

THE

Novmber since 1918

UBYSSEY

UBC sinks in *Maclean's* ratings

by Parminder Nizher
NEWS STAFF

With the release of *Maclean's* magazine's 12th annual survey of Canadian universities last week, UBC's hopes of being the number one university in the Medical/Doctoral section vanished. Overnight UBC plummeted from the second-place ranking it held for three years to a placement of number five.

Michelle Aucoin, executive coordinator for vice-president, students, commented on the ranking. "I think to say that we're disappointed would be accurate, and yet we are a very ambitious university that is excellent and we're pursuing excellence."

"We'll take this ranking as an opportunity to look at some of those areas we didn't do so well on comparatively and look at ways that we can improve. It's an opportunity but we are certainly disappointed," she said.

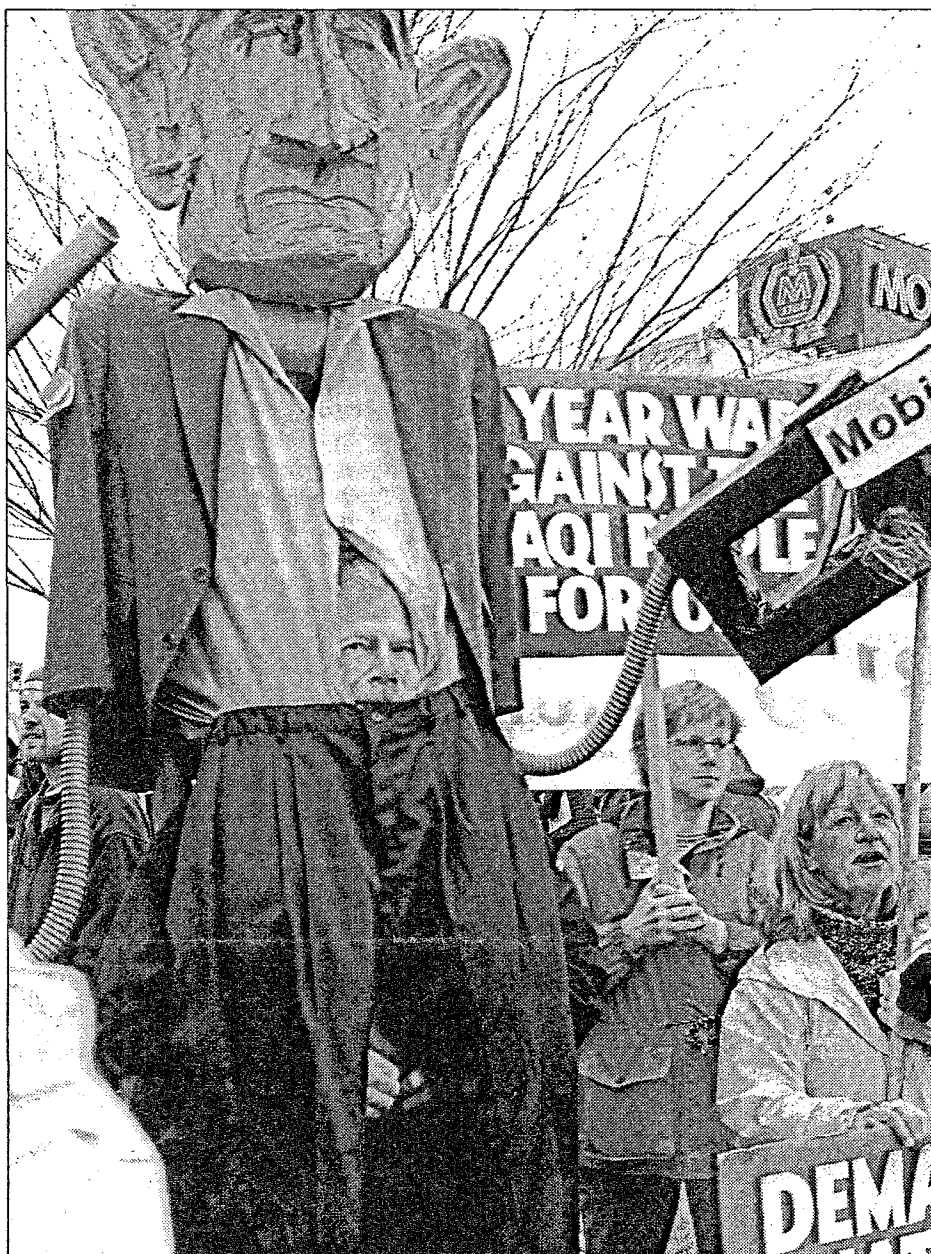
Larger class sizes, soaring admission requirements and a low operating budget—which comes directly from the provincial government—all play a major part in UBC's ranking, said the *Maclean's* report.

"The class sizes, in all levels—first- and second-year and third- and fourth-year—in terms of keeping those classes small (as compared to its peers), [UBC] fell. The biggest [factor] would be the class size indicator," said the author of the study, Ann Dowsett Johnson.

See "Fifth" on page 2.

Vancouver marches for peace

by Chris Shepherd
NEWS EDITOR



IS THAT A MAN IN YOUR PANTS? A protestor peers out of his Bush puppet.
AHMAD SYED PHOTO

Several thousand people from all walks of life hit Vancouver's streets Sunday to show their opposition to the potential US-led war on Iraq.

Parents, with children in tow, students, business people, union members, First Nations people, politicians (including Vancouver's newly-elected mayor, Larry Campbell) and the Raging Grannies all marched over the Burrard Street Bridge from Peace Flame Park to meet up with a similar march coming from the Sea Bus Terminal downtown.

The mood of the crowd was buoyant, despite a steady drizzle that did not let up until the end of the day's event. A carnival band helped to keep the atmosphere positive as the crowd walked, and one protester, dressed as the devil with an American flag, provided some humour as he cried for "Bombs for peace!"

The two marches joined at Nelson street and made their way to Sunset Beach. There, the crowd was entertained by a band that performed music with anti-war, anti-Gordon-Campbell-government and anti-Bush-administration lyrics, while the rest of the marchers made their way into the park adjacent to Sunset Beach. The Vancouver Parks Board allowed the event to be held at the park for free, although groups are usually charged.

Once the majority of the crowd was at the park, speakers began to give speeches about Iraq and the issues surrounding the potential war led by the US.

Jef Keighley, a representative from the Canadian Autoworkers Union, introduced the speakers and also spoke of the beginning of the anti-war movement in the 1960s in reaction to US carpet bombing of North Korea. It wasn't until the 1970s, Keighley said, during the Vietnam War when "the anti-war movement became a potent political force and was one of the main reasons forcing the United States to recognise defeat and withdraw from Vietnam."

"We're not waiting for this war to start!" Keighley proclaimed to a cheering crowd.

Keighley also described the purpose of the day's event. "We're here by our numbers, by our voices, to say no to the war on the Iraqi people," Keighley explained.

"We're saying no to sending young Canadian, or American, or British men and women to fight an unjust,

See "March" on page 2.

Banner weekend for Birds



FIVE ALIVE: Sheila Townsend, UBC's top point guard, dishes out the ball. Both UBC teams swept TWU this weekend. See pages 9 and 11. KRIS MEZYSKI PHOTO

THIS ISSUE:

NEWS FLASH: Tuition skyrockets again?

UBC begins consultations. Page 3.



CULTURE: Vancouver Underground Film Festival!

Previews and reviews galore! Pages 5-7.

THIS FRIDAY:

FEATURE: Credible threat

The intersection of environmental and national security.

FEEDBACK@UBYSSEY.BC.CA
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Retired prof to represent UBC on GVRD board

by Kathleen Deering
NEWS EDITOR

With most of Vancouver focused on electing a new civic government for the past month, students living in UBC residences shouldn't forget they have their own new leader to govern their electoral area.

Gary Gibson, a retired dentist and former assistant professor of Dentistry at UBC, won the single-candidate race to become Electoral Area A (EAA) director for the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD).

Gibson admits he is a political novice and said he has never been to a GVRD meeting, but acknowledges the importance of his new job. "I only have one vote on the board," he said, "but I think it's going to be an important vote to properly represent the people who live in these outlying areas."

EAA covers unincorporated regions of the GVRD—inhabited pieces of the region that are not represented by municipal governments, and therefore not governed by mayors and councillors. Besides the UBC campus and the University Endowments Lands, these isolated chunks include Indian Arm, the west side of Howe Sound Islands with the exclusion of Lion's Bay, Barnston Island on the Fraser River, the Pitt Polder area and the west side of Pitt Lake.

Gibson's new duties will include attending monthly

See "Gibson" on page 2.

CLASSIFIEDS

Announcement

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THE UBYSSY

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"March" from page 1.

immoral war that should never get started," he added.

"And we're saying yes to a peaceful resolution in the Middle East."

Jim Sinclair, president of the BC Federation of Labour spoke next. "Saddam Hussein should be held accountable for his crimes, but bombing the people of Iraq will do nothing but hurt the people of Iraq," he exhorted to a cheering crowd.

Another speaker was Svend Robinson, NDP MP for Burnaby-Douglas, who recently spoke to UBC students about the war on Iraq.

Robinson reiterated his belief

that the Bush Administration had ulterior motives for wanting a war on Iraq.

"The real agenda of George Bush is getting control of the second largest oil reserves in the world, in Iraq," he said.

The speeches lasted until around 2:30pm, but the crowd had begun to thin out before then, due to the intermittent drizzle that lasted throughout the day.

Police presence was minimal at Sunday's event, being limited to ensuring that marchers and traffic did not conflict as the march wound its way through the downtown streets. ♦

"Fifth" from page 1.

During 2001-2002 UBC received \$481.9 million in government grants and contracts from the provincial government, a number that is not meeting the funding needs for undergraduate students.

For the past three years UBC took a total of 2995 unfunded undergraduates—students for whom the university receives no government grant money.

UBC's entrance marks are soaring because of an increase in applications by interested students. With the acceptance of extra students class sizes are increasing.

"It's a provincial issue, there's no question about that," began Aucoin. "The question as how do we as a university work to meet that demand and how do we work with [the] government—clearly government is an important player in solving the issue."

BC also has the lowest number of university spaces per capita. Currently there are 65,000 university spaces in BC. To meet Ontario's numbers BC would have to add 55,000 seats.

"SFU has also declined in the rankings [so] I think it presents a wider problem for post-secondary education," said Alma Mater Society (AMS) President Kristen Harvey. "The BC government needs to respond and they need to respond in the form of additional core funding."

Harvey added.

Harvey noted that in an online survey the AMS carried out last year, students indicated class sizes were a large concern. She said that clearly the problem is still there if it resulted in the UBC's current standing in Maclean's survey.

A source told the Ubyssy that Public Relations was spending money on radio and print advertisement throughout the country to sway Maclean's surveyors.

Public Relations Director Scott McCrae felt this is an inaccurate rendering of the advertising. "We did a series of radio and print advertisements nationally that talked about the value of the students who have come from UBC. What they're skilled in and why the education they've had here would make them suitable for employers to look at."

He also said UBC placed two advertisements thanking the provincial and federal government for contributions they had made to UBC. McCrae estimated the total cost of advertising was a little over \$100,000.

Johnson said that regardless of UBC's standing in the ranking it is an excellent university.

"[UBC] is a tremendous university, and it's key to the future of a fabulous region of Canada. I think Martha Piper is doing a tremendous job in many ways. I trust and I know that she is doing a magnificent job with UBC." ♦

"Gibson" from page 1.

