09·10

The Ubyssey has its annual chat with President Stephen Toope.

Read his thoughts on the recession, Olympics and joining the NCAA on **Page 5**.

THE UBYSSEY.ca

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YOUR STUDENT COUNCIL HERE

Last Wednesday AMS Council approved spending **$9055** from a slush fund to send up to 25 councillors to Victoria.

Van	$1000
Hotel	$2500
Social Event	$2100

Details on Page 3

SEPTEMBER 10, 2009
VOLUME XCI, N° 11

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CONTRIBUTORS

Justin McElroy was just a city boy, born and raised in south Detroit. He took the midnight train in the company of Gerald Deo, Celestian Rince and Stephanie Findlay, going anywhere. On the scene were Paul Bucci, along with Keegan Bursaw, Ian Turner, Kai Green and her pet fish Kyrstin Bain. They couldn't rouse McElroy from his drunken stupor, so they called in reinforcements, including Trevor Record, Kate Barbaria, Bryce Warrens, Samantha Jung, Katie O'Donnell and Kasha Chang for help. The following day, Michael Broud drew a sad comic about the event, and showed it to his friends Maria Cirstea, Vinnie Yuen, Nilo Tabrizy, Trevor Melanson and Davina Choy. Davina proceeded to mock Justin without mercy, but Katarina Grgić told her to lay off. Katarina would pay anything just to roll the dice, so she convinced Grace McRae Okine, Roel Moers, Tara Martellaro, Austin Holm and Chibwe Mweene to lure Justin back to Koerner's, just one more time. There, he was greeted by Kathy Yan Li, Pierce Nettling, Sarah Chung, Kalyeena Makortoff and Gavin Fisher who were born to sing the blues. Don't stop believing.

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EVENTS

THURSDAY, SEPT 10

Wet Lab Coat Pageant • See the sexiest Science students strut their stuff including a walk-off, wet & wild lab coats, and feats of extreme whipped cream eating • *12pm–1pm infront of Abdul Ladha Science Centre, free.*

SUS First Week Water Balloon Fight • Hundreds of water balloons and a few mystery balloons. Havoc ensue! • *1pm–2pm, free including complimentary garbage bags to wear.*

Manhunt • An urban game of tag, of epic proportions! • *4pm–6pm, Main Mall concourse, free.*

Ladha Drive-In Movie • Science Undergrad Society presents *The Hangover*. Enjoy this hilarious film with complimentary popcorn • *7pm–9pm, Abdul Ladha Science Centre, free.*

Robson Reading Series • Vancouver's Poet Laureate Brad Cran will inaugurate our fall season along with poets Marguerite Pigeon and David Zieroth • *7pm–8pm, Irving K Barber, free.*

Dodgeball Extravaganza • Brought to you by AMS Firstweek and UBC rec, Everyone is invited • *Games start at 3pm and 4pm–5pm, UBC SRC Gym, free.*

UBC Improv presents Breakout • Two Improv finales •*6pm at Walter Gage and 8pm at Marine Drive Residence .*

"Under the Stars" Dance Party • All-ages dance party • *9pm–12am, SUB West Lawn, $4 or free with Firstweek wristband.*

CiTR Open house • Get a chance to go on the air, have a free DJ lesson and go on a tour of the radio station •*3pm–7pm, SUB.*

FRIDAY, SEPT 11

SUS Open House • Meet some Science professors, find out about cutting edge research and learn more about Science programs • *10am–1pm, Abdul Ladha Science Centre,free.*

Study Smart • Science Undergrad Society presents sessions on how study smart for science class • *1pm–3pm, Abdul Ladha Science Centre, free.*

26th Annual Welcome Back BBQ • Natalie Portman's Shaved Head, Thunderheist, Green Go and DJ's Sex Attack will be in concert. The AMS will be hosting a BBQ along with a licensed area for beer and cider • *2pm–8pm, McInnes Field, free for UBC students and guests.*

Skating Party • Free Skate Rentals • *8:45pm–10pm and 10:15pm–11:30pm, T-Bird Winter Sports Centre, $3 per session or free with Firstweek wristband.*

SATURDAY, SEPT 12

Firstweek Concerts: Mother Mother, Said the Whale, Hannah Georgas • *8pm, Pit Pub in the SUB basement, $10 at Ticketweb.ca or the Outpost and free with Firstweek Wristband to the first 100 students at the door.*

SUNDAY, SEPT 13

Work Learn info session • Find out more about the Work Learn program and working on campus while studying • *2:30pm–3:30pm, International house.*

Meditation Group • Introduction to meditation • *4pm–4:30pm, SUB, all welcome.*

MONDAY, SEPT 14

AMS Minischool Registration Opens • Beer Tasting, Pole Dancing, and DJ-ing: oh my! • *Registration continues through the Sept. 30.*

Community Music & Meal • A free home-cooked meal and open-mic. Vegetarian-friendly • *6:30pm–8:30pm, Chapel of the Epiphany, 6030 Chancellor Blvd.*

Environmental Commitee Movie Night • Learn about BC's spectacular Great Bear Rainforest, smell patchouli in all its forms • *8:30pm, Fairmont Social Lounge, St. John's College.*

TUESDAY, SEPT 15

UBC Longhouse "Welcome Back BBQ" • Free hamburger, veggie burgers, nachos, salads, etc. plus door prizes, community support. • *4pm–6pm, free to students, staff, everyone, their dog.*

Free Reading • Oana Avasilichioaei, Poet Laureate Emeritus of the City of Vancouver and Canada Council Writer in Residence, 2009 • *5pm–6:30pm, dinner to follow; tickets must be purchased in advance..*

Advance Screening • UBC Film Soc presents The Informant. Matt Damon pretends to be ugly, awkward; hilarity presumably ensue. • *7pm–9pm,Norm Theatre..*

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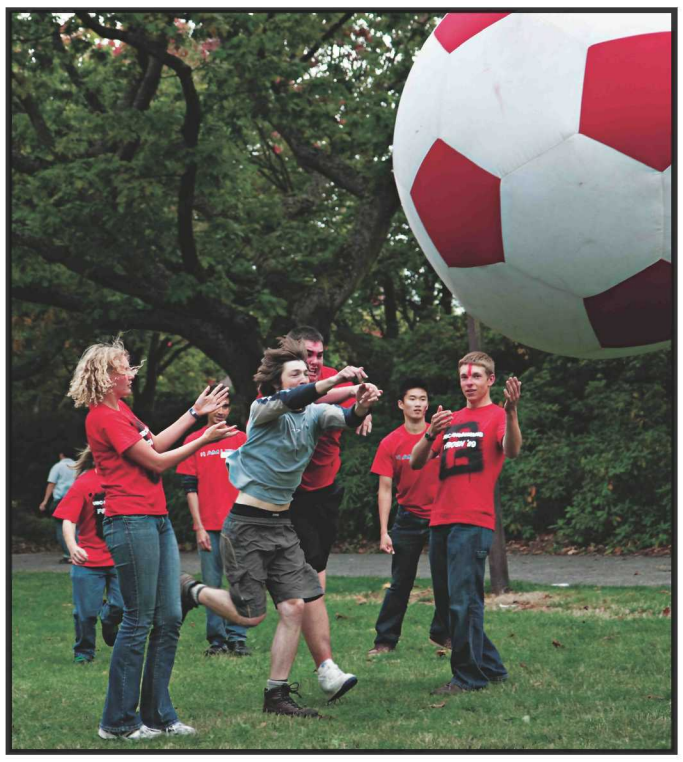

Engineering students take part in "E-Ball," played with an inflatable ball seven ft in diameter, during the Main Event Carnival on Tuesday, September 8. GERALD DEO PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

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THURSDAY
FML / LOW MOTION
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LOUNGE (LOW MOTION):
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GET UP GET DOWN

BONAFIDE.

FRIDAY
GET UP GET DOWN
BOTH ROOMS:
HIP HOP, REGGAE AND CLASSICS

SATURDAY
BONAFIDE
BOTH ROOMS:
DISCO, HOUSE, ELECTRO

UPCOMING EVENTS
SEPT 10: THE AMERICAN DREAM TEAM (BROOKLYN)
SEPT 17: THE GLASS (BERLIN/NEW YORK) WITH DJ BARLETTA (TORONTO)
OCT 11: RUSKO (UK)
OCT 15: TEEN WOLF AND BAD BEAT

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THE UBYSSEY IS HAVING AN OPEN HOUSE ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10. BUT HONESTLY, IT'S A LITTLE REDUNDANT SINCE WE'RE ALWAYS HERE ANYWAY.

JUST DROP IN.
SUB 24

That's why I became involved with my student union, the AMS. I contemplated on the University's motto...*Tuum est*—roughly translated as "it's up to you" or "it's yours". Now, what does this mean exactly? UBC certainly isn't yours in a democratic sense. The University's largely unelected Board of Governors makes the decisions on this campus and "it's up to you" to accept them.

