » associate.news@ubyssey.ca

AMS makes push for rapid transit to UBC

ARSHY MANN
news@ubyssey.ca

Will you ever see one of these pull up next to the IKB? **GERALD DEO PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/**THE UBYSSEY

The AMS is banking on Facebook, 3000 emails from students and bright green t-shirts to convince Metro Vancouver to build rapid transit to UBC.

The Alma Mater Society is currently in the midst of a nine day blitz—with only three days remaining—aimed at pushing Metro Vancouver to make rapid transit to UBC a regional priority.

This comes weeks after Metro Vancouver released the draft of their regional growth strategy, which places rapid transit to UBC as their last transportation priority, after completing the Evergreen Line and increasing service for Surrey.

AMS President Bijan Ahmadian said that the status quo along the Broadway corridor is unacceptable.

"Students and other commuters are left behind every morning on the Broadway line," he said. "We have this sustainable culture of using transit to this campus but the service level is not there to support it."

The AMS has launched a website, *ubclinenow.com*, that directs students to email Metro Vancouver and Translink about the UBC line. They have also created a Facebook group that has over 1100 members and will be distributing around 20,000 pamphlets that direct people to the website.

Ahmadian said that as of yesterday over 2000 students had used the website to submit their feedback to Metro Vancouver.

He said that he hopes at least 3000 people contact Metro Vancouver in support of a UBC line by the October 22 deadline.

After Metro Vancouver stops taking feedback, Ahmadian said the AMS will directly lobby the Metro Vancouver board and other decision makers as they finalize the regional growth strategy. If the AMS is unhappy with the final outcome, he said they will then focus on other actors, especially the provincial government.

"Students from UBC come from all over Metro Vancouver, we vote in all the regions across Metro Vancouver and the province," he said. "We're going to make sure that all the politicians are held accountable for the decisions they make on this."

The AMS is also working alongside UBC and the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA), which represents residents who live in market housing on campus.

"[They are] also stakeholders in this...so we're going to build an alliance to work together. Our messaging is different and everybody's approaching this from a very different perspective based on what their interests are, but we all come down to the same message that UBC needs rapid transit and it needs it now."

Despite support from the AMS and UBC, rapid transit has long been opposed by many businesses and residents along the Broadway corridor. They fear it could lead to serious disturbances similar to those that plagued Cambie St during construction of the Canada Line.

"In my view we have two alternative futures," said Jan Pierce, Chair of the West Kitsilano Residents Association, at a Business and Residents Association for Sustainable Transportation Alternatives (BARSTA) meeting in June.

"One looks to retain much of our existing housing, green space, heritage, and have change happen in a more gradual way that fits with our neighbourhoods.

"The alternative, a rapid-rail skytrain system, where our neighbourhood goals are transformed by the development goals of Translink, using the excuse of perceived need to increase ridership on their extremely expensive lines to justify the high costs."

Electoral Area A Director Maria Harris is also skeptical that rapid transit is the best transit option for UBC.

"There is an underlying current of pressure to have rapid transit, which is a solution which I don't think is necessarily feasible in the next five years, let alone a longer period, simply because of other legitimate regional requirements," she said. "But I think there are a whole lot of cheap fixes we can do in the short term."

Before Metro Vancouver's regional growth strategy can be finalized, it must be formally accepted by all of Metro Vancouver's 22 member municipalities, the Tsawwassen First Nation, TransLink and all adjacent regional districts.

—With files from Justin McElroy

Stigma of mental illness broken down by cracking up

CLAUDIA GOODINE
Contributor

It takes a certain strength of character to stand onstage and withstand a crowd of people laughing at your greatest insecurities.

So it may seem counterintuitive to see people suspected of having the lowest self esteem—people living with mental illness—doing just that.

But six comics, each managing different mental illnesses like schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or depression, performed with fine-tuned hilarity at last Thursday's Stand Up for Mental Health comedy show at Totem Park residence.

Vancouver-based SMH uses humour to raise awareness and battle the stigma around mental illness. Their current tour of 25 universities across Canada opens a dialogue about a serious issue of particular importance to campuses.

Mental disorders manifest most commonly in youths between the ages of 15 and 24, according to Statistics Canada. Life transitions that are a common part of the university experience, such as being far away from home, more exposure to alcohol and the stress of school, can exacerbate potential for mental illness.

"Usually people get treatment in their 30s and 40s, but it makes a huge difference if you can go in earlier," David Granirer, founder and teacher of the SMH program, said before the show.

Unfortunately, shame that follows from a prevailing stigmatization of mental illness often makes people less likely to reach out for help and more prone to self-medicate and develop addictions. According to a 2008 study by the Canadian Medical Association, 46 per cent of Canadians think the term 'mental illness' is used as an excuse for bad behaviour, while 25 per cent are afraid of being around people with a mental illness.

Onstage, Granirer, who also battles depression, took a jab at the latter assumption.

"People with mental illness commit five per cent of all crime. That's it. That means normal people commit the other 95 per cent ... I mean, I feel way safer around some guy who hears voices and thinks he's the supreme ruler of the universe.

"Put it this way: when you are managing 50 billion galaxies, you are way too busy to steal my car," Granirer said to the laughter of 50 people dispersed in a sea of blue plastic chairs.