GVRD board and committee meetings. There he will represent people who live in EAA, and bring their concerns to the GVRD board.

"The director is sort of a politician," said outgoing director Tom Blom, a former English professor at UBC, "and people contact the director if they have concerns. And the job of the director is to address those concerns and if possible make them right."

But Tara Learn, Alma Mater Society (AMS) vice-president, administration, feels that the representation provided by a director rather than a mayor on the GVRD board may not be enough to serve the needs of the thousands of students at UBC.

"The biggest thing here at UBC is that we have so many students living on campus and yet there's no real representation within the GVRD except for this one person," she said. "So they not only are the voice of UBC students to the GVRD, but also to Translink and all those types of things that are really important to us."

She said she'd love to see UBC become a municipality. "As we grow and develop communities that aren't just students...we need a democratic way to make decisions on campus."

Describing EAA as a grab-bag region, Blom said making the entire area a municipality would be difficult.

"I think it would be very hard to have an elected mayor with a council because this is an enormous geographical area," said Blom. "And the people in the various parts in EAA have strikingly different issues."

At UBC, Blom deals with issues relating to market housing. He said the GVRD oversees the planning developments at UBC and makes sure they are done appropriately. "The main relationship between GVRD and UBC is over...the various neighbourhood plans that are being developed because GVRD is in effect the planning authority for UBC," he said.

As well, the water on the UBC campus comes through the Greater Vancouver water district and the sewage that flows out passes through the Greater Vancouver sewage groups, said Blom.

Blom said the job is time consuming, but that it was a wonderful experience for him. Gibson will take over after an inaugural swearing-in of the new members of the GVRD board in early December. Gibson said he is already receiving phone calls from constituents.

"It will be an interesting time and a huge learning curve too, on my part," said Gibson. ♦

"The People's Campbell"



BREAK OUT THE BROOMS, IT'S A SWEEP! "I got here so quickly that all I know is we elected everybody," said Vancouver Mayor-elect Larry Campbell (above, left) Saturday night after his party, the Coalition of Progressive Electors (COPE), swept Vancouver's civic elections, electing all of their candidates. Campbell, whose party is said to have benefitted from a 50 per cent voter turnout, is COPE's first successful mayoral candidate since the party's inception 34 years ago. The newly-minted City Council (only three of its 11 members have experience on council) has promised to tackle homelessness, poverty and drug problems in the Downtown Eastside, transit and the city's 2010 Olympics bid. "It sends a message to Victoria," said MP Svend Robinson, who attended the post-election festivities at Library Square, "that the people of Vancouver are standing up for a quality public service environment and that we reject [Premier Gordon] Campbell's right-wing agenda." **DUNCAN M. McHUGH PHOTO**

Library hosts research symposium

by Krista McFadden
NEWS STAFF

An eLibrary symposium entitled "Research, Collaboration and the Digital Library: Visions for 2010," was hosted at Main Library last Thursday and dealt with issues of employing digital technology for research communities.

Speakers and panelists discussed ways in which digital storage, communication and publication could benefit academic libraries and researchers, by facilitating unconstrained sharing of knowledge. Director of Bootstrap Alliance—a company that helps research communities develop ways to share information—and inventor of the mouse, Douglas Engelbart, and Clifford Lynch, director of the Coalition for Networked Information were keynote speakers for the event.

"How do you increase mankind's collective ability to deal with complex problems?" asked Engelbart. "Whenever you have a community of people dedicated to trying to cope

with some difficult issue...how can you start evolving better and better capabilities for them to solve that problem?" These were the main questions that drove Engelbart's career and the ones that he dealt with in his speech.

According to Engelbart, access to a coherent and malleable body of knowledge, which he calls a "dynamic knowledge repository," is the key to facilitating work done by research communities.

Digital research technology allows researchers not only to access knowledge quickly and efficiently, but also to build and add to the existing knowledge almost instantaneously, minus lengthy publication time, Engelbart said.

At present, UBC's library is involved in an initiative to make learning object repositories available campus-wide. What this means is that students will have greater access to research materials beyond those provided in their ordinary course streams.

"We're very interested in looking at how the library can support the

changes in teaching and learning and the changes in research," said Martha Whitehead, head of Information Services at UBC.

"We are looking at how easy it is to connect from your online courses to the digital materials available in the library, we're interested in trying to make that more seamless," she added.

Whitehead also stated that online portal access was a great concern. Through the myUBC website students can also access myLibrary which, said Whitehead, "allows students to tailor [research material] to their particular needs."

Whitehead revealed that UBC's Library is hoping to create a research program from the information gathered at the symposium that will support the creation of new knowledge as well as improve accessibility to archived information.

How does this affect UBC students? "Easier access," answered Whitehead, "I think that's the key thing. [Digital information technology] really expands the opportunity for learning." ♦

UBC scraps deferred exam fee proposal

by Chris Shepherd
NEWS EDITOR

The university has withdrawn a proposed fee for deferred exams in response to concerns raised by various campus groups during the consultation process.

The proposed fee was for students to pay \$30 for a deferred exam—they currently pay no fee. The deferred exam fee was part of a larger proposal that covered increases to about 20 non-instructional fees the university collects from students.

Other non-instructional fees include application fees (which increased to \$60 from \$22) and transcript fees (which increased to six dollars from four).

Alma Mater Society (AMS) President Kristen Harvey was happy with the university's response to concerns raised by the various groups consulted.

"We're very pleased that they had an open and transparent process that allowed students...to comment on the non-instructional fee proposal," Harvey said. "Students were able to comment and it actually resulted in a change in the proposal. We're very pleased with that."

The AMS had concerns specifically about the proposed deferred exam fee because they felt that it would be penalising students for something beyond their control, something the AMS felt was unjustifiable.

Michelle Aucoin, the executive coordinator for the vice president, students office, also believed the resulting change in the proposed fee showed the university's dedication to consultation.

"I think the Office of the Vice President, Students, has been pretty open, in terms of consulting with the student leadership and students on issues that affect students," Aucoin said.

The AMS also had concerns about the university's claim of a demonstrated need for the increase in fees, citing that the AMS was not provided information regarding the university's budget.

"If the university is going for a cost recovery model, why is the increase exponentially higher than [the Canadian Price Index]?" Said Harvey.

While the AMS was happy with the deferred exam fee outcome, it still has concerns about UBC's commitment to future consultation about non-instructional fees.

"It's been dealt with for this year, which is not to say that next year the university could make some proposed changes to non-instructional fees," said Harvey.

Harvey said the AMS has tried to make some suggestions regarding non-instructional fees in a university working group that is creating policy 71—a university policy that defines how UBC must consult with students regarding tuition and mandatory fee changes.

The university has not been open to those suggestions, Harvey said.

"I'm concerned that in the long-term...the work that we accomplished this round will be forgotten in the future," she said.

The AMS and other student groups are not completely satisfied

with the proposal for policy 71 that has been submitted to the university's Board of Governors (BoG).

Aucoin says that there is a scope of consultation that is expected with mandatory fees because it affects all students. Non-instructional fees are not included because they are only

implemented when individual students request the associated services.

"The fees that are identified in policy 71 relate specifically to all fees that all students have to pay," Aucoin explained.

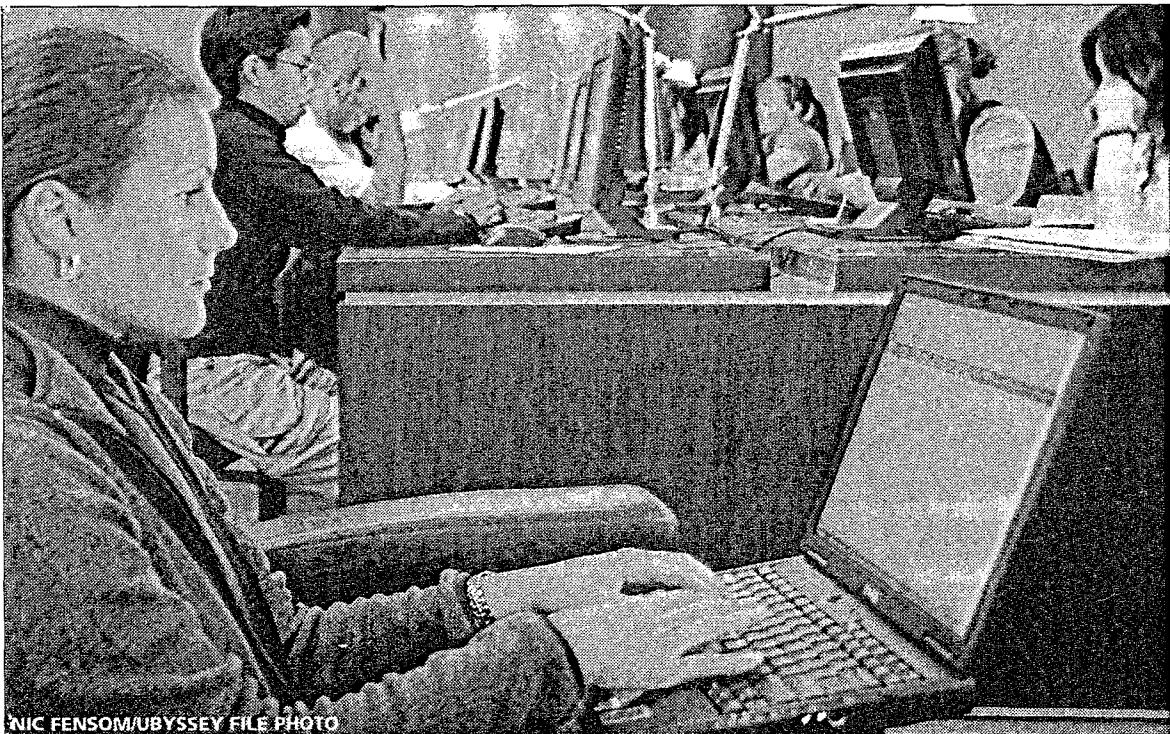
The new fees were approved by UBC President Martha Piper November 7 and while they are said to be made effective immediately, students will not be paying them until the university makes various adjustments to the departments associated with the fees.

Associate Vice President and Registrar Brian Silzer does not believe that all fees will be implemented at the same time. "I think some things we're positioned to do fairly quickly and we'll just change the rates and that will be that," he said.

Silzer added that his office is waiting until the BoG has seen the new fee schedule before taking any concrete actions. ♦



HARVEY



NIC FENSOM/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO

Tuition increase for next year

At a meeting of the Arts Undergraduate Society, Vice President, Students, Brian Sullivan made a presentation describing proposals for tuition increases for next year that will total almost \$800—a total increase of 30 per cent to \$115.30 per credit.

The report's conclusions are based on factors like decreased governmental funding and new

expense considerations for the 2003-04 year.

Sullivan could not be reached by press time for comment.

Discussions between students and the university regarding these important issues will take place at the AMS council meeting Wednesday night at 6pm, in SUB 206, as well as at Thursday's Science Undergraduate Society meeting. Students are invited to attend and listen.