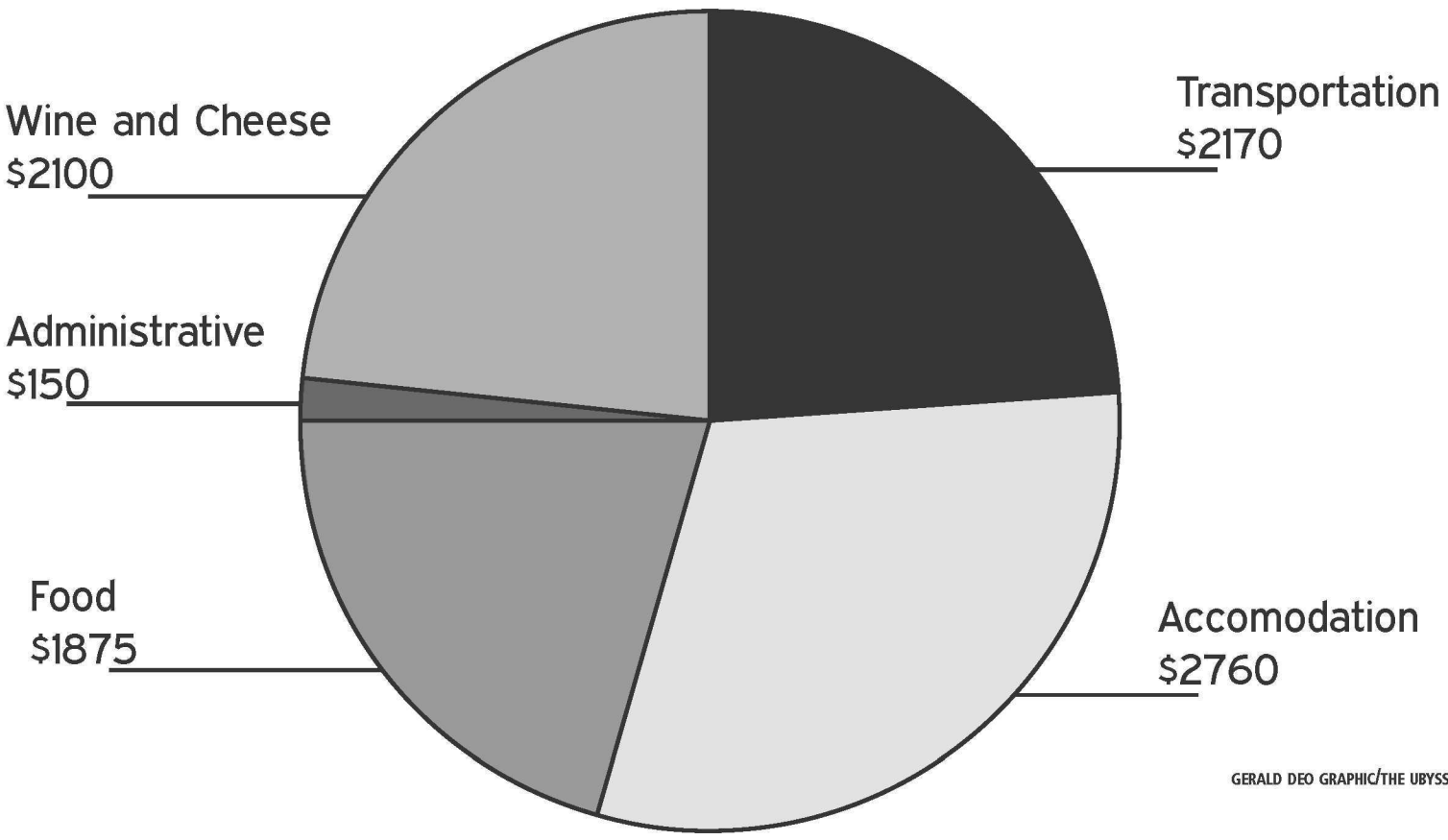
—Blake Frederick, AMS President

News

News Editor: *Samantha Jung*

Lobby days = expensive days

AMS spends money on expensive hotel trip to Victoria



GERALD DEO GRAPHIC/THE UBYSSEY

SARAH CHUNG
schung@ubyssey.ca

Some members of AMS Council are steaming after $9055 was taken from a non-replenishable fund for "Lobby Days", an event where dozens of councillors travel to Victoria to meet with politicians. It's not only due to the cost of the event though—there exists a seperate fund used specifically for lobbying the government.

"Lobby Days" is an event that many councillors feel allows student societies to lobby politicians on student issues. The External Policy Committee (EXPC), managed by the AMS VP External, organizes a group of people to head to the event. The EXPC manages the U-Pass and TransLink, and plans to send 25 AMS council members to make the students' voices heard.

The money was taken out of the President's Fund, a non-replenishable donation (currently worth $61,000) that, according to AMS Archivist Sheldon Goldfarb, is used for "special projects in the areas of strategic planning, governance, sustainability, marketing, services, and other programs developed to advance the mission of the Society."

AMS Councillor Geoff Costeloe was angry that the EXPC took money out of the President's Fund instead of their External Lobbying Fund, which is currently worth $16,000.

"I'm really, really pissed off that it came out of the President's Fund," said Costeloe. "There was a budget set at the beginning of the year, and if more money needs to go to a certain fund or another, then it needs to be discussed then, or at least in one readjustment process and not at every occasion the External Policy [Committee] comes up with an idea they need to spend money on."

Costeloe also said that this isn't the second, if not the third time, that the External Policy Committtee has asked to take money from the President's Fund. So far this year, the President's Fund has already been used to pay $11,000 for the Great Farm Trek, $15,000 for the provincial election campaign and just over $30,000 to pay back the Arts Undergraduate Society for their Arts Country Fair debt.

VP Finance Tom Dvorak echoed Costeloe's sentiments, and said that the decision was "disappointing." "It was not financially prudent...before you look at the other funds, you need to use up all money from your own funds," said Dvorak. "Lobby Days is a lobbying fund."

VP External Tim Chu said that UBC has a relatively small External Lobbying Fund in comparison to other universities, such as Kwantlen's student society, which received $73,000 for external lobbying this year.

"It felt more appropriate that we take out Lobby Days out of the President's Fund as opposed to something like the federal election out of the President's Fund," said Chu, "which is probably going to happen."

Science Councillor Tahara Bhate was also supportive of the decision. "It can't be run if it doesn't come from the President's Fund... and [Chu] has the leanest budget I have ever seen," said Bhate. "For the first time we have a real chance to make a difference...and I think Lobby Days does that." Bhate said that Lobby Days is especially important considering the provincial government's recent cuts to financial student aid.

Other council members are more concerned about the budgeting of the $9055. The costs includes $2500 for accommodation at the Grand Hotel, $1970 for the cost of vehicle rental and the ferry ride, $1875 for the cost of food, and a social event that makes up more than a fifth of the budget.

But Arts Undergraduate Society President Guillaume Houle said that the $9000 is "peanuts" if council wants to see an effect. "I still think the AMS is not putting enough [financial and human] resources into really making good strides towards at least having an effect....we need to have a bigger presence in Victoria," he said.

Councillor Matthew Naylor says that the money is not enough to be "effective". When Naylor was VP External two years ago, he spent $12,000 on "Lobby Days."

Some councillors were concerned about the $2100 budgeted to be spent on a social event in Victoria. Both Houle and Naylor said that an event like this is necessary to attract ministers and government officials. "[The] social event is a tool to interact on a personal level with MLA," said Naylor.

"Too many people around the AMS council see [projects like this] as just 'spend money, what do I get back as a dollar figure,' and that's the wrong way to go about business in a student union," said Houle.

Chu said that he went to past executives for advice on the "Lobby Days" budget. "[Regarding] the budget that was presented," he said, "I've consulted with previous VP externals that have done [Lobby Days] before and this is the price they have given us....and it shows that there are reasons why we stay at the hotel, and why we are taking the buses instead of taking public transit." He said that taking public transit would require an additional night to stay in Victoria, which would add more to the costs and slow down the overall lobbying process.

Still, some council members remain skeptical on whether the costs were budgeted effectively. "The social event, I believe, is totally awesome...I do believe that having a home base is important and possibly renting a suite in one of the hotels as sort of a ground zero [as well]. But there are so many different ways that we could go," said Arts Councillor Jeremy McElroy, who suggested using alternatives such as the U-Pass, couch surfing or bussing to lower the expenditure for Lobby Days.

"I think that $2500 for a hotel is...I'm willing to pay that—but given the focus of this whole thing, [we should be saying] 'hey, you're cutting our funding, let's find zero spending ways of getting out there,' which I think would be a neat thing to do."

"I guarantee that it can be done cheaper," Costeloe said. He said that he has a problem with the fact that some councillors feel that lobbying is one of the AMS' most important initiatives.

"I do feel that...AMS Council is hugely overburdened by politics who have an affiliation to one party or another," said Costeloe. "Myself, I'm included in that because I am into politics, but I won't mix the two of them, and I really feel that a lot of the councillors are just trying to weasel their way to deal like politicians and to mingle and to do all that stuff.

"I don't think that's appropriate."

> "It felt more appropriate that we take out Lobby Days out of the President's Fund as opposed to something like the federal election out of the President's Fund, which is probably going to happen."
>
> *—Tim Chu, VP External*

VANTAGE POINT

Managing money on your own

PHOTO COURTESY JEANNINE MITCHELL

JEANNINE MITCHELL
Contributor

September is here, after a summer with the toughest job market for students in years.

If you earned less this summer, take care of your money so you finish your 2009/2010 school year without financial panic attacks. Here are some tips to manage your first year budget:

TEXTBOOKS

Used textbooks may not work for all your courses, but they might for some of them. Seek a used text with the current edition. Or see if the new edition hardly changed (most common with Arts courses).

Most professors have a library copy kept on reserve.

Some people share textbooks or get cheaper deals online.

Classic novels are free at any library.

If you can rent the film on your curriculum list, why buy a $30 DVD?

PLAN AHEAD

Budgets aren't exciting, but being broke by November is the kind of excitement you can do without.

Leave money for all your needs. Include a monthly reserve for unexpected costs like car repairs, parking tickets or a stolen bike.

If you're new to handling money, use family advice or budget-planning guides and tools to remember everything to budget for.

Attend a free campus workshop on money management.

STUDENT LOANS

If you're new to student loans, beware the rush of getting so much money all at once. It's easy to feel rich at first and over-spend on clothes and other gear.

Remind yourself that you have to pay all of this back—plus interest.

Keep as much loan money in the bank as possible. You'll be ready for an emergency.

If you can save some student loan money until you graduate, pay it back so you feel more free, with less debt to pay.

If your loan money is late, don't wait until you're in trouble. Seek help early from campus financial aid.

Jeannine Mitchell is a UBC alumni and founder of the website debt101.ca

Save-On-Foods may partner with UBC Farm

KALYEENA MAKORTOFF
kmakortoff@ubyssey.ca

University residents will no longer have to leave campus to fill their fridges. Last week, Save-On-Foods had a grand opening for its new location on 16th and Wesbrook, becoming the first chain grocery store on campus.

Store Manager Ryan Dennis started on the project six months ago, but he said the plans to implement a Save-On-Foods at UBC has been in the works for years and that community members have been waiting just as long.

"A lot of our customers have been telling me they've been waiting up to 14 years for a store to open in this area," he said.

Genevieve Barrons, a third-year student working as a residence advisor in Totem Park, expressed the same sentiment: "I think it's about time that we have a grocery store. I couldn't believe there wasn't one when I moved on to campus."

Opening day, as one would imagine, attracted a variety of customers. "It was packed, it was really busy, but it was nice. In comparison to other grocery store options, Barrons suggested that "students will use it more often and it seemed cheaper than surrounding stores," he said. "Even though, say, Safeway, isn't that far away, you have to go through the Endowment Lands, while the Save-On-Foods is more usable and accessible."

Dennis has not been disappointed with customer response, and says that the turnout so far has been fantastic. "They put the right store in the area," he said, adding that the store "fits the community bill." Catering to area demographics has so far meant stocking nearly 200 fast and ready-to-go meal solutions for students, and for the families, a full baby section and a large selection of organic and local products.

Situated in the still-under-construction Wesbrook Village, the Save-On-Foods store is also in close proximity to another produce supplier on campus, the UBC Farm. Friends of the Farm President Andrea Morgan said that the grocery store, while providing a service, also has a responsibility to the community.