The hour and a half show sped by with barely a pause, but it wasn't all laughs. The gravity of mental illness hung in the air when 27-year-old comic Robbie Engelquist from New Westminster sat down to read an intimate monologue about living with schizophrenia. He ended with a smooth, powerfully delivered two-minute rap, owning the stage.

"I enjoy being onstage," he said later. "I love to be able to tell people my story and have them listen to me."

First year Arts students Jen Boyd, Diane Mutabaruka and Alex Musgrove all agreed it was their favourite part of the show.

"When he read it was really personal. It's awesome how a show provides so much meaning," Boyd said.

NEWS BRIEFS

COLIN CHIA PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

NEW BIODIVERSITY MUSEUM OPENS ON CAMPUS

The new UBC Beaty Biodiversity Museum opened on Saturday, Oct 16, showcasing UBC's rich biological and natural history collections.

There are over two million specimens on display, a public theatre and Canada's largest blue whale skeleton. The aim of the museum is to enhance the public's understanding and appreciation of biodiversity, and make the research conducted by UBC's Biodiversity Research Centre scientists accessible to the public. The Museum and the Research Centre are situated next to each other in the Beaty Biodiversity Centre building.

WOMEN DELAYING PREGNANCY BECAUSE OF FALSE FAITH IN FERTILITY SCIENCE

Women are delaying pregnancies because of misconceptions about fertility treatments, according to UBC Psychology Professor Judith Daniluk's new research.

Fueled by reports of celebrities who get pregnant in their middle-age and misguided advice from family doctors, Canadian women believe that in-vitro fertilization and other forms of fertility treatments can help them to get pregnant in their 40s, and even in their 50s.

The success rate of fertility treatments drops rapidly after the age of 34, barely reaching 1 per cent for those 46 years old.

UBC PARTNERS WITH MAX PLANK SOCIETY TO TACKLE QUANTUM QUESTIONS

UBC has forged a formal partnership with the Max Planck Society, a German research institution that provides funding for and forms scholarly partnerships with over 80 other research institutions worldwide.

They intend to create the Max Planck-UBC Centre for Quantum Materials, which will bring together physicists from all over the world under the leadership of four Canada Research Chairs in the area of condensed matter physics, five fellows of the Royal Society of Canada and visiting scholars from the Max Planck Society, 32 of whom have won Nobel Prizes in Physics since 1914. Their research will focus on exploring the properties of nanostructured materials when reduced below their current size limitations.

CULTURE

EDITORS BRYCE WARNES & JONNY WAKEFIELD » culture@ubyssey.ca
ASSOCIATE ANNA ZORIA » associate.culture@ubyssey.ca

Because you can't read a blog on the toilet

Old-school self-publishing on display at Canzine West show

BRYCE WARNES
culture@ubyssey.ca

Visitors browse tables at Canzine West 2010. **TRISTAN MENZIES PHOTO/**THE UBYSSEY

Before Facebook, Twitter or blogs, the easiest way for an unpublished writer or illustrator to share their work was through a Xerox machine. But even in the digital age, devotees to commercial print's oft-neglected brother—the zine—are keeping the medium alive.

After a three year absence from the city, Canzine West returned to Vancouver. October 16 saw the cavernous halls of the W2 Storyeum lined with tables loaded with local small-press and self-published works. Organized by *OCW Magazine* and *Broken Pencil*, Canzine was part conference, part workshop and part celebration of the medium that has traditionally linked and spread fringe culture.

The internet has in many ways made the zine anachronistic. What was once done with ink, paper and staples is now done with Wordpress. Where does this leave the humble zine?

"You can't read a blog in the bathroom," said Janelle Hollyrock. Her publication, *Mongrel Zine*, covers garage and punk music from Vancouver and from abroad.

"That's where people read magazines, right? Take it into the can. You can't take your laptop in there. It's just unsanitary," she continued. "Some guy was here earlier and he was like, 'Oh yeah, I saw this in my friend's washroom.' And I'm like, 'Yeah, that's how people find out about my zine.'"

The latest issue of *Mongrel Zine* is hefty. It's made of 24 8.5" x 14" photocopied pages, folded in the middle and bound with two heavy-duty staples. The pages are packed with text—band Q&As, for the most part, as well as literature reviews and a feature on Japanese cult films—broken up by images arranged helter-skelter in a manner that recalls the handmade, cut-and-paste layouts of pre-Photoshop zines. Included is a compilation CD of groups covered in past issues. Total asking price? Five dollars.

Hollyrock insisted that even if the paper-and-CD media seem outdated, she publishes that way by choice. "It's just not the same to have like, 'Here's a download code, why don't you download these songs off my blog.' That's so fucking lame."

Mongrel Zine is sold at shows, through record stores and via its website. "With our zine specifically, we interview bands," said Hollyrock. "And a lot of bands tour, and they need something to read in the van. So our zine is really good for that."

Karlene Harvey's table at Canzine West was covered with her own creations—small, brightly-coloured booklets filled with poetry, short stories and line illustrations.

"I don't try to distribute them across Canada or anything," she said. "I mostly make them for my friends, and for events such as this. Or if I'm at a craft show I'll share them."