As well, students are encouraged to watch for full details in Friday's issue of *the Ubyssy*. ♦



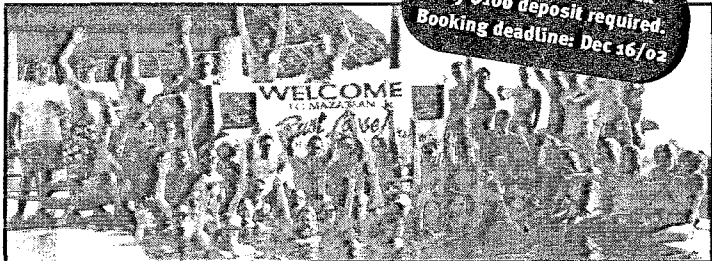
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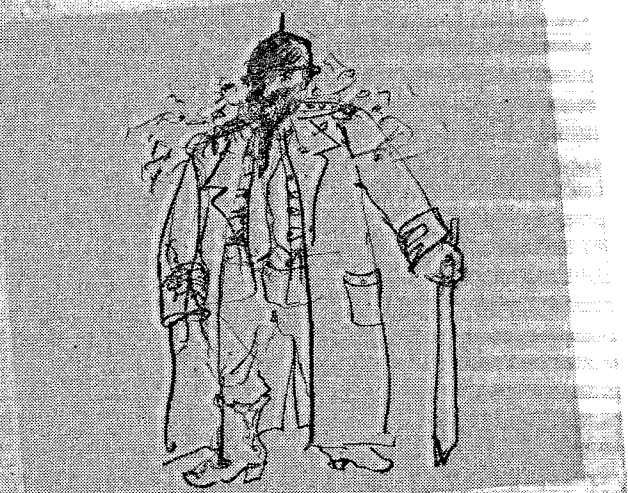
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UBC grad wins Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership

Fellowship to go toward second degree

by Sarah Leach
NEWS WRITER

UBC grad and First Nations activist Kelly Brown was honoured on November 13 with the second annual Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership at Ecotrust's Jean Vollum Natural Capital Centre in Portland, Oregon.

The Buffett Award is conferred by Ecotrust, a non-profit organisation, and pays tribute to aboriginal leaders and entrepreneurs whose work has enriched the social, environmental and economic conditions of Native communities.

"Kelly Brown has a track record of innovative community service and environmental and political advocacy," said Ecotrust Canada Vice President Nina Winham. "We are honoured to have the opportunity to work with him."

Brown, who was recognised for his achievements as an educator and negotiator in the areas of cultural restoration and conservation, plans to use the \$25,000 fellowship to continue his work on Native title issues and to pursue a second

degree in Aboriginal law.

A recently elected member of the Heiltsuk Tribal Council, Brown graduated from UBC alongside his mother, Elizabeth, in 1993, with a Bachelor of Education through the Native Indian Teacher Education Program.

"I still have strong ties with UBC," said Brown. "My UBC education has enabled me to move forward with these projects. But I'm also lucky enough to have been taught by tribal elders. This is a life-long education for me."

Brown's achievements include six years as a senior negotiator for the Heiltsuk Tribal Council where he initiated and engaged in treaty negotiations with the government on a provincial and federal level. This led to the development of the Heiltsuk Cultural Landscape Assessment, a research methodology framework that helped underpin Heiltsuk rights to the territory.

This experience sharpened his awareness of the need for aboriginal people to take a leadership role in environmental causes.

"For too long we've been reactive," Brown said. "It's time to start being proactive and use the knowledge we've accumulated to make things happen. We know this stuff. Aboriginal people are conservationists first."

In the past year, Brown, 43, has invested much of his time in the creation of the Heiltsuk-led cedar pro-

tection strategy, a set of land-use guidelines that reflect the objectives of the Heiltsuk Tribal Council in the conservation and harvesting of cedar in Heiltsuk territory.

Brown has also used his expertise in the area of land-rights negotiation to support the indigenous Ainu people of Japan in their quest for self-determination. "My family and I have made a lifelong commitment to this relationship (with the Ainu)," said Brown.

Brown passes on credit for the award to his family, the Heiltsuk Nation and Ecotrust Canada. "Without their support, without the trust Ecotrust Canada placed in the Heiltsuk Nation, I wouldn't be able to do this work," he said.

Financed by Peter and Howard Buffett, the award is open to First Nation members over the age of 35 who work within the coastal temperate rainforest region from Alaska to San Francisco.

Elizabeth Woody, special advisor to Ecotrust and member of the Warm Springs Confederated Tribes of Oregon, said that what distinguishes the Buffett Awards is that it is not a typical grantee/grantor relationship.

"It's not just a matter of conferring an award," she said. "Ecotrust works with recipients for a full year and beyond to help them achieve their vision. They are chosen on the strength of that vision...and we help make it happen." ♦

E-waste sent overseas

Report claims Canada ships hazardous electronic waste to China

by Anna King
COPY EDITOR

An American non-profit group has recently released a report claiming Canada is exporting tens of thousands of tonnes of toxic electronic waste to Asia, in violation of an international treaty.

Released October 22, the Basel Action Network's (BAN) report said the Canadian government is ignoring the Basel Convention, which prohibits the movement of hazardous waste from rich to poor nations, and which was signed by Canada in 1989.

Electronic waste, known as E-waste, includes computer hard drives and monitors, TVs, phones, circuit boards and fax machines. E-waste is frequently shipped abroad by local exporters and the components are taken apart to be recycled. Parts are also, BAN alleges, burned or dumped in landfills or rivers.

Toxins including lead, mercury, polyvinyl chloride and others that can escape from E-waste have been shown to be damaging to human health and the environment.

The BAN report estimates 20,000 tonnes of E-waste will be exported from Canada to Asia in 2002.

Suzanne Leppinen, head of the export-import section of the Transboundary Movement Branch with Environment Canada, says the material BAN is referring to is not hazardous waste, according to Canadian standards.

"If it was shredded and could leach heavy metals, it would be considered hazardous waste...if it's a whole intact computer it's not considered hazardous waste," Leppinen said.

The BAN report, however, says that according to the Basel Convention, materials that contain and have the potential to leach heavy metals—even before being exported—should be considered hazardous waste. "[Otherwise], well-packaged pure PCBs, asbestos or pure

dioxin would fail to qualify as hazardous waste," the report states.

The report also points to specific sections of the Convention that state glass waste from cathode-ray tubes (a component of computer monitors) is presumed to be hazardous waste.

BAN Toxics Policy Analyst Richard Gutierrez further points out that, under the Basel Convention, countries are prevented from exporting material receiving countries classify as hazardous.

China, one of the major receivers of Canadian E-waste, made public statements in April 2000 banning the import of hazardous E-waste. Gutierrez says China has also notified the Basel Secretariat of the ban.

Environment Canada, on the other hand, denies knowledge of a ban. "We have not officially been notified of a ban by China," said Leppinen. "We have followed up with the competent authority in China to get that information but we haven't been officially notified of a specific ban."

The Chinese consulate could not be reached by press time to comment on the existence of a ban.

Meanwhile, a Vancouver electronics recycling company that has exported E-waste to China for years says the facts BAN is using are out-of-date. Jim Donaldson, director of marketing at Electronics-Recycling.com, said for the past five years China has been addressing the environmental and health problems associated with E-waste by upgrading its recycling facilities.

Donaldson said potentially by the new year, China will have recycling facilities with some of the highest standards in the world. "All the concerns will be met. [China] has rectified their standards [to be] higher than the US Environmental Protection Agency and Canada's standards," he said.

Gutierrez is skeptical. "It's easy to upgrade standards, but it's another thing to upgrade all the facilities and working conditions, and to enforce these standards."

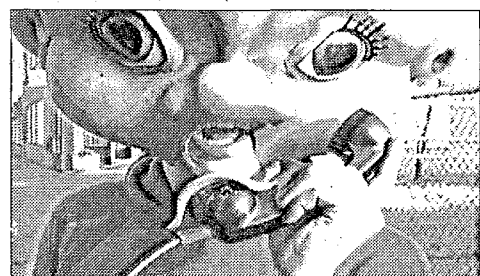
So, what's to be done with used electronic equipment? Gutierrez said, if possible, individuals should hold on to it for now, unless, as is true for some Sony and Hewlett-Packard components, the manufacturer will recycle it. Soon, BAN plans to design a 'pledge of true stewardship' that recycling companies can adopt to show they don't ship waste overseas. ♦

Not made in Hollywood

Vancouver Underground Film Festival
at the Blinding Light!! Cinema
Nov. 21 to 24

by Bryan Zandberg
CULTURE WRITER

Following a particularly nasty experience at an odious Cineplex Odeon last Friday (where I paid \$11 to be advertised at), it was welcome news to hear that the fifth annual Vancouver Underground Film Festival (VUFF) is to descend upon the Blinding Light!! Cinema starting this Thursday. Showcasing a heap of recent local, Canadian and American work,



this year's festival has an exciting and diverse lineup that will be sure to coax any indie film buff out of the woodwork.

Initiated by festival director and Blinding Light!! owner Alex MacKenzie, both the VUFF and his cinema were created "in tandem" five years back. At the time, MacKenzie had wanted a venue for the underground film scene because "there was a lot of work out there that was unrepresented—tons of stuff that was not getting seen," he says.

Since their inauguration, both the festival and the Blinding Light!! have become key components in Vancouver's independent film scene, which, according to MacKenzie, is bustling. The philosophy behind both the festival and the cinema is simple: "They create a refreshing alternative to the mainstream direct" says MacKenzie. "Artists can make films straight from the gut, strictly as an artistic imperative, with no mediator that involves money. People are doing it because they believe in it."

Some of this year's highlights promise to be entertaining, if not illegal. I'm thinking in



particular about the 'guerrilla events' which will be going on throughout the weekend. The first, called 'Random Huge Projections,' is a series of unlicensed seven-storey projections to be unleashed upon the unsuspecting walls of prominent Vancouver high-rises. You can fluke out and happen to witness these "screenings", or call the Blinding Light!! to get times and locations (604-878-3366). Another guerrilla screening, of sorts, is local artists Matt Smith and Arvind Dhadhami's 'Artist-Run Limo,' a white stretch limo that will ferry you around for free while you watch their film,

shot between Vancouver and Brooklyn, NY.

And of course there will be screenings of the regular festival material on all four evenings of the festival. Topics range as widely as the lengths of the films, which last anywhere from three to 40 minutes. I had the pleasure of previewing one of the longer films, *Manchild Revealed* by American filmmaker Ted Jackson. It's the (true?) story of an artist, Justin Callway, who suffers the stigma of a genetic defect which makes him stink like dead fish. Wearing a giant prosthetic baby's head, Callway demonstrates his anguish by sabotaging the city with carefully-placed slices of rotting bologna. With band The Manchild Four, Callway's top 40 music dreams are consistently thwarted due to his vocal inabilities. It's an amusing game of sorting fact from fiction, of discovering how much of Callway's persona is play, and how much is real.

So check it out! The full festival roster is available on-line at www.blindinglight.com. With the festival's mix of film, after-show parties, and live events, the VUFF is guaranteed entertainment, indie-style. ♦



Hacks past dead

Seagal and Ja Rule
team up to
beat a dead
genre senseless

HALF PAST DEAD
now playing

by Matt Whalley
CULTURE WRITER

Half Past Dead is an action film starring Steven Seagal as Sasha and Ja Rule as Nick Frazier. The film is plagued with amateur acting faults that could not be overshadowed by even the most moving of scenes. As far as rappers in film go, Ja Rule wouldn't have made it past the first audition for The Fat Boys' 1989 "hip-hop opera," *On and On*. Ja Rule floats through the role, embracing stereotypes of the young African-American who can't keep himself from the wrong side of the law. Not since watching the documentary *Flicka Enraged: A Story of Korean Horse Fighting*, have I seen such pure violence portrayed on-screen. Some scenes were better than others, though, with a mixture of comedy and drama interspersing the gunplay.