"I think Save-On's biggest responsibility is to UBC students. The food there needs to be affordable," Morgan suggested. "Since Save-On is in the position of being the largest food supplier on campus, it also has the responsibility of promoting the smaller food businesses, grocery stores and co-ops on campus as well. In my personal opinion, a good business does not drown out its fellow community business members."

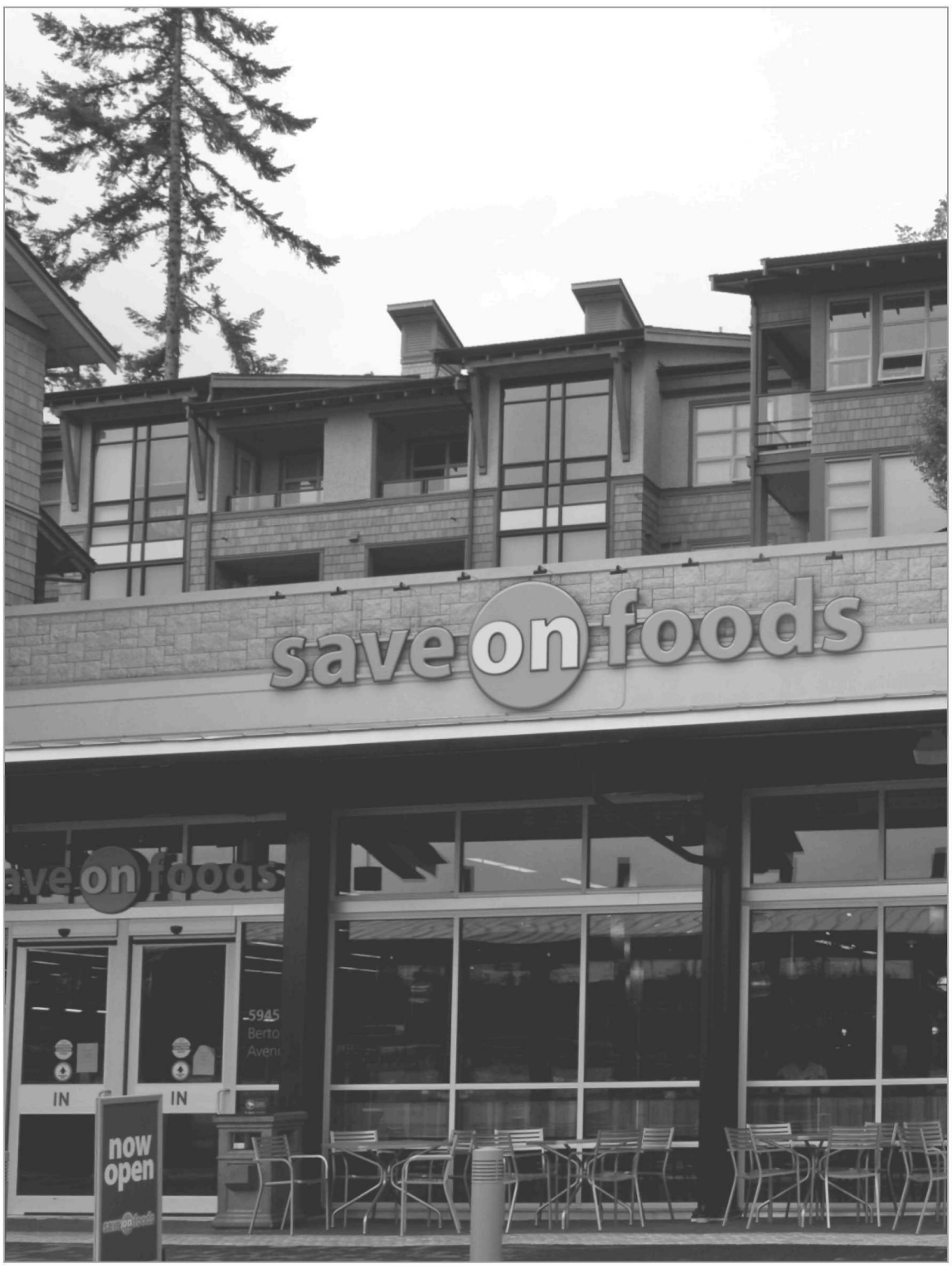
Dennis has stated that the store plans to be involved in a variety of functions, sporting teams and initiatives in the community, including participation in the University Neighbourhoods Association's sustainability fund and events such as the Community Barn's barn-raising celebration this upcoming weekend. A brief discussion surrounding collaboration with the Farm is said to have taken place last week. "Right now we're in the process of chatting with them about the things they have to offer and we'll go from there," he said.

Though communication between the Farm and Save-On-Foods has been minimal so far, Morgan sees the potential for a mutually positive relationship. "UBC Farm is looking forward to developing good relationships with Save-On and will make every effort possible to make this happen. Hopefully the store can help support the farm through selling some UBC Farm produce and other similar things."

"We are now neighbours," Morgan said, "so it makes sense to be neighbourly."

While many customers and campus residents will no doubt enjoy the proximity of the new store, Barrons wonders how a large grocery store may be of concern for those interested in the future expansion of projects such as Wesbrook Village.

"I think that Save-On-Foods positively affects students, but I am interested in seeing how the surrounding development will affect campus," said Barrons.



The new Save-On-Foods on Wesbrook and 16th offers ready-to-go meals for students. GERALD DEO PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/THE UBYSSEY

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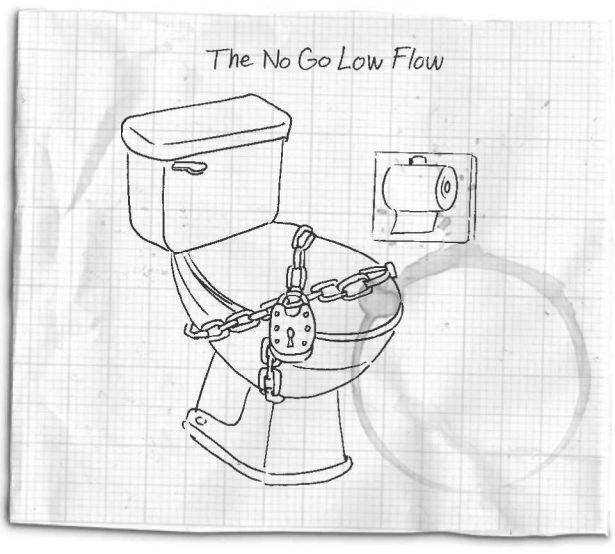

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MONDAYS AT 1PM IN SUB 24

Looking toward the future

The Ubyssey talks to President Stephen Toope about Olympics, recession, NCAA

SAMANTHA JUNG
news@ubyssey.ca

Over the past year, UBC President Stephen Toope has shouldered the arduous task of managing the largest post-secondary institution in BC during a global financial crisis. The university has recently suffered losses to their endowment fund and cuts to financial student aid from the government. UBC is less than six months away from the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, and people are wondering if the university is ready. In light of this, Toope is moving forward to improve the university and increase its status on the global platform by pushing for more graduate students and stronger ties with the Aboriginal community.

The last time *The Ubyssey* spoke with Toope, he had just reached the halfway point in his five-year term as UBC's 12th president. Now entering the second half of his presidency, Toope had a few reflections on his past accomplishments as he keeps a focused eye on the future.

THE UBYSSEY: You're entering your fourth year as President. Looking back on the past few years, what are two things that stand out?

STEPHEN TOOPE: [One is] the incredible ambition at UBC, both among students and our faculty and staff. I'm really struck by their desire to make this place even better and to have even richer experiences. And I actually think that's a huge strength of the university and it wasn't something that I necessarily assumed coming here. I think the other thing that's perhaps a standout for me—and it's a bit of a surprise, I guess, in the job—is the extent to which I have to pay attention to government relations. It's actually more of the role than I expected it would be. And I suppose if you would think about it, it makes sense...but the vast proportion of the university's budget comes from a combination of primarily the provincial government through grants, but then also from the federal government because of the research budget. So I have to pay a lot of attention to public policy issues around higher education.

U: In a letter addressed to the university in February, you talked about what you called an "Endowment Management Policy." Could you expand on this and other ways that the university is dealing with the economic recession?

T: It's an important question, because obviously if you think about the whole world around us...[For example, the provincial] government looks like it will be in a $2 billion deficit situation and not in a $500 million deficit situation. So the world is a little scary. Having said that, I have been really struck again, and I don't want to sound overly optimistic here, but I have been very struck that UBC is relatively well-positioned to weather the financial storm. And I say that for a couple of reasons:

First, in relation to the endowment: yes, the endowment lost about 20 per cent of its value, but that's not an actual loss...we still hold all of the assets in the endowment. It's just that their value dropped. Well, happily the value is starting to come back a little bit.... We've already seen a 3 per cent increase. 20 per cent was actually not a huge loss compared to what a number of other universities in North America experienced, which were 30-35 per cent losses. So that's one point. Not good news, but not horrendous news. And I guess the other important point about the endowment is we're only reliant on the endowment for about 8 per cent of our operating budget, whereas an institution like Yale, for example, was reliant on about 35-40 per cent of its endowment for its operating budget.

[Also], we've done extremely well in government support for the university. So yes, in the last budget the provincial government went into deficit, but they actually increased expenditures on higher education. So that was remarkable—it didn't happen anywhere else in Canada.

President Stephen Toope said that UBC is well-prepared for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games. GERALD DEO PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

U: So would you say, then, that UBC is well-positioned to mitigate or alleviate the government's recent $16 million cuts to student financial aid?

T: The issue there, broadly, is there's a challenge because we are trying to work with student government at UBC, and more broadly, across Canada...to make the case that now is not the time to reduce support for students. Because in fact there's more need for student support....So we're trying to make the case that there should actually should be no reductions, very strongly. And there will be some pressures from pure scholarships. Not on bursaries or on loan support, but on pure scholarships because of the endowment pressure. There may be a need to reduce some of the payouts on some specific scholarship funds, and we're really worried about that.

It is important for everyone to understand that because of what's happening in the world, all institutions are feeling the financial pressure. We're better off than many, but we're not immune. So it looks like we're going to have to find ways of saving roughly $20-25 million over the course of the next year. We are working very diligently...the purpose of that is that we're trying very hard not to make across the board cuts, instead we're looking to find savings.

U: In your July interview with *MacLean's* as part of the "Big 5" universities in Canada, you talked about the need to graduate students with higher degrees and to increase graduate student enrollment. Could you briefly describe the need for this?