"I've been making zines since I was sixteen. When I was in high school there was this really cool English teacher that I had, and he made everybody make zines. When I was younger, actually, I was really interested in making comics. I had this pen-pal, and we used to send comics back and forth to each other. And eventually I made these comic booklets. So I could even say [I started] when I was around twelve."

Like Hollyrock, Harvey publishes in zines by choice. Over the past year, her writing and illustrations have appeared in several commercial magazines, and she added that she is currently working on putting together a portfolio of work. But the small-scale allure of zines continue to draw her back to the format.

Self-distributing your own publication, by nature, ties you directly to your audience.

However, in zines—as in any other medium—there are still middlemen. Record and book stores, infoshops and online distribution services ("distros") spread zines to a wider audience. And the Vancouver Public Library has been adding to its collection in recent years, making them available through their online catalogue.

Lemon Tree, established by Cholo Amcheta and Aaron Moran, serves as a distribution method for Vancouver zine creators. Their store consists of a yellow painted wooden cart packed with self-published poetry and fiction, which they wheel to author and illustrator conventions, poetry readings and other events around the city. They also publish their own zines under the Smoke Signal Arts imprint.

"We want to have a really face-to-face interaction with the artist. We want to provide them with what they want, and what we want," said Amcheta. By focusing on sharing art, rather than accumulating profits, *Lemon Tree* puts itself in line with the ideals of the authors it stocks.

Paper wasn't the only material on display at Canzine West. Screenprinted t-shirts, handmade jewelry and stationery were on sale in the crafts area of the convention center. The voices of poets and authors reading their works on stage echoed in the background.

Magazines—*SubTerrain, Beatroute, Discorder, Broken Pencil and OCW*, among others—made their presence known. Full-colour, offset-printed and even glossy publications shared tables with zines folded and stapled together in their creators' bedrooms.

"When I think of what a zine is to me, it's this little space where you can put all of your work, and all of your time, into this project, and you have a product in the end," said Karlene Harvey.

"And it's all yours, there are no editors, there's no-one involved other than you—literally creating this tangible thing that you want to share with people."

Wombat: The Collected Comic Strip by Rob Filbrandt

COMICS WITH MIRANDA MARTINI

MIRANDA MARTINI
Columnist

First published in *Discorder* in 1984, then in alt-weeklies around Canada throughout the early 90s, Rob Filbrandt's *Wombat* follows a wayward youth from his glue-sniffing punk rock days to his noir-infused, alcohol-induced burnout.

Filbrandt's strips were recently compiled for the first time. The collection is cleaved into two ideological halves. I like to think of the first half as *Garfield* and the second half as *Garfield* (without Garfield). The first half plods along at its ease, goofy and unconcerned, making up for what it lacks in cohesive punchlines and laughs-out-loud with its strangely good-natured sweetness. The titular Wombat (if that is indeed his name), a shy, ebullient punk sporting a vast chin and mohawk, gets up to Little Rascals-type mischief and sounds the rallying cry of drunk, directionless, nonsensical anti-conformity. "Wild nose hairs!" he cries, thrilled at the prospect of another day lived outside the Man's grasp. These early strips have a similar emotional effect to Garfield sassing Jon and punting Odie across the room: their naïve, innocuous rascality is calming to the spirit, like elevator music. It is pseudo-humour, gentle, nostalgic and frozen in time.

An early Wombat strip vs. one from later in its run. **COURTESY OF ANVIL PRESS**

Slowly, Wombat evolves and the tone shifts. One day our hero trades his mohawk for a ragged fedora and finds himself in a murky demimonde peopled with bleak thugs, sadistic femmes fatale and the ghost of Montgomery Clift. A backstory emerges, casting shadows on the previously one-off comics. It becomes apparent that the eager wild child of earlier strips, so happily lost in the world of his own creation, is now drowning in that world. Without a benevolent universe around him to temper the protagonist's nihilism and self-doubt, Wombat's blissful teenage wasteland becomes a lonely, echoing chasm of the human experience.

Both worlds have their charm. Neither the rough early strips nor the relentlessly surreal later ones ask much of their reader: the punk kid and the comic-noir drifter both provide brief, entertaining and occasionally vulnerable glimpses into their lives, but always with a wink and a nod that says it's mostly pretend. It's hard to know what we're supposed to take away from the comic once we've read the last page, or even if there's anything to take away. Still, as an indictment against the modern world's insipidity or a talisman against its cruelty, or neither, *Wombat* is probably a world worth visiting, if only once.

SPORTS

EDITOR IAN TURNER » sports@ubyssey.ca

Thunderbirds finish preseason schedule with blowout victory

KELLY HAN
Contributor

Josh Whyte leaps up in a preseason game. **GEOFF LISTER PHOTO**/THE UBYSSEY

On Friday night, the UBC Thunderbirds finished their exhibition schedule by dominating the Laurentian Voyageurs 108-55.

The match was never in doubt, as UBC started the game by scoring 15 unanswered points. The team's aggressiveness was sustained throughout the game with multiple steals and dunks and the Thunderbirds kept up the intensity until the game's end, finishing with 13 steals and 5 blocks.