One well-directed and acted portion of the film is a dance competition, but the rape of an inmate that happens afterward is inexcusable. A well-muscled man assaults another inmate, while Ja Rule looks on as he showers close by. Surprisingly, in this ill-fitted scene, Ja Rule's performance comes to its pinnacle, as he was heartbroken by what he witnessed.

The shower was an obvious metaphor for purification that wasn't able to mend his feelings. In a fit of passion and anger Ja Rule lashes out, smashing his fist into the porcelain tile and moaning, "They said it wasn't going to be like this."

The drama in *Half Past Dead* was balanced with witty dialogue and tomfoolery. The most striking mixture of comedy and drama comes when Ja Rule confronts an enraged Steven Seagal in the exercise yard. There seemed to be an argument between Seagal and another inmate over the legitimacy of certain birth control methods. On seeing that a fight was going to break out, Ja Rule grabs Seagal, the larger and more aggressive of the two, and throws him to the ground. While Seagal is on the ground Rule pulls his penis from inside of his pants and begins urinating on Seagal. The scene concludes with a close-up on Ja Rule, demanding that Seagal "cool off."

This element of humour is key in keeping the film light and upbeat. As with most prison films, this same kind of light-heartedness could have been achieved by introducing some female roles. Really, that is the most disappointing aspect of the film. I saw all sorts of holes in the plot that would have allowed for women to be snuck into the prison.

The flaws in *Half Past Dead* are obvious and numerous but it is a provocative film. Leaving the theatre, one is overcome by curiosity. The lives of the prisoners in the film are dynamic and well-developed. The morbidly obese prisoner who is allowed to play video game golf throughout his waking hours summed up the film simply: "Everyday we die a little, every day God takes just a bit more; but that's why we are here, because we are hard to the core." ♦

Miles of talent

Eminem a double threat

8 MILE
now playing

by John Hua
CULTURE STAFF

Marshall Mathers—excuse me, Eminem—just made a movie: *8 Mile*. It's about some guy named Bunny Rabbit, not the real Slim Shady. Yeah, he's also from Detroit—Mo-town, the three-one-three. Still ain't the real Slim Shady though! The character's name is Jimmy, Jimmy Smith. The umpire calls it: the flick's a real home run hitter. Eminem succeeds, where Mariah failed with *Glitter*.

Please pay particular attention to the last statement, my pathetic attempt to rhyme. *8 Mile* does indeed follow the template used by most music artists turned actors; multi-platinum recording artist Eminem stars as a young man, not unlike himself, who has to take hold of his one shot to get out of the slums of Detroit. Eminem remains stern in his statements that this film is not biographical, but rather symbolic.

The story takes place in 1995, and the streets of inner-city Detroit are littered with poverty and hopelessness. The youth of the city turn to dead-end jobs, mischief and rap to escape their dim realities. Among them is Jimmy Smith Jr (Eminem), who has occupied his time with every escape listed above. Monikered Bunny Rabbit, Jimmy leads a stagnant and mundane life. He travels the beaten path with his "313" crew, which includes his guiding light—David Porter, aka Future

(played by Mekhi Phifer). Suffering continuous trials from his mother (Kim Basinger), girlfriend (Brittany Murphy), rival gangs, and especially himself, Jimmy has to hit absolute bottom before he can psychologically begin to gain in life. He chooses to use his only skill, rap, as his medium.

The Gotham-like setting of inner city Detroit highlights the hopelessness of Rabbit's situation. In desperation to better his life and that of his mother and little sister Lily, Rabbit has to choose, from two equally unpromising options, a course for his career.

Eminem's performance was by no means a stretch, as he plays an angry stone-faced character whose background is, if not biographical, then allegorical of the actor's. However, his transition from vinyl to celluloid is surprisingly seamless and graceful. A character in himself, Eminem seems right at home in the dark film, which displays both his acting, and of course, lyrical genius. Kim Basinger's performance was the only major hindrance of the film, due to her horrid Kansas-city accent and lack of personality. Basinger does not seem to absorb herself in the role, wasting an opportunity to demonstrate her acting prowess with a character so far removed from herself.

Overall, the film was quite impressive, continuously drawing the audience, who were biting their knuckles at the quips and disses. *8 Mile* will only further Eminem's popularity, proving he can "flip the script on this shit," which he does both with his lyrics and acting. ♦



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Porno more than satisfying

Author of *Trainspotting* still has it

PORNO
 by Irvine Welsh
 [Jonathan Cape Books]

by Lars Goeller
 CULTURE WRITER

When it's called *Porno*, its cover is a photo of a packaged blow-up doll, and Irvine Welsh wrote it, you buy it. This man with a talent for compelling writing, creating disturbing images and dealing with interesting topics is back. Back to Leith, Scotland with characters from his books *Trainspotting* and *Glue*. In an interview with Jian Ghomeshi of the CBC TV show *PLAY*, Irvine Welsh said, "Like the first time you had sex, you wish you'd sorta taken your time and enjoyed it a bit more," on the topic of deciding to write a new book in the

series. And he has named it *Porno*. The thing is, Welsh points out that this book isn't that different from *Trainspotting*, and it's true: he's written another graphic and personal look at an intense group of people. It's just that this time they make pornography instead of shooting heroin. "It was something that was underground but becoming more mainstream...it can never become kind of totally mainstream, but a pornographic sensibility has become mainstream now that you've got all this reality and humiliation TV, it's like pornography with the sex taken out. Which is the most horrible thing you can think of really," said Welsh.

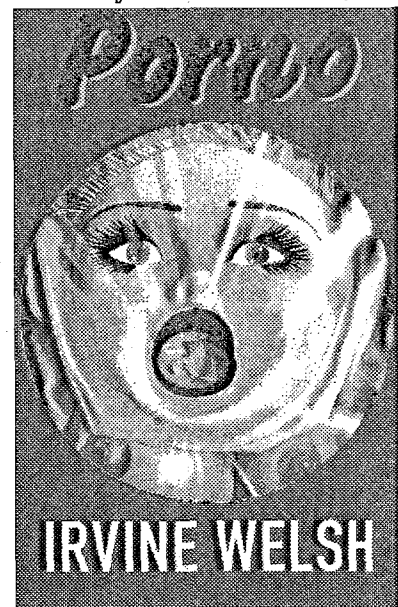
At least this time it's pornography that's going mainstream and not heroin. And much of the book deals with sexual relationships before porn anyway, and recreational sex is more fun to read about than recreational drug use. Maybe that's why the tone of *Porno* seems to be a lot lighter than *Porno* has offered in earlier novels. Just don't expect his writing to be any less graphic.

Welsh follows Sickboy as he leaves London and returns to Leith where he manages to buy a bar. He's

approached by Juice Terry who's been producing and screening pornographic movies after hours at his bar. Before you know it, Sickboy's trying to produce a commercial porn film with Terry, all Terry's friends, and Nikki, the girlfriend college student. The story itself is pieced together with segments from each character's point of view. Welsh shows an excellent ability to create characters, and

after a couple of chapters each narrator is easily identified by the way they speak—yes, they also speak with that Scottish accent. As with his other novels, his unrelenting first person view is explicit. This examination of pornography (and the extra-pornographic sex of his characters) is written exactly like you'd expect Welsh to write it.

With so many characters and so many different perspectives there are a lot of different issues surrounding porn that Welsh gets to deal with in this book. In fact, the first half of the book barely involves pornography at all. The story follows Nikki's life and her decision to get into porn with Sickboy and how it all works out for her. We also get to read about Renton, Begbie, Spud and Second Prize, answering any questions left over from *Trainspotting*. Don't worry, though: *Porno* introduces these characters and develops the narrative without going over any unnecessary relation to *Trainspotting* or *Glue*, so you don't have to read those books again. It stands alone as a great story, and it'll make you think a lot about porn. It all comes down to what you think about porn, really. ♦



Goth for everyone

The Festival of Immortality THE MEDIAEVAL BAEBS
 with the Society for Creative Anachronism and Cirque Vampyre at the Croatian Cultural Centre
 Nov. 15

by Tejas Ewing
 CULTURE WRITER

Eyes and Teeth Productions are a newly formed group that hopes to unite the serious gothic, fetish, renaissance and pagan communities with those who are interested in mainstream goth-influenced entertainment (think *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* or *Blade*). They believe there is a huge market for this and hope to continue to fill 2000-person venues such as the Croatian Cultural Centre. Therein lies the problem. It is very difficult to entertain a wide spectrum of people with specialised tastes while still making an event accessible to the mainstream. This festival did an admirable job of trying, but I don't feel it fully succeeded.

The venue was great, featuring two rooms, one with a DJ spinning all night and the other, larger room hosting the main performances, including an exclusive performance by the Mediaeval Baebs. As they explained to me, they are not on tour and were brought in especially for this. These nine women from all over the world (including one member from Hamilton), have taken the classical music world by storm, and routinely top the charts with their recordings. They entered the stage clad in white gowns with crowns of intertwined leaves. They performed two 45-minute sets of mediaeval music, including French and Welsh songs. Their voices were truly beautiful, and their musi-

cians were incredibly skilled. They often explained the meaning behind their songs, which allowed the audience to better appreciate the significance of their evocative, emotional and often haunting melodies. Their performance was well received by the whole spectrum of the audience.

The other parts of the show were more specialised, and divided the crowd. The first set of entertainment featured the Society for Creative Anachronism and their recreations of pre-17th century battles, duels and dances. There was little in this to appeal to serious goth, fetish or pagan audience members, and there was restlessness in the room as they performed. Their amateur status also became apparent due to some overt mistakes. However, since they were used as an interlude to allow the Mediaeval Baebs to change costume, it was still far better than having nothing at all.

I can't say the same for Cirque Vampyre, who closed the show. Whereas the Mediaeval Baebs appealed to all, and the 'anachronists' provided some harmless filler material, the Cirque Vampyre was tailored very specifically to the more extreme elements in the audience. It was basically a vampire queen's story presented in a semi-artistic manner. However, there was far too much screaming, simulated sex, nudity and mock violence, and far too little actual acrobatics or dance to appeal to the more mainstream members that made up the bulk of the audience. I'm not really sure it's possible to please the goths and the mediaeval/lovers in the same event, but if the audience was open-minded and forgiving, I'm sure they were glad that Eyes and Teeth productions tried. ♦

Strange moves made at the ballet

Performance compels, confuses

Scheherazade; The Winter Room; There, Below
 presented by Ballet BC
 at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre
 Nov. 14 to 16

by Janet French
 CULTURE WRITER

Under his brightly-coloured rippling tent, the Arabian Prince is having some marital woes. It seems his beautiful and exotic wives are recklessly unfaithful, and his tactic of heart-break prevention is to slaughter them the day after their weddings. Along comes the wily

Scheherazade, who tells the Prince suspenseful stories without ever revealing the endings. Her teasing wins the Prince's love, and lets her survive another day.

Although this is purportedly the storyline of *Scheherazade*, Ballet BC's newest piece, there was no hint of these extravagant tales in the performance. Although ballet's adherence to plot has always been loose, choreographer John Allyn's resurrection of the 1910 ballet wasn't even in the ballpark.