T: If you look at Canada's performance overall in terms of graduate education we are actually significant underperformers.... So we're actually producing fewer masters students and fewer doctoral students especially than those other countries. That has huge implications for innovation, research and development across the country. So I am concerned, as are my colleagues, that we have to do a better job in increasing the number of graduate students in our top universities....We're saying we've got to be more competitive internationally and we have to be trying harder to attract the right kinds of graduate students so that we can then deliver them into our society and our economy so we can be more innovative.

U: With less than six months to go before the 2010 Olympics, what preparations still need to be made before UBC is ready to host the world?

T: Not many, quite frankly. UBC itself is very well-prepared at this point. The reality is, of course, is that there are many issues over which we don't have control. So for example, we don't have ultimate control over security preparations...we're asked about things, we're consulted, but very often we're told about things.

The other side of this is public transit. We're still waiting for the full transit plan to be released by TransLink...so when we get those plans released...there may be some things that UBC has to do to make sure that we're aligning properly. But apart from that, [we were concerned about the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Winter Sports Centre]. The big issue for us was, "Is the venue ready?" It was ready on time, it was ready on budget.

U: It seems that a concern is about the lack of consultation and people aren't really sure of changes the Games will bring. How is the university addressing this?

T: So there are a couple of different issues there. I think in terms of our own processes there's been very wide consultation....So I think for those internal things, quite frankly the consultation has been our usual consultation, which is quite open and strong. The big challenge has been for areas like security where we are not in control of the whole process....There have been a few places where we're a bit frustrated where we can't engage in our normal processes because the control is actually not situated within the university as a whole. So we're trying to find ways of bridging that. I guess I can say from everything that I've heard, I don't think there are going to be any great surprises....But overall, I don't think that students are going to find anything dramatic that's really very different on campus during the time of the Olympics and Paralympics.

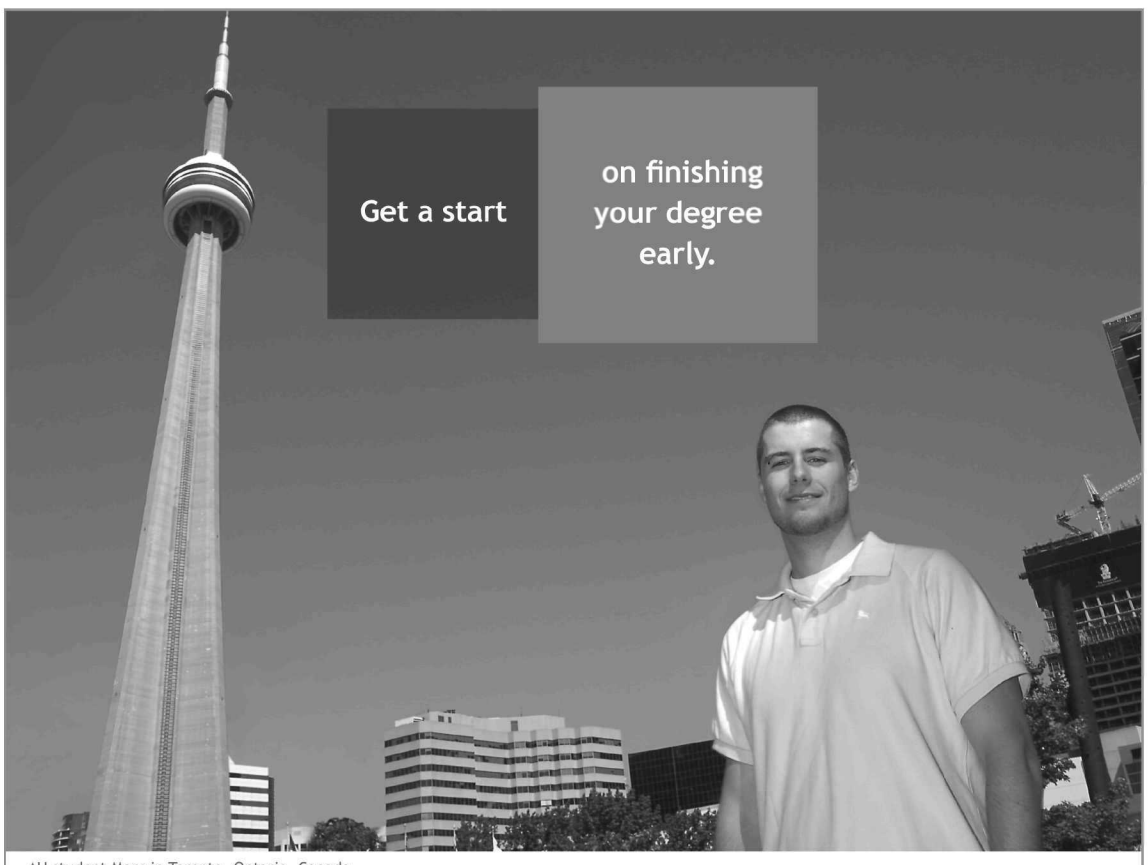
U: One of your focuses is on Aboriginal engagement. How do you feel you have made steps forward in improving Aboriginal issues at UBC?

T: We're still in early days, but you probably know that we have a new Aboriginal Strategic Plan, and I'm actually very excited about that.... So a number of very important things have already happened. For example, we have hired a whole series of new Aboriginal professors....The other thing I would say is very concrete is that we've got the commitment, I think, from the deans and from the Senate... to make this a priority for the university. So very concretely, in the area of fundraising, for the first time ever we've really targeted support for Aboriginal programs in our fundraising endeavors, and it's really showing fruit.... So we're trying to make these really concrete, not just grand statements about how much we care about Aboriginal issues, but very concretely, how do we develop the processes? How do we ensure budgetary expenditures are made that will, over time, deliver more Aboriginal students, more support for Aboriginal students, more Aboriginal professors, support for those professors and engagement with the Aboriginal community outside the university?

U: And, finally, will UBC decide to join the NCAA in its final year of decision?

T: I don't know (laughs) is the short answer. And the reason I don't know is because there's a parallel process...and that is to try to assess whether there are possibilities for reform within the Canadian Intercollegiate Sport (CIS). There are two fundamental problems, I would say: one is that the scholarship rules are very narrow. They're low levels and they don't permit flexibility to try and make sure that we can attain, attract and retain outstanding student athletes. Second, there's a real worry about the way the CIS—and the Canada West in particular—is structured. I hear from many student athletes and from people in the community that they're worried that the quality of the competition is going to be affected by the creation of a lot of new smaller universities and schools that are going to be fielding one or two or three teams, but not necessarily at the level of competition that our student athletes have a right to expect. If it's possible for CIS to address the traditional concerns of western universities, effectively the issue of joining the NCAA looks different. I'm not saying it answers all of the questions that arise there, but we at least understand what we're comparing. Right now I feel that we're comparing a situation in Canada, which is very troubling, to a seeming opportunity within the NCAA where we don't really know what some of the effects will be.

Quite frankly, I'm also quite concerned about certain key issues in applying to the NCAA. So we're trying to do everything possible to get the facts clear, and then we'll go back to public consultation." U



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Blue Chip Cookies now sells icy drinks

Renos come with tasty treats

The newly renovated Blue Chip Cookies, open for business. GERALD DEO PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

VINNIE YUEN
Contributor

When students return to campus in the fall, they will notice that a few things have changed at Blue Chip Cookies, the AMS alternative to Starbucks.

This summer, Blue Chip Cookies adopted a more contemporary look and expanded their menu to include mocha and latte frappes, and iced fruit smoothies.

Perhaps the most noticeable change is the new brown and teal colour scheme. According to Nancy Toogood, Food and Beverages manager, their coffee supplier, Canterbury Coffee, was looking to change their look to a more contemporary image. The company funded most of the renovations, including the paint, the wood stain, the new chalkboard, new signs and various costs involved in re-surfacing the store.

There were complaints made regarding the regularity of barista coffees such as lattes and mochas. To deal with this problem, specific training on the espresso machine was given to staff, ensuring drinks are of a consistently great quality.

None of Blue Chip's food and drink prices have increased due to these renovations. Because they reused both the condiment stand from the upper level offices and the ice well from the no-longer-existent Snack Attack, they were able to complete renovations with only labour costs.

No more old Cheeze

Engineering hangout to get a makeover

VINNIE YUEN
Contributor

The Cheeze Factory, home to the Engineering Undergraduate Society (EUS), is to be replaced by a new student centre.

The Cheeze Factory is one of the oldest buildings on campus, and although it carries with it much history and sentiment, the 90-year-old building has had ongoing maintenance problems such as mould issues, algae growth and rat infestation.

Lin Watt, president of the EUS, is excited for the new building. "Not only will the new building be better and bigger," she said, "but it will function as a central meeting place of engineering students and student groups to increase involvement, community and all-around awesomeness!"

In November 2008, a referendum was passed with 75 per cent of voters agreeing that it was time for a new student centre. Andrew Carne, AMS council representative for the EUS, has worked three years on the project. He stated that about half of the costs for this project will come from an escalating student fee, which will start from $15 this fall and cap at $50. This student fee will cover about $2.4 million, while the faculty will fundraise to match this number. The Informal Learning Space Committee, which supports initiatives aimed at developing or enhancing UBC's informal learning spaces, will also contribute $250, 000 to this project.

Because the EUS is not a legal entity, a financial agreement was approved by AMS Council on May 27. The next step is for the agreement to be approved by the Board of Governors. Depending on the success of fundraising, construction for this new building is expected to commence in one and a half to two years.

Construction should take nine months to one year to complete. All timescales are rough estimates for now, as are the preliminary site plans.

Carne said that the new building will be styled to reflect the current Cheeze Factory. The beams from the Cheeze may be placed in the student centre, bringing old elements to the new building. The new centre is estimated to be about 9000 square ft with two floors, and envisioned to have plenty of study space, a common social area, offices for EUS executives, a computer lab and smaller rooms available for booking.

"Due to the condition of the current facility, and some of the past history of the society, many students feel reluctant to come by the Cheeze," said Carne, "The new building will serve to finally erase this stigma and be a facility that all Engineering students can be proud of."

Looking at UBC's $25 million deficit

"It means both larger and smaller [classes]," says VP Finance

SAMANTHA JUNG
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UBC recently announced they are expecting a $25 million deficit for the 2010/2011 year, of which $13 million is an unsustainable structural deficit.

At an Alma Mater Society (AMS) student council meeting three weeks ago, UBC VP Finance Pierre Ouillet announced that the university has begun implementing an eight-step plan to deal with the structural deficit. At this point, however, the plan leaves unanswered questions.

Plans are still in the early stages, but they include: increasing professional fees for students, doubling the number of international students on campus, reducing teaching costs through larger amphitheatres, combining administrations of smaller faculties on campus and increasing revenue generated by cultural venues on campus.