Last year's CIS MVP Josh Whyte, who had nine points and four rebounds, said that UBC has been making a point of playing an entire 40 minutes after a season last year that often saw them coast on their talent for entire quarters.

"We developed some bad habits last year that cost us some games where we found ourselves in situations tough to climb out of," he said.

"One of our main focus[es] this year is to have that mentality to come out and 'punch them in the face' and really shake our opponents up."

This year, head coach Kevin Hanson has made it a priority to maintain this intensity.

"Practices have been very very intense and the guys are proving they want to get better. We are still improving our defense and that will lead to fast break points. We are an aggressive and physical team and we want to maintain that throughout the season."

To that end, none other than former NBA shooting guard Michael Dickerson, who played for the Vancouver Grizzlies and Houston Rockets, has been present during team practices during the preseason.

"Michael has been a real inspiration to us. He's always the first one in the gym, and his work ethic is offloading to us and keeping us motivated because we are constantly trying to beat him in every drill," exclaimed starting point guard Alex Murphy.

With the exhibition season over, UBC begins the regular season this weekend against Saskatchewan. After reaching the finals the last two years, the expectation is to win the Canada West Conference, and then the CIS National Championship. The team is currently ranked No. 2 in the country behind the Carleton Ravens.

"I want our team to win it all. The last two years we were so close and we lost the national finals. I feel that with what we have this year we can go as far as we want," said Whyte.

What else to look forward to this year?

"This year's team is a fast paced entertaining style team," said coach Hanson. This basketball season will provide enjoyable games with high winning percentages.

Starting forward Brent Malish is entering his final year at UBC, along with Murphy and Whyte. For them, it's the final chance to bring home the first national championship for UBC since 1973. One thing's for sure: they won't end up short due to lack of effort.

"We have a really veteran squad this year, with three fifth-years and four fourth-years that have been through a lot of rough patches and rough games. As a collective whole, when we do come across adversity, we are going to face through and not let it affect us."

The season opener is this Friday, October 22, against last year's national champions, the Saskatchewan Huskies.

BIRD DROPPINGS

DAVID ELOP PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

HOCKEY TEAM SPLITS HOME OPENER

The UBC men's hockey team began their 2010-2011 regular season with a win and loss against the Alberta Golden Bears. Following a 4–2 upset of the top-ranked Golden Bears on Friday night, UBC expected to continue the winning streak on Saturday. However, that was not the case. With a final score of 6–2 for Alberta, UBC split their home opener series and retreated back to the locker room looking for a way to improve before their game against Calgary next Friday.

"We got even-keel on our emotions, last night we got a good win," said first-year forward Mike Liambas after the game. "We came in today thinking we didn't have to work as hard…it obviously showed."

Alberta and UBC traded goals in the first three minutes of action, with a shot from Liambas, who formerly played for the Erie Otters of the Ontario Hockey League (OHL), tying it at 1–1 early on.

"He works hard," said head coach Milan Dragicevic of Liambas. "We expect him to be physical… to provide leadership and character."

Despite being outshot 13–7, the first period ended with UBC tied at 2–2. Dalton Pajak scored his second goal of the weekend with the period winding down on a five on three power play. It would be the last goal the Thunderbirds would score.

The second period allowed two more goals for the Bears as they outshot UBC 10–4, scoring two goals and making life miserable for goaltender Jordan White. The disappointed Dragicevic said, "You're not going to win…hockey games with under twenty shots, especially when you have twelve minutes of power plays."

The small but loyal crowd of 200 cheering for the 'Birds hoped for a strong comeback in the last frame, but the team didn't deliver. Two minutes into the period, Bears centre Greg Gardner scored the fifth goal of the game. Even the disallowance of a goal due to goalie interference by the Bears did not dissuade them as they scored the final goal with 7.21 seconds left in the game.

The Thunderbirds are looking to bounce back from a disappointing 2009–2010 season, which saw them miss the playoffs for the first time in seven years with a 8–19–1 record.

When asked after the game about what improvements the team could make in the future, Jordan White suggested, "Make them beat us rather than us beating ourselves."

– Chantel Colleypriest

'BIRDS BEAT BEARS IN MUST-WIN FOOTBALL GAME

Needing a win to stay alive in the playoff race and down 28–19 late in the fourth quarter, UBC's football team came back to beat the Alberta Golden Bears, scoring two last-minute touchdowns for a 32-28 victory Saturday afternoon. Running back Perry Harder gave UBC the nail-biting victory, running 32 yards for a touchdown with just ten seconds left, ending UBC's four-game losing streak.