Ballet BC is dedicated to showcasing contemporary works, and *Scheherazade's* choreography is undoubtedly novel. Allyn has adopted a singular style, with splayed hands and flexed feet stunting classical lines, and the undulation of pelvises and ribcages driving the movement. However, with the specificity of this style, he seems to have boxed himself into a corner irretrievably. Repetitiveness is boring. Repetitiveness is boring. Repetitiveness...

If the choreography were compelling, a lost plot would be forgivable. But with all the wives and slaves and lovers, the only dancer whose identity was discernable was Scheherazade, and that wasn't even until half way through the work. Luckily, Emily Molnar's superior performance injected life into the title role. Molnar transcended technique and hunched the space around her in enviable fashion.

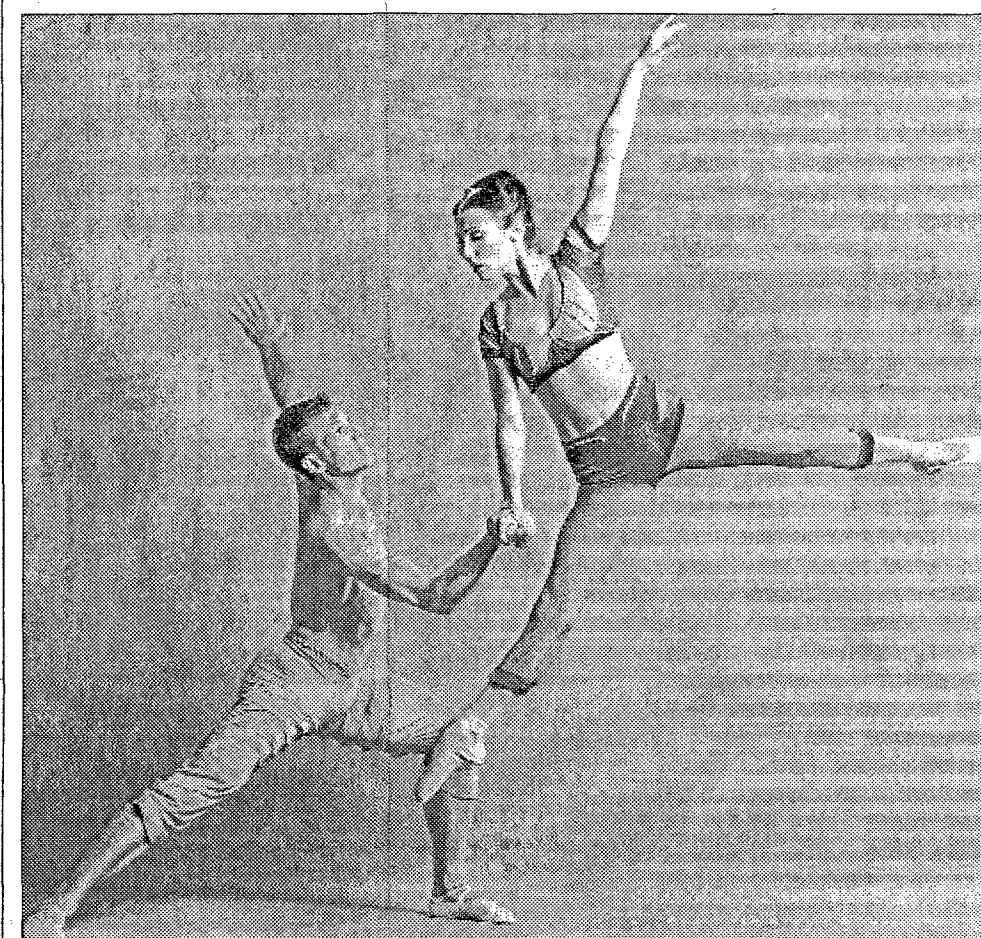
Thankfully, the second act was the antidote to monotony. *The Winter Room* is a stark manifestation of surreal choreography by the Alberta Ballet's new artistic director, Jean Grand-Maitre. Shadowy figures shuffle through a blustering winter storm to a chilling vocal arrangement. In one fell swoop, the

overcoats and hats blow off the figures up to the sky and the stage is illuminated in the most sterile of whites. The pas-de-deux (duet with a man and a woman) that follows is aggressive and raw with stunning lines. Of the two shadows that adorn the backstage, and appear as a painting, one walks away, leaving only the woman to writhe and explode alone, blue lines painted on her bare skin accentuating her muscles. She shrivels into a hypothermic ball, mimicking the creepy three-dimensional tree that hangs center-stage. The Queen Elizabeth Theatre audience bubbled with applause.

The evening closed with *There, Below*, the brainchild of James Kudelka, artistic director of the National Ballet of Canada. Smoke, the

buzz of red light and skin-coloured leotards created the ambience of a steamy sauna, and men threw glittered women around effortlessly in this soup of five duos. Just when it seemed to become enthralling, *There, Below* abruptly ended. Kudelka could explore further with this work—danced to the hauntingly beautiful *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*, from composer Ralph Vaughn Williams—for it just feels unfinished.

Ballet BC's choice of pieces for one evening was strange. It was a night of duets, and few solos or company numbers, which made the evening more homogenous than spry. The company's dancers have a dramatic range of skills, and these could have been better exploited with more diverse works. ♦



Close the lid

STARS OF THE LID
 with Loscil and Cowbell
 at the Or Gallery
 Nov. 13

by Chris Majewski
 CULTURE WRITER

In Vancouver these days, the word on the street is 'fun.' Our glorious civic leaders, eager to shed the stigma of 'No-Fun City,' can't wait to relax liquor licensing laws, open bars until 4am and boogie. (Take that, Toronto!)

Obviously, nobody told Stars Of The Lid. The Austin, Texas duo played the Or Gallery on Smith Street last Wednesday—but 'played' is too strong a word.

Frontman Brian McBride wandered onstage around midnight, stretched, and announced that he'd just woken up: "I've been drinking Red Bull on the road, so I'm kinda out of it," McBride, sporting a 70s haircut and a tight sweater which underscored his paunch, looked like a middle-aged hipster who works in a record shop by day. Co-conspirator Adam Wiltzie spent the set hunched in a chair with his back to the audience, picking away testily at a guitar and occasionally toying with a keyboard.

Both Wiltzie and McBride use electric guitars—not to be confused with the instrument that brought us Jimi Hendrix, caused late classical guitarist Andres Segovia to recoil in horror, and ultimately closed the generation gap (if we are to believe Kurt Cobain). In the hands of

The sound emerges: a drone of electronic hum and buzz which increases in intensity, flirts briefly with the pain barrier, and then, mercifully, subsides.

Stars Of The Lid, the guitars are merely a user interface. Sitting near the stage, we discern the barely audible "plink" of strings being plucked. Moments later, the sound emerges: a drone of electronic hum and buzz which increases in intensity, flirts briefly with the pain barrier, and then, mercifully, subsides.

Over the course of the one-hour set, exactly two notes are played. First, the low note: the drone intensifies, resonates, howls, recedes. Then, similarly, the higher note. Now, again, the low note. And so on. After half an hour, fans with only average stamina begin to file out. Others stretch out on the floor, insulating themselves from the cold concrete with their coats. The fortunate few have commandeered the handful of blue plastic cushions thoughtfully provided by the organisers. Some concede defeat and fall asleep.

Around one o'clock, the Stars halfheartedly lay down their instruments, and the drone finally gives way to silence. The ambivalence that accompanies this gesture is matched only by the sudden resolve of the audience, which, seeing its opportunity, is at once on its feet and out the door.

Opening acts Loscil and Cowbell did little to relieve this dour spectacle, presenting an uneven mix of analog bleeps and retro-digital synth washes. Think 60's Moog and 80's Yamaha DX-7, delivered via Macintosh Powerbook.

On a positive note: Stars Of The Lid soundmen Luke Savitsky and Scott Russell, a last-minute addition to the bill, offered a short but gripping set of rhythmic, dramatic, at times almost orchestral electronic compositions. These were backed by multicolored 8mm film loops from three separate projectors, evoking wide-eyed observers somehow captive in the face of an unrelenting, even oppressive machinery. If they are able to emerge from the shadow of their employers, Savitsky and Russell should be an act to look out for. ♦

Diamanda Galas delivers

San Diego singer puts a spell on Vancouver audience

DIAMANDA GALAS
 at the Vogue
 Nov. 9

by Vampyra Draculea
 CULTURE STAFF

There's a certain beauty in brutality. All good art is brutal in some way. In the case of the incomparable Diamanda Galas, art has many brutalities and many beauties—in form, sound, volume, content, performance, in every facet of what she does, she is brutal. But this is to be expected from an artist who is inspired by the things that piss her off and enrage her.

On a set bare of everything except her and her piano, Galas performed *La Serpenta Canta*, her new song cycle incorporating new material and reworked old favourites. The overall theme is one of retribution and death, from the anti-capital pun-

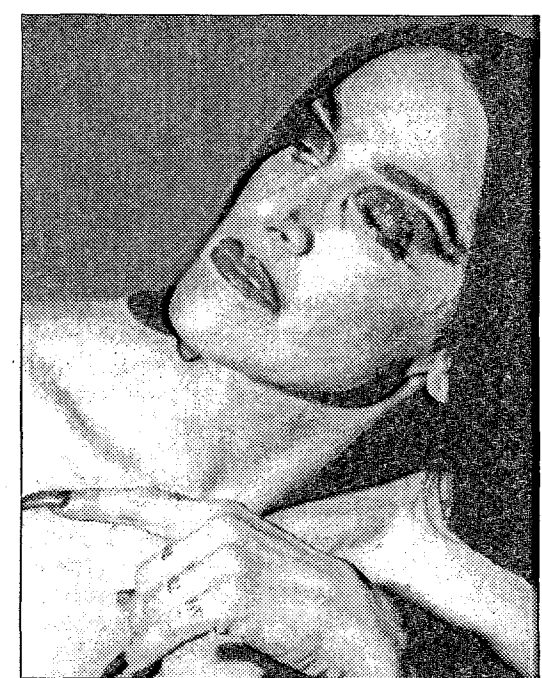
ishment songs 'Iron Lady' and '25 Minutes To Go,' to works like 'Ain't No Hell' and 'Birds Of Death,' to gospel songs like 'See That My Grave Is Kept Clean' and jazz standards like 'Gloomy Sunday.' Throughout the two hour performance, Galas displayed her astounding flexibility in range, dynamics, nuance and style, even getting into a honky tonk groove with 'Baby's Insane,' from her 1994 album *The Sporting Life*.

Galas's legendary vocal abilities, incorporating deep moans, high shrill screams and everything in between as required by her message, is even more incredible to listen to live than on her albums. Her intensity of performance sears her passionate lyrical calls into your mind, and her voice rises from the pit of her soul to a deafening wild roar needing accompaniment only by herself on piano, which at times seemed to be just icing on the cake.

Of course, one of the songs Galas is most known for is her cover of Screamin' Jay Hawkins' 'I Put A Spell On You,' and as she performed a new version of it, I reflected on how the different versions I've heard all seem to bring something new to the text or, rather, out of it. In the version on her album *The Singer*, she brings out the possessive madness of the piece. In this newer version, by sweetly repeating the "I love you" lines again and again, she brings out the desperation and obsessiveness of it, which even overrides her new lines comparing her waiting and longing to that of various fierce predators.