This is part two of *The Ubyssey's* look at the university's plan.

WILL THERE BE BIGGER CLASSES?

UBC is changing the way their classrooms and faculties operate this year, focusing on administration and classroom initiatives as a method of saving money.

In a presentation at a recent AMS Council meeting, UBC VP Finance Pierre Ouillet said that the university is talking about "larger amphitheatres, smaller experiences" regarding class sizes.

"It means both larger and smaller [classes]," said Ouillet. "So instead of having a lot of medium-sized classes and very little focus on managing that, what we would do is use, and again, it's an idea, to use some of our star professors to teach larger [classes], because it doesn't make a huge difference if there's 70 or 90 students...but at the same time make sure that everybody after that has a small class experience, which is a group of 20-25...[and is] much more interactive."

Kathy Nomme is a senior instructor in the Biology department at UBC. She teaches Biology 111 and 121 this semester, and about 230 students are registered in each course.

"I think once you get beyond a certain size, beyond 50, the dynamics change within the classroom," she said. "And so there is a difference in that there is more evaluation that has to be done, there's marking, there's communication issues, so it does make a difference with every student you add to a course."

She said that she has adopted techniques to keep students interactive, and has been fortunate to get a TA to help manage the large number of students.

"When you have a large class like that you have to try to make it as interactive as possible," she said. "Given that you can't really have one on one interaction with students, but I've adopted other techniques such as using group work."

Nomme said that class sizes are limited by the size of the lecture halls, but unless there are more classrooms, more sections and more instructors, smaller classes aren't going to happen in her faculty.

"The smaller the class the better for the students, because then you have more interactions with the instructor," she said. "But that's not going to happen here so we have to make the best of what we have. And unless they're going to start building new classrooms, classrooms of varying sizes, classrooms that can fit 200-300 people, we're going to have to restrict our classes to the 230 that we can squeeze into [the classroom] Bio 2000."

On the administrative side, UBC wants to combine the administration of smaller faculties on campus as a means to save money.

"Every faculty today has its own IT department, they have their own HR department, they have their own finance department," said Ouillet. "It's not efficient if you are a small faculty because you don't necessarily need a full-time chief financial officer, you can merge your IT with some of the others...we're looking at some centralization there, of these types of services, and it's just the right thing to do."

Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry Charles Shuler said that talk centers around making administration of smaller faculties more efficient. He said that sharing resources would be helpful and that if the university pushed for full centralization, the deans of smaller faculties would be against it.

"Most of the deans of the smaller faculties agreed that we probably need the support we have but what we don't have is much depth," he said. "So working together we might be able to fill some gaps."

MORE MONEY IN CULTURAL VENUES

UBC's cultural venues, which include the Chan Centre, the Museum of Anthropology and the Botanical Gardens, provide a source of revenue for the campus. However, Ouillet said that the venues are not at their full potential.

"We don't have the level of public traffic from the community, from Vancouver," said Ouillet, "so we think there's a...need to market, to do some core marketing, to have group pricing. Anything we can do to give more exposure to the community and frankly, make more money."

Ouillet said that this would include more of an increase in traffic than admission, but did not specifically say that there would be no increase in admission prices.

Representatives from the various cultural venues on campus were either not available or declined comment. U

> The smaller the class the better for the students, because then you have more interactions with the instructor, but that's not going to happen here so we have to make the best of what we have. And unless they're going to start building new classrooms, classrooms of varying sizes, classrooms that can fit 200-300 people, we're going to have to restrict our classes to the 230 that we can squeeze in.
>
> *—Pierre Ouillet, VP Finance*

No more provincial exams for incoming students

NILO TABRIZY
Contributor

Beginning this September, provincial exams will not be required for BC students' applications to UBC.

The motion was approved on May 14, 2008. No additional provincial exams will be required to be accepted to UBC, other than those which are required for high school graduation.

Student Senator Azim Wazeer said that the policy was amended in order for UBC to be fairer towards BC students who are applying to BC universities.

"This policy came about primarily because UBC wanted to attract the best and brightest across Canada," he said. "The disadvantage with the previous admissions system was that UBC had to wait until well into the summer for BC provincial examinations results, which lead to the brightest students going elsewhere because they were getting confirmed decisions earlier from other universities."

According to Lisa Collins, associate registrar of senate and curriculum services, the change came about when the provincial government passed a policy that stated that students are only required to write the English exam in order to graduate, prompting universities to re-examine their own admissions policies. Consequently, since the Ministry of Education was not requiring certain provincial exams to graduate, universities were then free to consider whether examinations made sense as an admissions requirement.

"This leveled the playing field for BC universities to attract desirable students as they could now make final admissions decisions as early in the process as other universities," Collins stated, elaborating on how this policy is now fairer to BC students wishing to attend local universities.

Dr David Fielding, chair of the senate admissions committee, believes that enrolment will not increase as a direct result of this amendment as not all students admitted to UBC were admitted on the basis of provincial examinations. Since only one province was subjected to provincial exams as an admissions requirement, taking away such a requirement would not increase enrollment substantially.

However, Fielding believes that if anything, this amendment has improved "fairness" for prospective BC students as local students will now be able to receive confirmed acceptance to UBC as early as other competing universities. Also, this amendment has no impact on current UBC students, but this change was widely supported by UBC students at the time it was adopted.

Fielding said that the competitive nature of admissions will not change.

"Enrollment at UBC before the implementation of this policy was very competitive; afterwards, it remains the same," he said.

The amendment allows UBC to be on the same playing field as other universities that did not require provincial examinations. Now, UBC can give letters of acceptance to prospective students as early as every other university.

The University of Victoria has made this amendment before UBC, and Simon Fraser University made the switch shortly after UBC.

Olga Woodland of Argyle Secondary School in North Vancouver believes that educators support the notion of exams as they give a reflection of how one group of students are performing academically versus other districts and other schools.

"Personally, I like the exams. They serve as an audit across the province, putting all the schools on the same playing field," said Woodland. She is concerned that students will not be evaluated at the same level as they are currently; and that the only method of assessment would be through school evaluation. Woodland has already noticed a pattern of the majority of Grade 12 students choosing not to write their exams.

Funds, fees and where to opt-out: a look at your tuition fees

SARAH CHUNG
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Did you know that the fees you pay at UBC include a donation towards refugee students who wish to study here? How about the fact that some services can be opted out where you can save up to $234.31? This *Ubyssey* exclusive gives a detailed breakdown of your student fees.

ATHLETICS AND RECREATION FEE: $189.66

The annual fee is still a large amount, but now students get discounts. Some of these changes include a four-month pass to the BirdCoop, from $148 down to $25; almost all intramural sports are between $5-10 per person; the Aquatic Centre offers free student access at all times; and the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Winter Sports Centre offers free public skating and drop-in sports at $2.

U-PASS: $190

At the price of $23.75 per month, this mandatory blue pass will allow you to travel freely by transit. In 2010, the Canada Line will include an add-fare for passengers heading to the Vancouver Airport , and it will not be included in the U-Pass.

SEXUAL ASSAULT FUND: $3

The fee for the Sexual Assault Support Centre (SASC) went up $2 this year. The SASC promotes anti-violence and anti-sexual harassments with free confidential services from a professional and experienced staff. Their advertising and promotion budget tripled for this upcoming year to push for more workshops, campaigns and outreach awareness.

AMS STUDENT SERVICES FEE: $9

For free services such as tutoring, counselling, health and well being, security, as well as for our student radio station CiTR and its magazine, *Discorder*. Bring your student ID and you can get a big bag of non-perishable goodies up to six times a term from AMS Foodbank. Also check out AMS Minischool for cheap and sexy classes such as Pole Dancing 101 and Strip Tease.

MANDATORY AMS FEE: $23.28

Other than covering general operational costs of AMS such as wages, office supplies and yummy grubs for their council meetings, this money is used for lobbying against the government to lower tuitions, increased grants, having better housing laws, etc.

WUSC REFUGEE STUDENTS ASSISTANCE: $2.50

This fee went up $1.50 this year. UBC sponsors at least three refugee students every year through World University Services Canada (WUSC) that enables those students in need to come to UBC and have the ability to continue their education.

SUB RENEWAL FEE: $30

Part of an $85 million student investment—the largest single donation in UBC's history—to build a new $110 million Student Union Building. The contribution is being financed by an annual student fee that started at $20 in the 2008/2009 year and will continue to rise by an increment of $10 per year up to and including 2016/2017, where the fee will remain constant until the building is paid for.

2 PER CENT TUITION INCREASE

Last April, the UBC Board of Governors raised tuition fees for the 2009/2010 year at the maximum set by the Liberal government. The tuition increases will cost a domestic undergraduate an extra $80 for 30 credits and $985 for international students.

Ian Burgess, the comptroller of UBC Finance, said that "[the money] will be used to accommodate the rise of general costs such as wages, supplies, etc." However, for the 2010/2011 fiscal year, Burgess recommends a 75 per cent allocation directly into faculties for teaching activities and 12-15 per cent of all domestic tuition to Student Aid.

Statistics Canada reported that the average full-time undergraduate tuition fee for the 2008/2009 academic year was $4724 in Canada and $5040 in BC.

FEES WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS

You can save money by opting out of some AMS fees. These include the AMS/GSS Extended Health and Dental Plan at $216.31, Student Aid Bursary Fund at $12, Student Legal Fund at $1, and finally, *The Ubyssey* Publications Society Fee at $5.

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T-Birds Season Preview: Men's Soccer

The men's soccer team will look to improve on their second place conference finish in 2008. KEEGAN BURSAW FILE PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

Can UBC return to the national stage?

ANDREW BUCHOLTZ
Contributor

It was a difficult ending to stomach last October. After finishing second in Canada West during the regular season, the UBC Men's soccer team looked set to defend their second national championship in three years at the nationals in Ottawa. They ran into an unexpected roadblock on the way, falling to the Trinity Western Spartans on penalty kicks in the Canada West semifinals. Head coach Mike Mosher said that loss should provide extra motivation.

"When you think you have a good team and something like that happens, it's disappointing," he said.

The Thunderbirds return an impressive array of talent, though, which may help them fight their way back to the top. Their defence conceded only 7 goals in 14 regular season games last year, and all four of last year's starters on the backline have returned.

"It's huge to have them all back," Mosher said. "They were a strength last year."

The back four will be playing in front of a new goalkeeper though, after the graduation of All-Canadian keeper Srdjan Djekanovic. Mosher said Djekanovic will be missed, but the strong defence will help the transition.

"Srdjan, he wasn't all that busy through a lot of the regular season because the guys in front of him were so good," Mosher said.