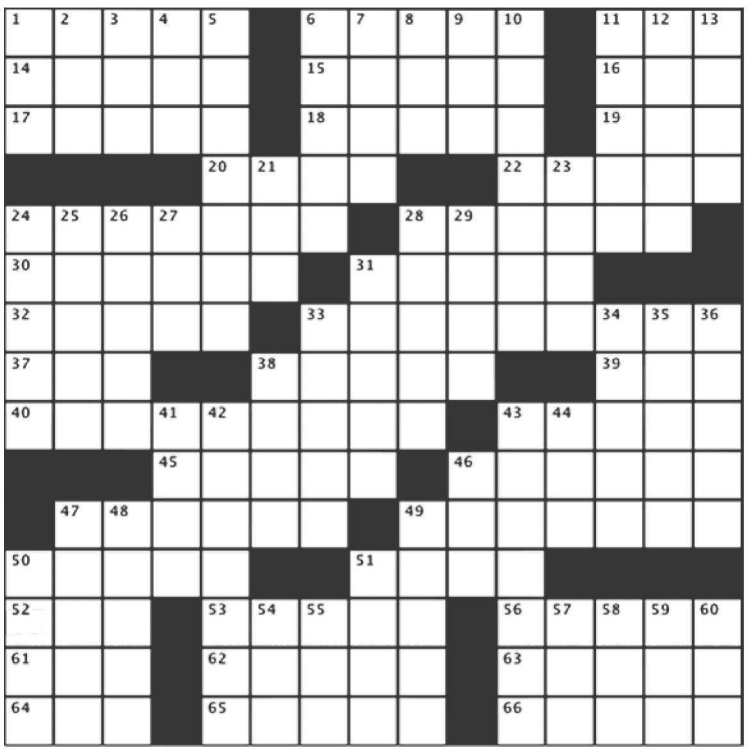
"Our backs were against the wall, the season on the line, and over the last four or five weeks we've eaten enough humble pie, so it's good to get a result that makes us feel good for a few hours," said head coach Shawn Olson after the game.

The win leaves both teams with a 2-4 season record, and keeps UBC in the hunt for the fourth and final playoff spot in the Canada West conference. UBC will face the Saskatchewan Huskies at Thunderbird Stadium next Friday.

- Kai Green

GAMES & COMICS

CROSSWORD



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ACROSS

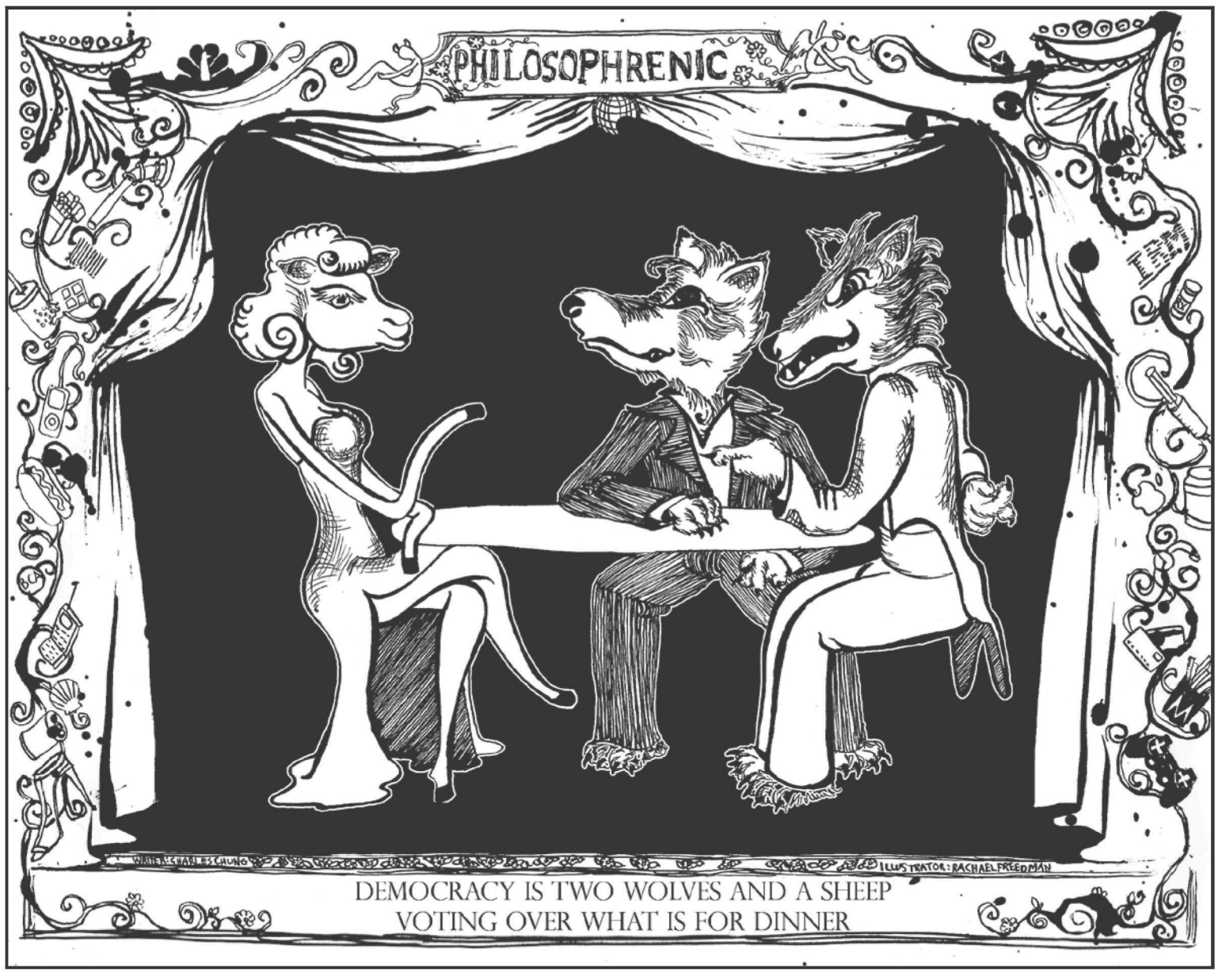
1. Last letter of the Greek alphabet
6. Fine fur
11. Dadaist Jean
14. Lustful deity
15. Judge, e.g.
16. Also
17. Slumbered
18. Gandhi's land
19. Vivant
20. Of high grade
22. Sordid
24. Extend the duration of
28. Grownups
30. Runners-up
31. Baby bird?
32. Expression peculiar to a language
33. Carnival
37. Shoebox letters
38. French film award
39. Baseball stat
40. Witch
43. North African capital
45. Dull
46. Orange root plant
47. Vigor
49. Unite
50. Fantasy genre
51. Slovenly person
52. Cheer for Manolete
53. Muse of lyric poetry
56. Paddled
61. Tic Dough
62. Old Nick
63. Exorbitant rate of interest
64. ___-Foy, Quebec
65. Express gratitude
66. Gives a 9.8, say