I was absolutely entranced by Galas's assault-

ing musical style, and like everyone else at the Vogue that night, I wished the concert could have gone on even longer. But, after three great encores and standing ovations, Galas's simple wave during her final exit from the stage was a silent reminder that all good things must come to an end. Until the next concert, of course—whenever that may be. ♦





Volleyball

The women's volleyball Birds swooped over Saskatoon this weekend and beat the Huskies in a double-header. While Friday's series was a close call, ending 3-2, Saturday's four sets left the Huskies whimpering in a 3-1 defeat. The Birds struggled midway through the third set and came back in a fury to knock Saskatchewan back down, proving they deserved their number-two spot in the country.

Meanwhile, the men's volleyball Birds were cut down by the Spartans at Trinity Western University and left after an agonising 3-0 defeat, then came back on Saturday, only to lose 3-1. While the teams looked evenly matched statistically, the Spartans controlled most of the play and the Birds ended up dead in the water. The men's team is currently ranked tenth in the country. ♦

Hockey Birds crack Calgary

by Dan Morris
SPORTS WRITER

After earning their first win two weeks ago, the UBC Men's Hockey team exuded enthusiasm going into their weekend of play against the third ranked Calgary Dinos.

From the opening UBC was able to maintain pace with the fast-skating Dinos. Playing much more organised hockey than in the recent past, the Birds were able to keep the shots margin to a minimum. Goalie Robert Filc made several outstanding saves, including a crucial stop on a shorthanded odd-man rush. But Bird penalty trouble gave Calgary scoring opportunities, and the Dinos made good on an easy tap-in to go to the dressing room up a goal.

In the second period, UBC once again found themselves heading to the penalty box too often. On a two-man advantage, Calgary was able to beat Filc on a beautiful snapshot off the boards to give the Dinos a 2-0 edge. UBC's veteran forward Nils Antons quickly responded, floating one from the blueline past the U of C goalie to get right back in it. From then on, Filc was able to hold the fort, including an incredible pad save to keep the score 2-1.

In the final frame, UBC did well to create

sustained offensive pressure, but the Dinos goalie was impregnable. The Birds were excellent in the defensive zone, keeping Calgary forays to a minimum. However, with only four minutes left, Calgary scored a beautiful goal that Filc had no chance of stopping. Afterwards, several fights broke out as the team's frustrations were released.

After the game, standout Robert Filc commented on the concerns of special team play. "[Calgary] had a five on three—they should have scored. We have to be more disciplined. We need wins badly," Filc concluded. "It was a tight game, and it was unfortunate that we lost."

UBC coach Milan Dragicevic focused on the team's strong play for most of the game. "We played a strong 57 minutes of hockey, we hit hard, blocked shots, and executed. We kept the number-three team to fewer than 30 shots." Dragicevic wasn't too pleased with the officiating. "The ref lost control of the game—it was embarrassing at the end of the game."

Saturday night, however, was a different kind of fight. Obviously disappointed with Friday's loss, the home team played with determination and discipline. Overall, their defensive zone coverage was much tighter,

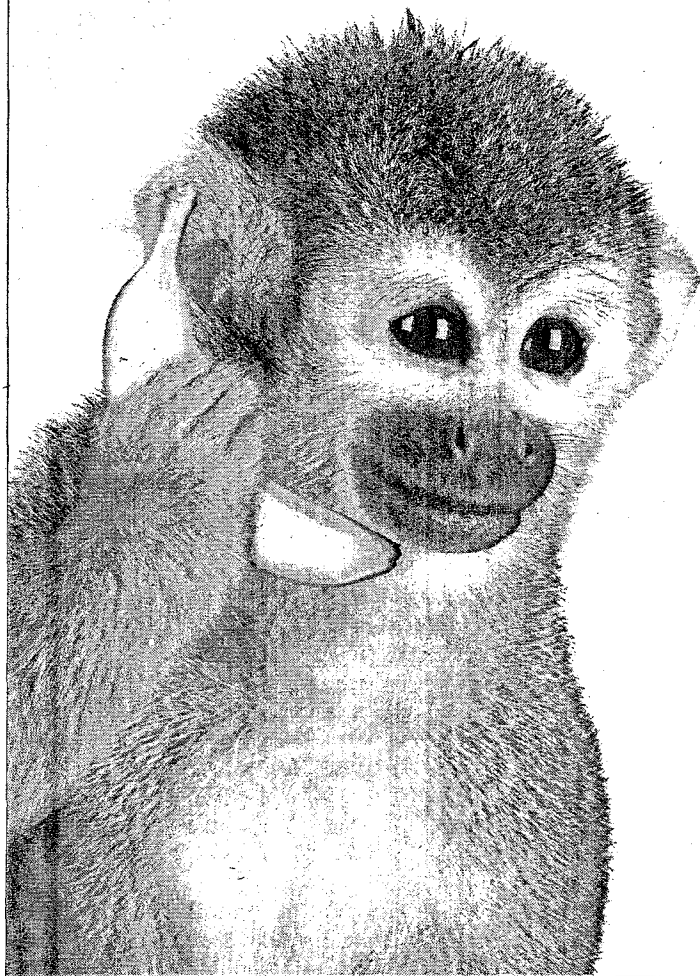
gamescores	
UBC 1	3 Dinos
UBC	CALGARY
UBC 2	1 Dinos
UBC	CALGARY

and because of that, they were able to limit Calgary's potent offence.

As such, the Birds were able to play competitive hockey for the entire game, ending a 1-1 lock with a Tito Kamel goal in the second period. UBC, with Filc's outstanding play between the pipes, held on for their second victory of the season.

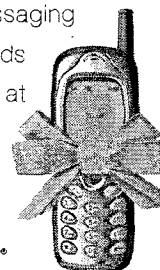
The Birds were able to take the positives from Friday's loss and translate it into a hard-earned victory by playing smart on Saturday. As long as UBC keeps to an organised and disciplined system, like they did this past weekend, the team should be victorious, putting the Birds in position to make the playoffs. But before that, they have to battle on the road next week against the top-ranked University of Alberta. ♦

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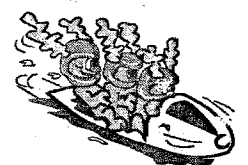


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WED. NOON SUB RM. 24

1. INTROS
2. NEW STUFF
3. BUY NOTHING DAY
4. HOLIDAY PARTY
5. ATHLETICS
6. NASH
7. EDITORS' REPORT CARDS
8. OTHER BUSINESS
9. POST MORTEM

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OVER THE TOP: UBC forward Letah Beck goes for the jumper in Friday's 70-50 victory over the visiting Trinity Western Spartans. KRIS MEZYNSKI PHOTO

Women trounce Spartans

by Sarah Conchie
SPORTS EDITOR

Despite their pre-game ritual of kneeling on the court, the Trinity Western University Spartans didn't have a prayer of getting past the relentless defence of the UBC women's basketball team this weekend.

Friday's game saw the Birds pull ahead early and maintain a 20-point lead for most of the second half, while the Spartans tried in vain to penetrate the UBC perimeter.

"I think it's a team mentality," said UBC head coach Deb Huband of her team's defensive stance. "We have a lot of quickness and we have some people who are very tenacious and focused defensively."

Consistency was a key factor in the twin wins. "Usually, there's one or two people that are a little bit weaker on the court on defence, but with us, we're solid," said Huband. "I think that allows us to put a lot of pressure on our opponents, and it forces them to make a lot of errors."

Trinity had 33 turnovers, while the Birds were executing perfectly. Fifth-year forward Brandie Speers dished out seven assists, and fourth-year guard Carrie Watson led all players with 18 points, and snatched eight balls from Spartan hands.

The Spartans didn't receive any divine intervention and lost the match 70-50, but there were a few heavenly moments as the clock ran down. Jesse Evans, who hails from Langara College and is a newcomer to the UBC bench, strode onto the court with four minutes left, and calmly let fly a perfect three-pointer. The bench went wild and so did the stands. Coach Huband wasn't surprised.

"[Evans] has been well-coached, she loves the game of basketball, and she's put a lot of time into it," said Huband. "She is a very good shooter, so she's a role player for us right now. When we see zone [offence], we know that she can come in cold and hit a three immediately."

In fact, quite a few players have been coming in out of the cold this year. In Saturday's game,

gamescores

70 50

UBC

TRINITY

80 44

UBC

TRINITY

Brandie Speers, usually a behind-the-scenes playmaker, ruthlessly drove the ball through Spartan defence, contributing a game-high 18 points to the 80-44 victory.

"I think that we have a strong perimeter, but our inside game is unbelievable," said Speers, crediting her teammates for the opportunity to score. "It makes it so much easier for us—they pass the ball out well, and it makes it easier for us to go one on one."

The Birds may not have lost yet, but they take their 4-0 record to the home of last year's national champions next weekend. The SFU Clan, who bested UBC four times last season, haven't lost in two years, extending their winning streak to 41 games.

It's a re-match that UBC has been waiting for. "We're ready for them," asserted Huband. "It's an opportunity to measure up. They're a solid team, but they're not the team they were last year, and we're a step up from last year."

And then there's the attitude.

"We're pumped," said Jesse Evans with a grin. "It's going to be a great game."

Tip-off is Friday at 6:15pm at SFU. ♦

ams INTERACTIVE

events

Big Band, Small Venue

Spirit of the West, November 28th at the Pit
Tix \$20 at Subcetera
Doors at 8:30 pm

Bif Naked

November 30th at the Pit
Tix. \$17.50 at Subcetera
Doors at 8:30 pm

The Pit turns 29

Happy Birthday to the Pit Pub and the Gallery Lounge. Thursday, November 21st from 12 pm-2 am. Lots of special prizes and giveaways from the XFM street team who will be on location.

Customer Appreciation Day

The Outpost - your student store, is having a Customer Appreciation day. November 28th, 7:30 am to 6:30 pm - everything in the store is 20% off!

Christmas Gift Fair

Get all your Christmas goodies in one place on November 18-22 & 25-29, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm in the Student Union Building - Main Concourse.

Globefest - Around the World in a Gym

Take this exciting and unique opportunity to compete in games from countries around the world. This one day challenge includes: Sumo Wrestling, Cricket, Artic Challenge, European handball, and Bombardment (Dodgeball). The event takes place on Friday, November 22nd - registration deadline is Wednesday, November 20nd. More information is available on: www.legacygames.ubc.ca, or contact Kevin Mobbs at: (604) 822-4909.

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clubs

Have you seen these clubs? If so, please contact Stephanie McKernan at: sacsec@ams.ubc.ca or (604) 822-2361 before November 21st.

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Asian Studies Student Assoc.
BREW - Big Rock Enthusiasts Worldwide
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Personal Computer Club
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Poets Club
Recreational Baseball Club
Rising Crescent
Serbian Student Association
Storm
Students for Aboriginal Health
Transportation and Logistics Club
Underwater Hockey Club
Veritas Literary
Young Parliamentarians
Women's Studies Student Association

white ribbon campaign

Come and join us for a delicious pancake breakfast to raise funds for WRC, a national non-profit men's organization committed to ending violence against women. Our breakfast this year will take place on November 28th in the SUB Party Room, from 9:00 am to noon. For more information, please contact Christopher Ste-Croix, at: 604-742-1545 or whiteribbon_ubc@hotmail.com.

student leadership conference

Tired of Following? It's Your Turn to Lead... The UBC Student Leadership Conference is coming. January 10-11, 2003. Check out our website at: www.ams.ubc.ca/slc for more info on how you can make a difference on campus. Watch for the next edition of the AMS Interactive email for more details. Take the lead-the future is yours to design.

innovative projects fund

Do you have a vision? Each year the Alma Mater Society makes a donation to the University. This gift is in the form of a fund available to all students, staff and faculty. In an effort to enrich and develop the social and cultural climate at UBC, the Innovative Projects Fund, (IPF) provides those with such a vision, the financial backing to bring their idea to fruition. So, if you think you have a really good idea, drop by SUB room 238 and pick up an application. Deadline for submissions: November 29th, 2002.