There will be an interesting battle for the starting spot in goal, with the favourites being fifth-year veterans Elliot Usher and Nikolai Matni.

"This is their opportunity, they know that," Mosher said. "I think they'll do just fine."

If the veterans falter, new recruits may take up the challenge. The Thunderbirds have two highly prized goalkeeping recruits in Simon Thomas, currently the backup for the Vancouver Whitecaps, and Matt Robinson. Mosher is pleased with the depth accumulated.

"We've set ourselves up to be good in goal moving forward—for years to come, hopefully," he said.

The midfield also has plenty of depth. Mosher said the team's strength in midfield will likely make lineup decisions difficult.

"We're quite deep in that position, which gives us a variety of options," he said. "It's a nice problem to have."

The strikers may pose more of an issue, but Mosher said the coaching staff is working on addressing the lack of goals.

"We're aware of it going into this year," he said. "We think we've got quality players....Hopefully, a couple of guys will get hot."

The team has four other recruits from the Whitecaps residency and prospects programs; William Hyde, Greg Smith, Ashley Ankiewicz and Harry Lakhan. Hyde may challenge for a starting spot in the back four, while Smith, who spent last season with the youth squad of German Bundesliga team Energie Cottbus, can play anywhere on the field.

Mosher said making it back to the nationals isn't going to be easy. Trinity Western is hosting this year, which means that there will be only one berth for another Canada West team. He said there are benefits and drawbacks to having the nationals so close, especially with the growing parity in Canada West.

"If you get the one spot, I guess it's a blessing, but it's definitely challenging," Mosher said. "Each passing year, you think it couldn't possibly get tighter, but it does."

The team kicks off their season this weekend on the road against the Alberta and Saskatchewan Huskies. Mosher said both matches will be difficult.

"It's always going to be a battle against those teams," he said. "Really, you can't take any team in this conference lightly."

2008 RECAP

FINAL RECORD: Regular Season: 8-1-5. Playoffs: 1-1.

STANDING: 2nd in Conference

ON OFFENCE: 19 goals scored (5th in Canada West)

ON DEFENCE: 7 goals allowed (1st in Canada West)

2009 PREVIEW

RETURNING STARTERS: 8/11

OFFENSIVE STAR: Canada West rookie of the year Devin Gunenc had 5 points and started 14 games, the second most on the team.

DEFENSIVE STAR: First-team All-Canadian defender Graham Smith takes over as the team's sole captain this year after splitting the duties with Nick Poole last year.

SCHEDULE:
Sept. 12 @ Alberta, 2:15pm
Sept.13 @ Saskatchewan, 2:15pm
Sept. 18 vs. Lethbridge, 7pm
Sept. 19 vs. Calgary, 7:15pm
Sept. 26 @ UVic, 2:15pm
Sept. 27 @ UFV, 2:15pm
Oct. 2 @ TWU, 7pm
Oct. 9 vs. Fraser Valley, 7:15pm
Oct. 10 vs. UVic, 7:15pm
Oct. 16 vs. TWU, 7:15pm
Oct. 23 vs. Saskatchewan, 7:15pm
Oct. 24 vs. Alberta, 7:15pm
Oct. 31 @ Calgary, 2:15pm
Nov. 1 @ Lethbridge, 2:15pm

ATHLETE PROFILE

GERALD DEO PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

He's Greene, but he's ready

IAN TURNER
Contributor

Mid-season last year, Billy Greene became UBC's starting quarterback. And while the first-year product of Surrey's Holy Cross High School impressed at times, he also struggled, throwing five interceptions and no touchdown passes, losing the three games he started.

"I think he did a pretty good job under the circumstances. It's pretty tough to come in in that situation, and do any more than he did," said Ted Goveia, UBC's head coach. "He's improved tremendously."

So far, results seem to bear that out. After two weeks, the Thunderbirds have one win and one loss. But there is work to do. For one, though his more experienced offensive line makes him feel "very, very safe...and confident," in the practice preceding our interview—one that Goveia admitted "wasn't the sharpest"—Greene's timing with receivers was off, resulting in numerous dropped passes. But he made up for it by picking up a lot of yards running.

"His confidence is pretty good, and he has got good leadership," said Goveia. "He's just young. He's going to experience new things and go through it."

All of Greene's peers said he has a great character, is a solid athlete, and provides leadership in the huddle and the locker room. When it came to his interview after practice, Greene oozed confidence and poise—academics excepted.

Those are good qualities to have if Greene is to fulfill his dream: be a player in the Canadian Football League. In case that falls through, he is "trying to get [his] grades together" to make it into Law school. Short-term, he plans on majoring in political science. But this summer his priority was football. Five times a week, a ninety-minute workout. Four times a week, a series of ball-drills.

All Goveia wants from Greene "is quick delivery and that he makes the right reads, but that is something that gets better with game experience...I don't see any major weaknesses except inexperience," he said.

Hopefully for the Thunderbirds, all the experience Greene needs will come early, giving UBC a chance in the Canada West conference.

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How does a decent provincial university of 20 years ago now find itself positioned among the elite of the world's 35 greatest universities?

Why does a Nobel Laureate choose UBC to change the teaching of science on a global scale?

Why do UBC's medical researchers rank in the North American top 10 for bringing their work to patients in the marketplace?

Why has UBC taken the national lead in Community Service Learning and sustainability?

Interesting questions,

SKETCHING THE FUTURE

WHERE'S THE NEW LOGO?

THREE STUDENTS AND A TREE – NOT

GETTING IN POSITION

To prospective undergraduate and graduate students, UBC is the Tier One international research-intensive university that, better than any other, offers a fresh, open environment that provides the freedom to learn, discover and contribute in one's own way.

Elements of the brand

A BRAND NEW IDEA: THE TWO-YEAR JOURNEY

Fall 2007

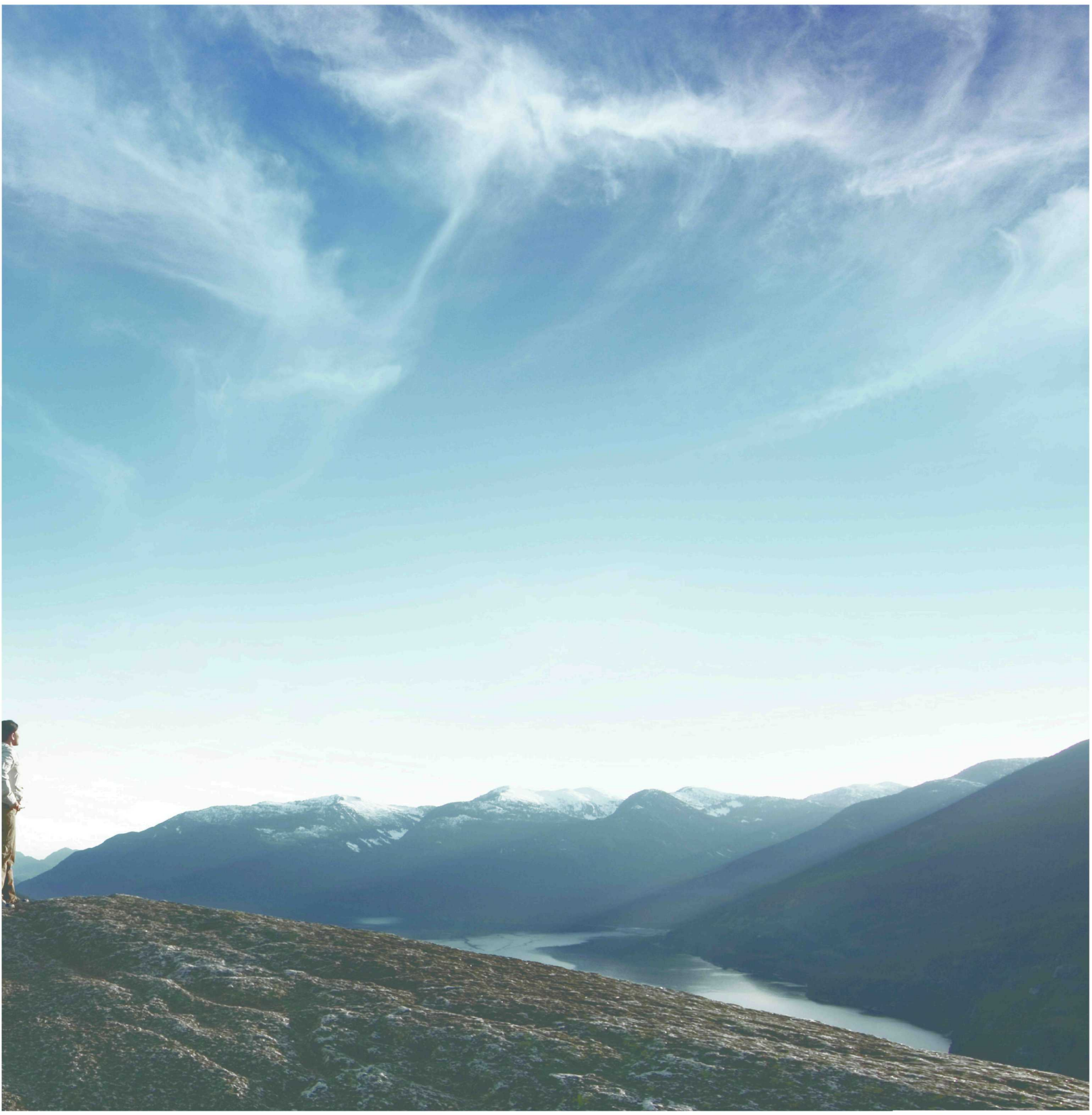
Winter 2007

Spring 2008

Summer 2008

Fall 2008

Winter 2008



Overwhelmingly, internal and external audiences, gravitated to one particular execution:

- the tagline ***a place of mind***
- a big, bold idea to show how open thought can change the world, crafted in a headline that ends in the phrase ***From Here***
- equally bold "heroic" imagery that invites viewers to see themselves as part of wide open photographic vistas that characterize the West and UBC's place in that geography