DOWN

1. CIA forerunner
2. ___ de mer
3. Hot time in Paris
4. Swindle
5. Structure of an artistic work
6. Sharp pain
7. "Rule Britannia" composer
8. Auction action
9. Wreath of flowers
10. Wiping out
11. Up
12. Chambers
13. Small horse
21. Connections
23. Lodge members
24. Layers
25. Cowboy display
26. Bendable twig, usually of a willow tree
27. "Seinfeld" uncle
28. Gillette razors
29. Active one
31. Fresh
33. Like marshes
34. Artist Rousseau
35. Betelgeuse's constellation
36. Squander
38. Jutting rock
41. Musical staff sign
42. Most strange
43. Embroidery frame
44. Metro area
46. Bill's partner
47. Acclaim
48. Bridget Fonda, to Jane
49. Dull sound of impact
50. Drunkards
51. Ollie's partner
54. Encouraging word
55. Loss leader?
57. Botanist Gray
58. Furrow
59. Before
60. Bad start?

SOLUTION

PHILOSOPHRENIC, BY RACHAEL FREEDMAN AND CHARLES CHUNG



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OPINIONS

DO YOU CARE? WRITE US A LETTER » feedback@ubyssey.ca

EDITORIAL

LET IT BE KNOWN: WE NEED RAPID TRANSIT

For anyone who has been caught in the doors of an at-capacity 99, the idea that UBC is a low transit priority is absurd. Yet Metro Vancouver's regional growth strategy—a draft of which was released this September—places UBC far behind greater Vancouver's outlying suburbs as a priority for transit by 2040.

While it's true that the population of the suburbs, particularly Surrey, is slated to balloon in the coming decades, transit options for the vast majority of students at UBC are wholly inadequate today. Last week, the AMS launched a campaign—UBC Needs Rapid Transit—demanding a Skytrain line to UBC.

We all need to get behind this. Transit use is expected to grow by ten per cent each year, and a train is the only long term solution to UBC's transit woes. At this stage of the game, it's about making it known to Metro Vancouver that UBC needs and wants this. This week, you will be asked to make your voice heard by Metro Van, the mayor and Translink through petitions and emails.

But there's only so much Metro Van can do. Like the Canada Line before it, a line of this size will require massive financial support from the province and a ton of political will. That means even if there's an outpouring of support for this proposal in the next week, it will fizzle if students are not onboard through the whole process. Students need to be vocal at the public hearings in November, and throughout the ensuing lobbying process. And the AMS needs to do its damnedest to stoke the flames.

It will be a long drawn-out process. There will be insufferable bureaucracy and jargon involved. And you will not see the end result. But just remember how shitty it is to have a 99 roll by you on a rainy Monday morning.

CANADA'S UN LOSS REFLECTS CHANGING WORLD

Whither Canada? Where are we going? What do we stand for?