U-pass

Wondering what's going on with the U-pass negotiations? Come and find out more on Wednesday, November 20th, from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in the SUB conversation Pit. Presentation followed by a Q & A.

THE UBYSSY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2002
VOLUME 84 ISSUE 21

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We are an autonomous, democratically run student organisation, and all students are encouraged to participate. Editorials are chosen and written by the Ubyssy staff. They are the expressed opinion of the staff, and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Ubyssy Publications Society or the University of British Columbia.

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"Perspectives" are opinion pieces over 300 words but under 750 words and are run according to space.

"Freestyles" are opinion pieces written by Ubyssy staff members. Priority will be given to letters and perspectives over freestyles unless the latter is time sensitive. Opinion pieces will not be run until the identity of the writer has been verified.

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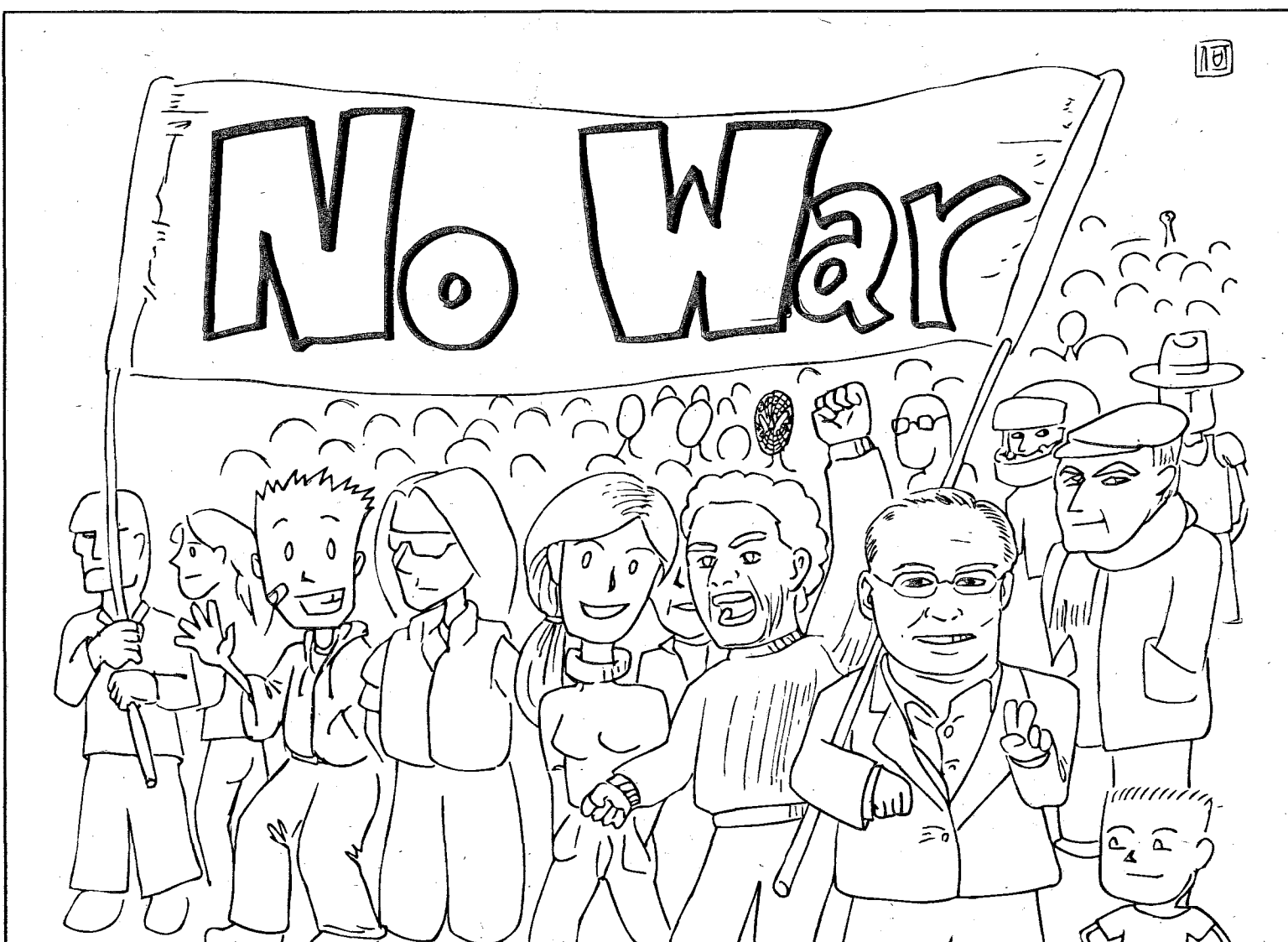
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"This is like totally Chris Shepherd," said Parminder Nizher to Krista McFadden. "Ummm what?" questioned Megan Thomas. "Oh my god!" Sarah Leach yelled. "I so caught Jesse Marchand checking out Michael Schwandt!" "No way!" Bryan Zandberg and Chris Majewski said at the same time. "He is like totally out of her league," laughed Johnny Hsu. "No-uhhh," responded Matt Whalley. "Whatever," cried Janet French. "Who cares about those two losers anyway. I'd much rather talk about Vampyrus Dracula." "Wasn't she the Prom Queen of Sweet Valley High?" asked Tejus Ewing. "No that was like, totally Kathleen Deering," said Lars Goller. "Who's hogging all the hairspray?" whined Duncan M. McHugh. "Does it matter?" asked Anna King. "This rain totally dampens the style anyway." "This party is so sketch," thought Nic Fensom as he watched Hywel Tusciano practising the running man with Dan Morris. "These athletes are totally babilicious," groaned Paz Andrada, ogling Rob Nagai. Kris Mezyski and Ahmad Syed in the UBC varsity calendar. "See I told you," Sarah Conchie said reproachfully. "Getting naked can be for charity!"



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All we are saying...

Last Sunday saw thousands of Vancouverites march through the streets demonstrating their opposition to the possibility of a war on Iraq led by the United States government.

Sunday's march, paralleled by like-minded events around the world, wasn't the product of a few radicals from the fringe of society. The list of participants is impressive.

Parents with young children, Muslims, Jews, Christians, atheists, Marxists, high school students, trade unionists, teachers, lawyers, Quakers, politicians (such as newly-elected Mayor Larry Campbell and NDP members of Parliament Libby Davies and Svend Robinson) and grandparents all made the trek across Burrard Street Bridge and through downtown to make a point. Similar marches took place concurrently in Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Halifax.

That so many diverse people are involved in the anti-war sentiment reflects the inclination amongst activists to try and include as many people as possible in the movement.

As Jesse McLaren, a student and activist on campus, put it when describing who could be a part of an anti-war organisation on campus: "If you're against the war...you're perfectly welcome to be a part of this coalition."

One would hope that, just by looking at the

broad spectrum of people who attended the anti-war rally, leaders like Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and US President George Bush would stop to consider whether the general population supports the idea of a war on Iraq.

At the march, NDP MP Svend Robinson addressed the crowd, saying, "We in BC are here to send a message to Jean Chrétien: Canada must not be part of an immoral and illegal war on Iraq," words that brought cheers of agreement.

The numbers present and the nature of the crowd who took part in Sunday's march indicated that it's not just Robinson who feels this way. Meanwhile, the words of many world leaders show that these sentiments are felt worldwide. Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Saud has told the Associated Press that his country will not support a war on Iraq, stating, "we believe an attack is not needed...We don't want them to use Saudi grounds." King Abdulla of Jordan, a key location for military bases in the event of an attack on Iraq, echoes this view: "Jordan has made it clear that it cannot be used as a launching pad."

It's unfortunate that our own leaders have not been so decisive. When asked at a press conference what proof of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction would be needed for Canada to back a war on Iraq, Jean Chrétien was, as usual, suc-

cinct: "A proof is a proof. What kind of proof? It's a proof. A proof is a proof. And when you have a good proof, it's because it's proven."

Indeed. If this is the level of thought that is being put into Canada's military decisions—quite literally decisions of life and death—it's not hard to see why thousands of people take to the streets to voice some sort of reason.

To condemn war against Iraq is not to condone the actions of Saddam Hussein, it is to show foresight and compassion. In the time since Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, an estimated 1.5 million people in Iraq (600,000 under the age of five) have died as a result of UN economic sanctions against Iraq. Poor nutrition and lack of access to essential medicines are the main culprits in these ongoing preventable deaths. To make matters worse still, it has been shown consistently that civilians bear the brunt of armed conflict, in terms of direct casualties and destroyed infrastructure.

On Sunday, thousands of Canadians demanded an answer to questions posed by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan: "What sort of Iraq do we wake up to after the bombing? What happens in the region? What impact could it have?"

We simply do not want to once more add military force to the growing list of ways that we've hurt innocent people in Iraq. ♦

LETTERS

It's AMS not UBC!

The AMS Bike Co-op would like to thank *the Ubyssy* for their fantastic coverage of some of our recent events and programs this fall. We would, however, like to point out and emphasise that we are a student-run organization that operates as a part of the Alma Mater Society—not the University. As such, we'd like to point out that our proper name is the AMS Bike Co-op, not the UBC Bike Co-op for both reasons of accuracy and in recognition of the support that our student union provides.

—Erica Mah
President, AMS Bike Co-op

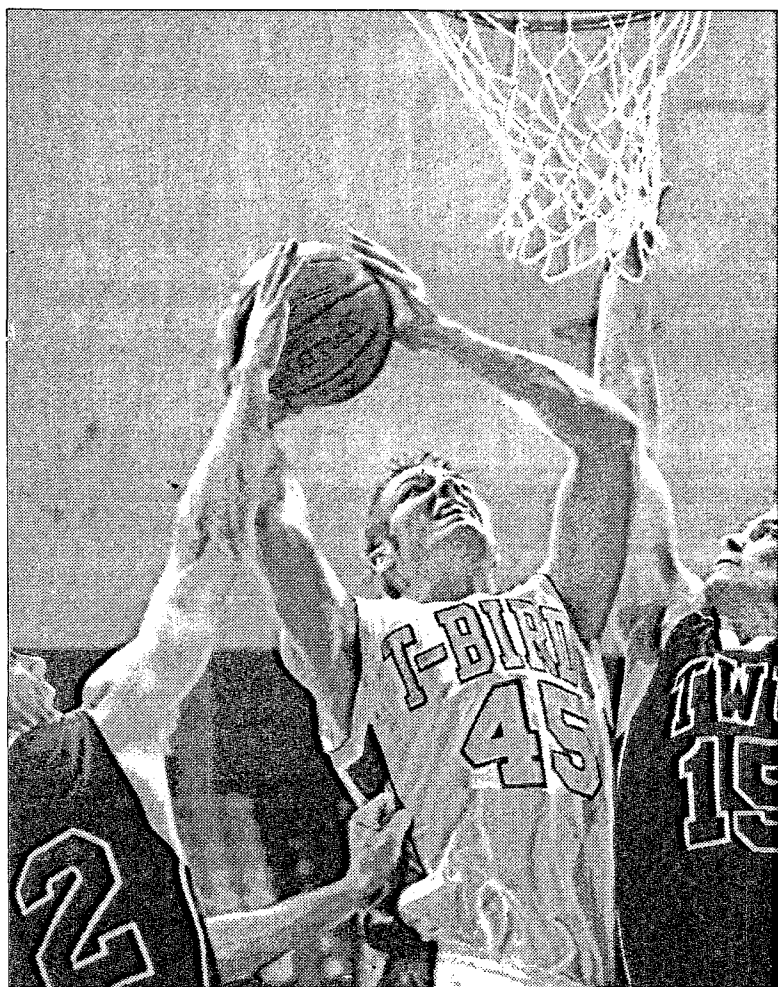
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BANKING THE BALL: Thunderbird forward Pat McKay soars past Trinity defence. KRIS MEZYNSKI PHOTO

Birds cash in

by Rob Nagai
SPORTS WRITER

Money. That's what the UBC Thunderbirds were this weekend. Taking the first game on Friday by 28 points, they finished Saturday against the Trinity Western Spartans by a hefty 36 points.