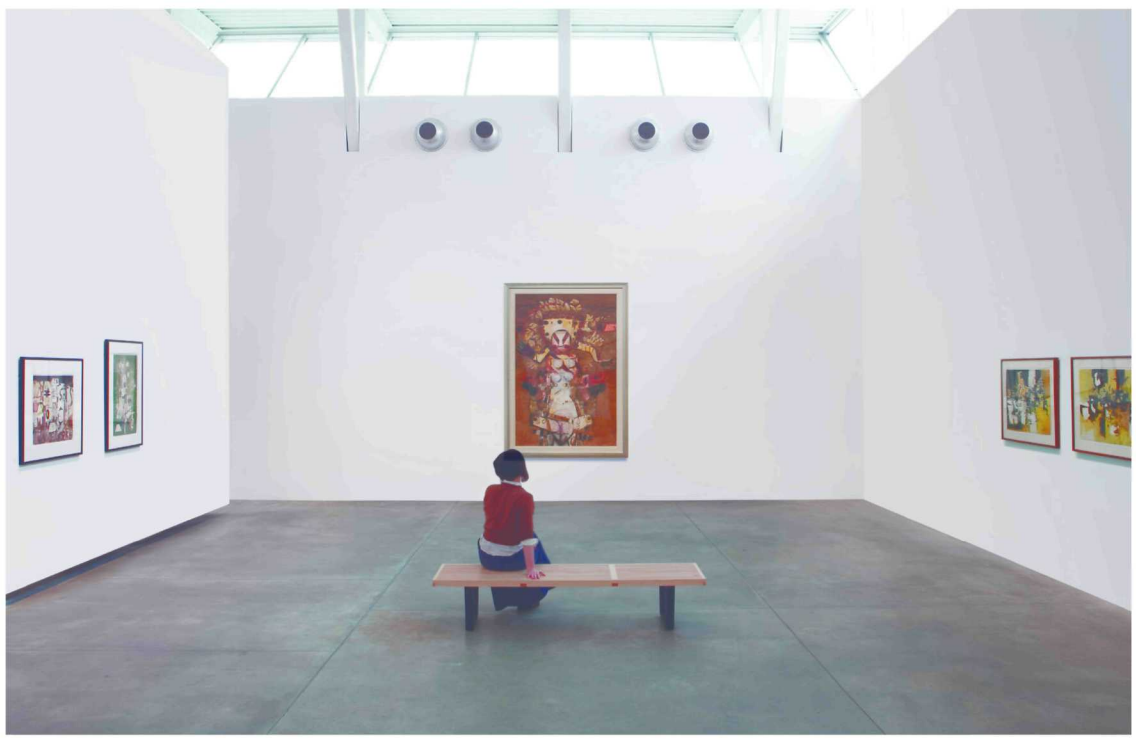
a place of mind.ca

What can you do From Here?

www.aplaceofmind.ca

public.affairs@ubc.ca aplaceofmind.ca

WEB 2.0



a place of mind

THE PLANET SUSTAINED FROM HERE.

Surrounded by beauty, it is no wonder innovative thinkers and doers at UBC are taking on towering environmental challenges. In 1997, UBC was the first university in Canada to make a commitment to sustainability. The community has extensively reduced campus emissions to below 1990 levels. And UBC professors and students came up with the concept of "our ecological footprint," launched the carbon offset company used by the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games, and are developing what may be the greenest building on Earth. It's part of our nature.

ubc.ca

UBC

a place of mind

GAMES AND COMICS

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7	9							

MEDIUM # 51

solution, tips and computer programs at www.sudoku.com

su|do|ku
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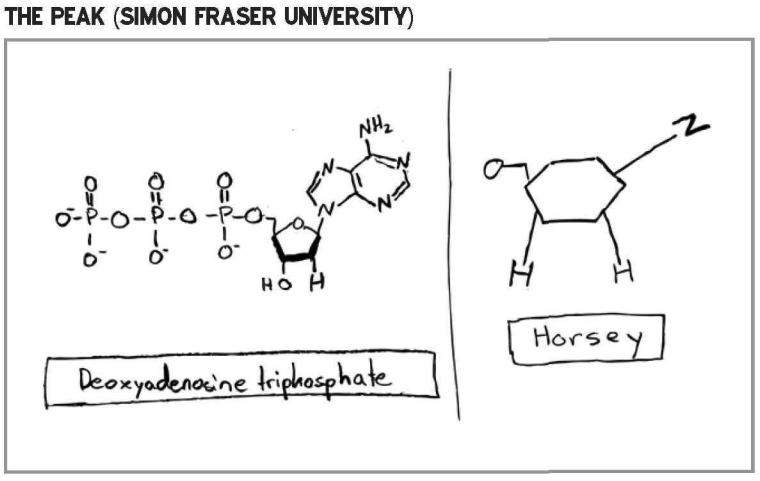
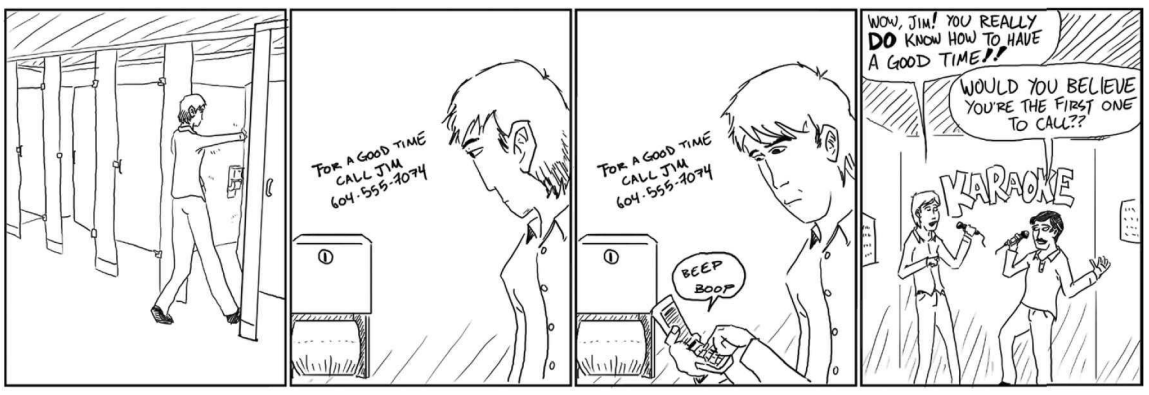
I-DON'T-CARE COMIC, MARIA CIRSTEA

SUSCOMIC.COM, MICHAEL BROUND

"SCIENCE VS. ARTS"
BY GRAHAM TEMPLETON AND BRYN HEWKO
THE PEAK (SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY)



THE PEAK (SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY)



UBC
CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PLANNING
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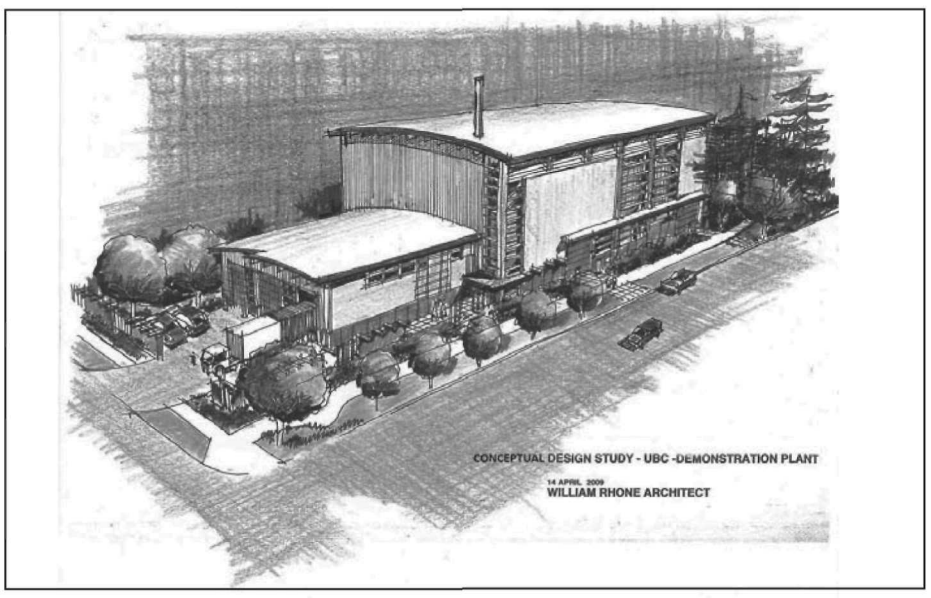
Public Open House

UBC Bioenergy Research and Demonstration Project

The University of British Columbia, in partnership with Nexterra Energy Corp., proposes to build and demonstrate an advanced renewable energy system designed to provide clean heat and power to campus. The system features B.C. technology on biomass gasification combined with high-efficiency engines. As a first demonstration of this combined approach to clean heat and power, the proposed facility would leave a legacy of learning and research opportunities for UBC students, faculty and staff. You are invited to attend the Public Open House for details.

Date: Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2009, 4 - 6 p.m.
Place: Atrium - Fred Kaiser Bldg, 2332 Main Mall



? Please direct questions to Karen Russell, Manager Development Services, karen.russell@ubc.ca

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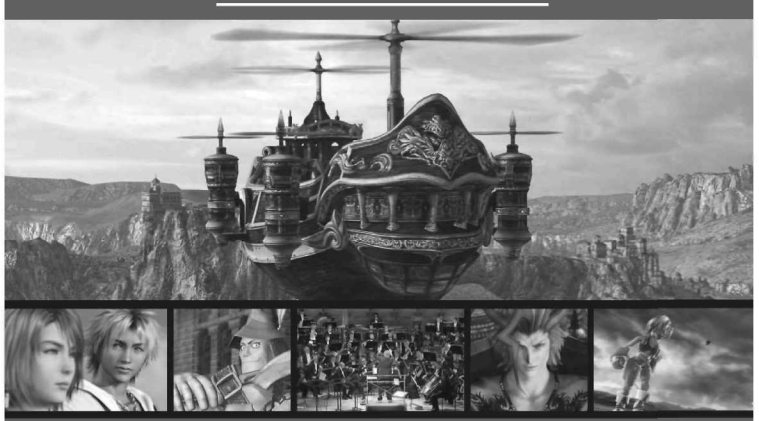

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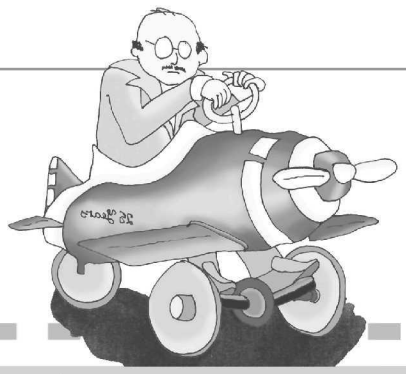

HISTORY OF FRINGE

The original Fringe Festival was born in 1947, when eight (rejected) performance groups set up shop on the edge of the Edinburgh International Festival in Scotland. These shows took advantage of unsuspecting theatre goers, and gained popularity in the following years. Canada hosts ten Fringe Festivals—more than any other country in the world. For more information on the Fringe Festival, go to page 19.