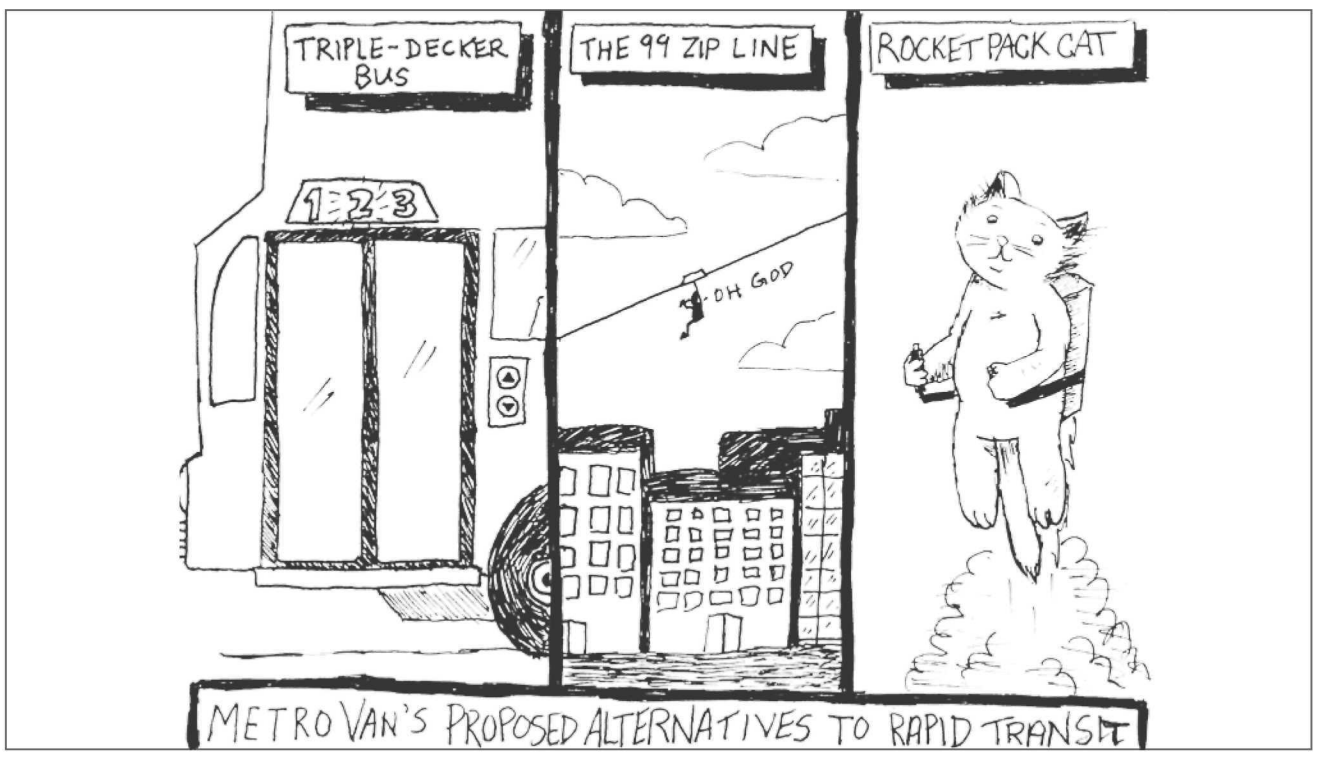
They're those incessant questions asked on the *CBC*, in history classes and during times of national angst. While sometimes idle, feel-good reflection, the answers to these questions often have real world consequences.

They're the questions that are being asked after Canada, we of the large contingent in Afghanistan's most dangerous province, lost out for a UN Security Council seat to Portugal, they of the 80 per cent GDP to debt ratio and rampant unemployment.

Liberals argued the international slap was proof that Stephen Harper's foreign policy is wrong-headed. Conservatives shot back that this was somehow Michael Ignatieff's fault (the stupid answer) or that the UN isn't all that relevant and it's rife with vote-swapping corruption (the slightly less stupid answer, though still stupid because it ignores the fact that the government tried very hard to get the seat). Politically, the only thing it really proves is that having an effective foreign policy with a long-range pragmatic approach in a minority government—in which long-term and pragmatic are fantasy words—is difficult to do.

But this is a disappointment, no doubt. Canadians are very proud of what others think of them (sometimes to a fault), and obligatory jokes about Blake Frederick aside, the United Nations is a decent marker of what the world thinks of it. Anytime you try for something and fail, as Canada did, it isn't a good thing, no matter how you try and spin it.

Many have seized on the fact that Canada hasn't lost a race for a Security Council seat in over 50 years, as though the world has suddenly stopped appreciating Canada. However, the last time Canada actually applied for a security council seat was last century. 1998, to be exact. And at the risk of sounding incredibly cliché, since then The World Has Changed. Look at the countries that got seats this time. South Africa. India. Germany. Colombia. Important, strategic countries with essential roles in today's geo-political game. Not that Canada isn't important as well. Our history, size and values counts for something, yes, but not as much as we might think or hope. But we cannot rest on our laurels, otherwise the next time UN Musical Chairs gets played, we might end up on the sidelines.



BRYCE WARNES GRAPHIC/THE UBYSSEY

OPINIONS

Ahmadian: Students deserve a UBC Line

BIJAN AHMADIAN
AMS President

UBC students need rapid transit now. That's what the AMS's campaign for rapid transit on the Broadway corridor to UBC comes down to. You can help at *www.ubclinenow.com*. So why should you care?

Yesterday's students stood up for our interests, and it's our turn to pay it forward. Affordable, readily available transit is critical to keeping education accessible. UBC students support and use transit, and led the adoption of the Greater Vancouver region-wide U-Pass.

Thanks to our aggressive transit advocacy, UBC transit ridership more than doubled in the last eight years, and grows by ten per cent every year. Trips to and from UBC by transit versus other kinds of transportation increased from 18 to 47 per cent. Studies show that U-Pass users continue to use transit even after graduation. We are building a generation of transit users.

As we wait longer and longer for available bus space, we are victims of our own success. Despite service improvements, 4000 transit riders are left behind by full buses every day. Ultimately, these people will get back in their cars. Without rapid transit on the Broadway Corridor to UBC now, we risk losing momentum on transit use.