Friday night the Thunderbird intensity overpowered the Spartans. By half time UBC was ahead 47-35.

Shutting down Trinity's top-scorer was key to the wins on the weekend. UBC guard Corey Ogilvie held Canada West leading scorer Adam Friesen to a mere 16 points Friday. Ogilvie was later named player of the game. Along with the ten points he laid down, he contributed five rebounds, six assists and five steals.

Saturday's performance by Ogilvie was just as strong, with Friesen still in his sights. "I was hungry for [Friesen] all week," said Ogilvie. "He had bad percentages and that's what I wanted."

Last week's buzzer-beating hero, fourth-year forward Pat McKay, was hungry for points, and led the Birds again Friday, scoring 20. Ten minutes before the game was over, much of the crowd felt so assured that the home team would win, they packed up and left the War Memorial Gymnasium. By the time the dust settled, UBC had taken the whole thing 89-61.

While victory was sweet Friday, it was clear that the Birds still had to settle an account from last year. In 2001/2002, Trinity split with UBC twice, both wins coming on Saturdays. And while the Spartans upped the ante with new talent, the Birds ended up as the high rollers.

Five UBC players hit double digits on Saturday. The whole UBC bench logged minutes, and the starters sat back to watch the points gap increase. "Everybody this time of year is shortening their bench. Winning by 36 and playing twelve guys is a credit to the team," stated head coach Hansen. "Last year we lost our intensity on the Saturday nights—we came in with high intensity both nights this weekend."

Brandon Ellis, a second-year

gamescores			
89	61	UBC	TRINITY
99	63	UBC	TRINITY

guard, showed hot hands on Friday night. By Saturday fans could hear the cash register ring as Ellis sunk four out of five from behind the three point line. Ellis racked up 18 points in a mere 16 minutes. "My role was to come in and spark the team," Ellis said of his performance. "I was hitting [3-pointers] from one side more than the other, but I can do it from both sides. I did my job."

Forward Pat McKay, who has been gold on the court in his last four games, also had a solid weekend. Outsized by TWU under the hoop, he still managed to maintain a strong presence, posting 20 points both nights this weekend. After the game, an elated McKay credited his performance to being in the "right place at the right time."

While the weekend wins were cause for celebration, Saturday night's post-game chat was all about the upcoming series against the SFU Clan. "My message after the game was Trinity will not forget this game, nor should you," said Hansen. "But now we start moving towards the next one."

While the Birds beat SFU on home turf last year, UBC still finished second in the Canada West due to the point spread.

UBC heads into the weekend one spot out of the nation's top ten, while SFU is ranked second. The Clan will be a lot more difficult to get by than the Spartans, and it is doubtful that the scoring will be as unbalanced. Still, it is hard to forget this weekend's performance. Money. ♦

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THE UBYSSY
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The New York City Department
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If you have a bachelor's degree and have or will have teacher training and certification from Canada by August 2003, you may be eligible to teach in the New York City public schools beginning in September 2003. Salaries range from US\$39,000 to \$60,729, with excellent fringe benefits. You may also be eligible for a \$3,400/year grant award for up to 4 years.

A recruitment team from the New York City Department of Education will be visiting VANCOUVER to conduct information sessions and to interview qualified candidates. Information on housing will also be available at the information session.

WHEN: Monday, December 2 at 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 3 at Noon and 6:00 p.m.
WHERE: The Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel
1088 Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C. (604) 331-1000

You MUST bring the following documents to the interview:

1. 3 photocopies of your degree diploma(s)
2. 3 original undergraduate (and graduate if applicable) university transcripts, indicating degree conferred
3. 3 photocopies of your teaching certificate
4. Letters of experience, if available
5. 3 resumes
6. Letter of Good Standing issued by the Province's College of Teachers/Ministry of Education, if available
7. Police Clearance of Good Conduct and a photocopy
8. 3 photocopies of your passport ID page and any previous U.S. visas
9. If applicable, official documents indicating official name change
10. 2 passport-size photographs

N.B. If you are currently completing requirements for your teaching certificate, please submit a letter from your university indicating expected date of completion in lieu of your teaching certificate. All eligibility requirements must be completed by August 2003.

Interested applicants should email to lamedur@nycboe.net with the information requested below. Please respond by Tuesday, November 19, 2002

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Monday, December 2nd at 6:00 p.m. _____
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Attacks on Asian women denounced in Vancouver

by Stephen Hui
THE PEAK

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Activists are condemning a series of attacks on Asian women in Vancouver as race-motivated sexist violence.

Greater Vancouver has seen at least five attacks on Asian women in public places in the past six months. International student Ji-Won Park was beaten and strangled in Stanley Park in May and, most recently, student Amanda Wei Zhou was kidnapped in Burnaby and murdered. Speakers responded to the violence at a press conference at Simon Fraser University's Harbour Centre campus.

"Regardless of race all women can relate to these attacks. We all live with the fear or threat of rape," said Suzanne Jay, a worker at the Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter.

Jay suggested the attacks are part of a racist "backlash" against the growing number and prominence of persons of Asian ethnicities living in

the Lower Mainland. The rape crisis worker said Asian women would not surrender to the threat of violence but would continue to live their lives and organise in resistance.

Rita Wong, a member of Direct Action Against Refugee Exploitation, said, "Asian women, like other women of colour and First Nations women, experience many forms of ongoing racialised violence."

"Racism and sexism continue to operate in many contemporary forms," Wong continued, "ranging from economic systems—that devalue our labour and displace many women so they are forced to leave their home communities in order to survive—to the brutal violence that took Amanda Zhou's life."

Wong linked the attacks on Asian women with violence against Aboriginal women and the disappearances of over 60 women from the Downtown Eastside.

"If 60 white women had disappeared from a university campus, there arguably would have been an



SPEAKING OUT: Monica Lee of the Asian Society for the Intervention of AIDS addresses racialised violence against Asian women in Vancouver. **STEPHEN HUI/THE PEAK PHOTO**

investigation into those missing women much earlier," Wong said.

Jay agrees and points to Zhou's case as an example.

"We must address the fact that the officer who took the report felt com-

fortable dismissing the disappearance of an Asian woman in a municipality where another Asian woman had been attacked less than 13 hours earlier," the rape crisis worker said.

Jay maintains that a woman's vul-

nerability to attack is dependent on their place in society, which is related to such factors as English language proficiency and what status they have as a migrant or citizen.

"With the recent news of attacks on Asian women I am thoughtful about my visibility as an Asian woman in Canada," said Grace Balbutin, a collective member at Rape Relief. "Despite that, I will continue to work to stop violence against women and make men more accountable for their sexist behaviour, including the police."

British Columbia has the highest rate of violence against women in Canada. More than 59 per cent of women over the age of 16 have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence. The provincial government, however, is planning to rescind its policy of automatic prosecution for spousal assault and is implementing severe cuts to women's centres, legal aid and sexual assault programs. Critics say these moves will put more women's lives at risk. ♦

Degree-granting colleges may create two-tier education system

by Chris Boutet
GATEWAY

EDMONTON (CUP)—Faced with concerns of booming undergraduate enrolment and limited space at the University of Alberta (U of A), the province is looking into granting degree completion status to two of Alberta's largest colleges. But students are worried this is the first step towards a two-tiered education system.

Alberta Learning Minister Lyle Oberg and the provincial government will be facilitating talks over the next few months between U of A, Grant MacEwan College and Mount Royal College in Calgary. If an agreement is reached, the two colleges will be given the ability to offer full bachelor's degrees for undergraduate programs, which, coupled with raising tuition rates and minimum entry averages expected at U of A, should disperse the prospective undergrad population more evenly among the three

schools.

U of A Provost and Vice-President, Academic Doug Owram feels the collaboration will ease the pressure increasing enrolment puts on its faculty and facilities.

"We've had an enrolment surge over the last two years, and capacity is becoming a real issue," said Owram. "So the natural question is where do you go next?"

The university hopes that with more undergraduates going to colleges for their bachelor's degree, more of the school's resources could be allocated to the post-graduate studies and research, which in turn will work towards establishing U of A as an "elite institution," as Owram calls it.

Although all three schools are optimistic that they stand to benefit from the arrangement, student unions from the three institutions are expressing concerns that the move is just the first step towards the creation of a two-tiered

education system in Alberta.

Mike Hudema, U of A Students' Union president, described the university's use of the word "elite" as fitting.

"It's the most apt word for the university's policies that I can think of," said Hudema. "This university has long sought to be not only academically elite, but also financially elite as well."

Hudema worries that increasing fees and entry averages will deter all but those students interested in the professional faculties from coming to U of A, and fears Mount Royal and Grant MacEwan will become viewed as little more than liberal arts colleges under this new structure.

"With a two-tiered education system, it's dangerous to create a system in which one degree is better than the other, just because it's more expensive," he said.


Jennifer Wietzel, an executive member of

the Mount Royal Students' Association, agrees. In an article published in the Mount Royal monthly newsletter she stated that, "U of A wants to grant elite degrees, thereby making a Mount Royal degree second-class," she wrote. "That plan includes raising admissions standards at the university to create a US-style Ivy League school."

But Owram doesn't see it that way; he sees the system as offering students more opportunity in education.

"As Alberta gets bigger, we need to provide people with more education options," he said. "It's not a question of quality—some students like big classes, some like small—we're just offering different models for different people."

Currently, Grant MacEwan College offers up to two years of a bachelor's degree in their university transfer program. Mount Royal College already offers bachelor's degrees in Arts and Nursing through Athabasca University. ♦



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	Jamie Urwin	Did you get the survey?	Monday, October, 21, 2002
	Tony Lam	Fw: Fw: Fw: Save the whales	Thursday, October, 17, 2002
	Jamie Urwin	Fw: Joke... this is really cool!	Wednesday, October, 16, 2002
	Prof. Smits	Re: Chem Lab tomorrow	Monday, October, 14, 2002
	Lauren	Meet me at Sage for lunch	Friday, October, 11, 2002
	Trevor	Ultimate Practice on Sunday	Wednesday, October, 10, 2002

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Deadline Approaching!

Have you received the **Official UBC Library Survey** in your email? If you were one of the randomly selected recipients, please take a moment to complete the on-line form.

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