Transit riders make more than 100,000 transit trips on the Broadway Corridor every day—more than the Canada Line or the Millennium Line. 44,000 of these trips go all the way to UBC. We need rapid transit now, but it's under threat by Metro Vancouver.

The Provincial Government and TransLink have committed to building the UBC Line. TransLink is conducting technical studies. But Metro Vancouver is trying to undermine rapid transit plans for UBC. Their draft Regional Growth Strategy, released in September, has nothing to say about creating rapid transit for the Broadway Corridor to UBC.

Public comments on the draft Regional Growth Strategy close this Friday, October 22. The plan will then go to a vote in November. That's why the AMS launched our website to help demonstrate support for the UBC Line. In its first five days, the site had more than 5000 visitors. 10,000 people have been invited to the Facebook event by their friends. Two thousand people have used the site to email Metro Vancouver and tell them that we need rapid transit now.

We'll also be advocating directly to municipal, provincial, and federal politicians. This a regional issue. We need to show politicians that UBC students live and vote throughout Metro Vancouver and we will hold our elected officials accountable. UBC students need rapid transit now, and we're tired of waiting quietly. Do your part at *www.ubclinenow.com*.

McElroy: Irish discrimination strikes a nerve

JUSTIN MCELROY
coordinating@ubyssey.ca

In my years writing for *The Ubyssey*, I have been accused, directly or indirectly, of being anti-students, a future convict, a Liberal hack, an aspiring CanWest columnist and a degrader of women. But never a racist. Or a wanker. Until now.

"A piece of advice, watch what you write, because such a slanderous, racist and delusional article such as this could cause you to be removed from UBYSSEY. Who knows, it could open your eyes to life outside the confines of your racist and bigoted existence. Isn't McElroy an Irish name....."

It's official: I'm one of them self-hating Irish. For those unaware, last week I wrote a piece about the hundreds of Irish visitors who live in and around UBC in the summer. After talking to dozens of people over the course of many weeks in July and August, I discovered a few things.

The RCMP are frustrated by the amount of time they spend dealing with petty damage and excessive drinking caused by these visitors, and are actively working with fraternities and landlords to combat the issue. Two of the fraternities have seemingly reached their breaking point, and were reviewing their rental policy. That one nationality had acquired such a reputation at UBC due to the actions, year after year, of some of their brethren was a story worth sharing. So I shared it.

Of course, some people didn't enjoy finding this out. Our website has been flooded with visitors from the Emerald Isle, most of whom were less than complimentary.

"If the word "Irish" in these two quotes was replaced with the name of another ethnic group, such as Asians or Africans, would these quotes have been published?," asked one commenter.

"I got to know quite a few of 'the Irish,' both exchange students and those staying for the summer and they all mentioned the discrimination they faced right from the beginning. My landlord even refused to let me sublet to an Irish student who I already knew. If that's not racism, I'm not sure what is," said another.

These are fair questions. Is discrimination against young Irish vacationers racism, no matter what the justification? Is any sort of discrimination justified? These are issues for the community to sort out, and hopefully this article—and the response—will help spur that. Because the current situation isn't tenable.

I also wrote at the end of the piece, "The problem isn't really about the Irish, though they're the face of it. It's what happens when parcels of UBC become a summer vacation destination for the same group of people, year after year."

If hundreds of students from any country came to the same place annually and enough of them caused a ruckus, it would create a conflict. The unavoidable fact is that it happens at UBC. With the Irish. And no amount of sugar-coating or accusations of racism will make that fact go away.

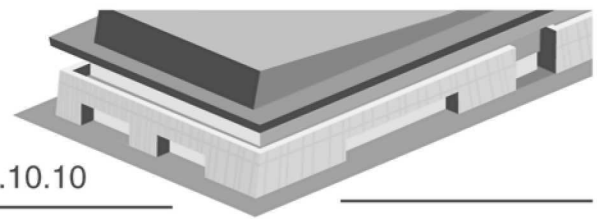
OUR CAMPUS

MICKI COWAN
mcowan@ubyssey.ca

The now famous UBC Apple Festival celebrated its 20th year on October 16-17. The festival itself has seen high growth in the years since it started. Founders Margaret Charleton and Anne Gartshore couldn't be more thrilled about its success. "My inspiration was that we were growing apples and that was a way to get people to come to the garden in the fall. It's just taken off, it's amazing," said Charleton. Starting with around only 4000lbs of apples and losing money in its first two years, the festival has grown to ten times its original size and is expected to sell out of the almost 40,000lbs of apples brought in for this year's festival. Proceeds from the festival go towards the garden itself, with the Friends of the Garden (FOG) volunteers making it all possible.

GEOFF LISTER PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

ams student society | Insider weekly
a weekly look at what's new at your student society 18.10.10



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October 21, Biltmore Cabaret

Library Voices
October 29, Pit Pub UBC

Woodhands
November 9, Pit Pub UBC

Dan Mangan
November 11, Vogue Theatre

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Where: SUB Conversation Pit (main level)
For more info, go to mynewsub.com
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Application closing date is Friday, October 29, 2010.

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