Culture

Culture Editors: *Kate Barbaria & Trevor Record*

Welcome Back BBQ: the rundown

Energetic crowds enjoying last year's AMS Welcome Back BBQ, which featured the Clips, the Matinee and No Gold! GOH IROMOTO FILE PHOTO/THE UBYSSEY

KAI GREEN
Contributor

September is all about on-campus livin' as the AMS attempts to establish itself as your "totally radical" student society with cheap, good concerts. Chief among these is the Welcome Back BBQ, which will terrify the neighbors at MacInnes Field on Friday, September 11. *The Ubyssey* breaks down upcoming bands, and the talking points you'll need to navigate serious musical discussions with serious musical people you'd like to seriously sleep with.

THUNDERHEIST

What is Thunderheist like? Most of the good parts of Gnarls Barkley without the unfortunate Paris Hilton connection. Think aggressive beats and lots of booty-shaking; lyrics with a heavy dependence on sex, partying and innuendo. It's club music for the discerning undergraduate, and after three beers it's an excuse to dance like a complete tramp. Keep your hips in line and repeat after me: 'crunky.'

GREEN GO

Shout-along choruses like "Dance Till Your Death" could seriously fracture your cool credibility. Bugger that; nobody likes a joyless scenester. When Green Go takes the stage, let the dance-rockers from Guelph entice you and your object of desire into a few poorly-realized dance moves. This is spontaneous, fun-loving music along the lines of !!! or Franz Ferdinand—minus, of course, the overplay. Go west, young man, and boogie down.

NATALIE PORTMAN'S SHAVED HEAD

NPSH formed on a whim and they still seem shocked by what they've created: keyboard-way-heavy sing-alongs punctuated with guitar, claps and enough self-conscious irony to fill the Biltmore. To add to their already expansive hype, NPSH is populated by a girl and boys little older than the frosh currently crowding you out of the refreshments line, singing songs about what they're gonna do to your daughter. How to turn these baby geniuses to your advantage? Either use their youth and pseudo-retro neon gaudy hijinks as a foil for your superior maturity, or remark on how much this sounds like your old garage band. Oh yeah, we totally could have gone big...but then I thought, university—that's where it's at.

SEX ATTACK!

Self-described "button-mashers" with a rabid teenage fanbase, Sex Attack! are the musical equivalent of canned soup—sure, it's been made beforehand, but sometimes it hits the spot. Whether or not it will fly on the field is up for debate, but once the first button has been mashed, it'll be time to embark on a psuedo-intellectual discussion of, say, the performative aspect of live music. Possible topic: Are we paying these young gentlemen to stand on stage and hit "PLAY?" Technically, yes.

Happiness is the best magical power

An interview with Natalie Portman's Shaved Head

TREVOR RECORD
culture@ubyssey.ca

Natalie Portman's Shaved Head (NPSH) will be headlining the annual AMS Welcome Back BBQ on Friday, September 11 at MacInnes Field. The Seattle-based group is known for their unique brand of party rock and charmingly garish music videos. *The Ubyssey* interviewed NPSH members Luke Smith, David Price, Claire England and Shaun Libman during the Sasquatch! Music Festival. The full transcript is available at *ubyssey.ca/culture*.

UBYSSEY: I've heard that a few of you wanted to go to UBC at some point, is that true?

NPSH: That's true...(Luke) I was looking to get in there at one point when I was looking at schools. I wanted to do film. Vancouver is a beautiful city.

U: You met at an art school, is that right?

NPSH: We met in an art high school. It was a high school that was very art-focused.

U: Were you more focused towards music or visual arts?

NPSH: The surprising thing is, they didn't actually have any music at that school. We went there for film. There was one semester of music in the four years we were there. And it was really crappy. They had a drum kit in storage all four years we were there, it never got used. Sometimes we'd skip class and go play with the drums in the storage room.

U: I've read that the band was started to meet girls. How has that been working out?

NPSH: That's a funny little piece of Wikipedia.

U: I checked it out, and found the interview where it had been said.

NPSH: It makes sense, in that it's something we might say, but it's not completely accurate. Well, I don't know, maybe it's partially true.

U: Your band has been together since 2005. Are you still good friends? How has touring worked out for you?

NPSH: We started off as friends, and some of us have been friends going on seven years now. And it's been a blast hanging out....going to play music with your best friends. There's nothing else I can imagine anyone ever doing, or wanting to do.

U: You guys have toured with Matt & Kim and The Go! Team in the same tour, how was that?

NPSH: CSS was also there. To be able to be with all those great bands, which we all like a lot, on our first great tour was amazing. Matt & Kim are the single—or I should say couple—nicest people in the world. The Go! Team...we never really got to meet, except once. We were in the backroom and the singer [Ninja] came in while they were doing an instrumental part. She burst in sweating and was grabbing some towels and we chatted with her then.

U: You are sort of personal friends with the band CSS, is that right?

NPSH: Not exactly....Well, yeah, Luke has video chatted with them. (Luke) The video chat was the culmination of a long, cultivated MySpace friendship. We were chatting over a long time and, you know, we ended up going on tour with them.

U: When you started to gain in popularity, it was largely internet-based?

NPSH: Yes, definitely. Well, I think that the live shows started it, though. It was the internet, but it was being able to hear that people were liking the live shows, and also connecting with people so that we could play shows. It was all about making connections with people so we could play shows. So it was like a gateway.

U: If you each had magic powers, what would each of your powers be?

NPSH: (Dave) I'm going to go with time travel, that would be really rad. (Luke) I think I'd like to fly. (Shaun) Yeah, I'd really like to fly. We've been to LA a few times, and passed by Magic Mountain Six Flags, and we always looked at it longingly. And we finally got to go there, and we found this one ride called "Tatsu." It's a dragon-themed one, you're facing the ground, and it's like you're flying, it was an awesome feeling. (Luke) I think when people are asked this question it's something like 70 per cent who say they'd choose flying. (Claire) I think when anyone is asked what superpowers they want, it'd be flying, x-ray vision, all the basics.

U: We're not talking super powers, though, we're talking magic.

NPSH: (Claire) Whoa! I would just want to be like a Harry Potter kid.

U: What, and get all the powers?

NPSH: (Claire) Yeah, I just want to be magic, c'mon! (The rest of the group generally disagrees with this.)

U: What if you get just one aspect of your life to be magical, like that it's generally happy?

NPSH: That'd be good. That'd be really great actually. I'd hate to be able to fly and have a shitty life.

U: So do you at least have that power, the happy life?

NPSH: Definitely.

IN THE PIT

Mother Mother comes home

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAST GANG RECORDS

GRACE MCRAE-OKINE
Contributor

Mother Mother's upcoming show at the Pit Pub on September 12 should be one to remember, so mark your calendars now. The last time Mother Mother and Vancouver rocked out together was early August, when the crowd was described as "particularly rambunctious." If you aren't already a huge Mother Mother fan, don't worry—you're still cool. But only for so long.

Since the release (and re-release) of 2007's *Touch Up* and 2008's immaculate *Oh My Heart*, the Vancouver band has been lauded for their keen sense of harmony, Pixies-esque girl/boy vocals, and incredible rockability. After opening for Sam Roberts on tour this summer and debuting the video for their single "Hayloft" on MuchMusic September 4, Mother Mother is prepared to take over the top spot on your iPod, after having done the same to all of your friends.

"Hayloft is the current band favorite," said singer/guitarist Ryan Guldemond, "doing the video brought the joy back into that song for us. Playing a song a million times over a period of time can really make you forget what originally made it good."

The band has seen some recent changes, from a quintet to a quartet and back again after last year's departure of Debra-Jean Creelman, who was replaced this spring by Jasmin Parkin on keyboards and vocals. Along with Ali Siadat on drums, Jeremy Page on bass and Molly Guldemond with vocals, Mother Mother is still on the road.

Lucky for hometown fans, the band is also on the internet, with a Twitter page that has a new-car smell, a tour diary on their webpage, and (at least) one blog post. There isn't any beef between the group and social media, they're just "learning to love it."

"I update those," said Guldemond, "I posted one really good blog, hoping that it would be a catalyst for more blogs. Take what you can get," he added, with a laugh.

As awesome as social media is, there's still nothing quite like the real thing, so head over to the Outpost to pick up tickets while they last. Get excited UBC—we can outdo "rambunctious," can't we?

"We're excited to see you too," said Guldemond.

CVC rebuilds image

The Chinese Varsity Club is growing up

DAVINA CHOY
Contributor

Widespread misconceptions, a banana suit and a promotional video that went awry are some of the things that incoming President Eric Chan,of the Chinese Varsity Club (CVC) hopes to shake off this upcoming year.

On a quiet Monday afternoon, he and Brian Cheung, the internal vice-president, wait to unveil a new promotional video to the Student Advisory Committee vice chair. This new video, entitled *I Can*, is worlds away in tone and content from the infamous video of semester past.

In that controversial video, the CVC is pitted against the "Typical Honger Club" in the manner of the PC vs. Mac commercials. The "Typical Honger Club" member speaks with a thick accent, mistakenly says "viagra" in place of "variety" and struggles to pronounce the word "multicultural." The implication being that CVC, by comparison, is more diverse (unless you're an immigrant), up-to-date, and, in a word—better. Needless to say, it was not well received despite Eric Chan's assertion that "it was obviously not meant to be offensive."

For Eric, the video is in the past and he is looking forward. The *I Can* video is an attempt to re-brand CVC as culturally inclusive and communally minded. Against a background of inspirational music, it features a handful of student clubs saying what they can do, ending with a mosaic of members' faces fitted together like a jigsaw puzzle. But with a name like "Chinese Varsity Club"—with the ethnic emphasis built right in—can multiculturalism really prevail?

"It's a concern," said Chan, "but the name is part of its history." CVC was founded in 1930 as a way for Chinese students, then a small minority, to socialize and play sports. Eric's own parents and uncles were members of CVC in their youth. Now, almost 80 years later CVC has grown into the largest student club at UBC with over 1200 members and 70 executive leaders. As a social club, it aims to attract members across the racial spectrum, but the perception remains that CVC caters mainly to Chinese students.

The Aqua Society is neighbours with the CVC office in the bottom floor of the Student Union Building. Brendan Andresen, an Aqua Society member and Alberta native, is friendly with CVC, but apprehensive about attending their events. When asked why, he answers, half-smiling, "You've got to be Asian, don't you?"

Andresen is unsure what exactly it is that CVC does. "They got a lot of members and there's always someone hanging out [in the CVC office] and they're usually really friendly." He considers several possibilities and settles on one that is sure to raise a few eyebrows: "I think they help international students from China get into UBC."

These are the kinds of misconceptions that Chan hopes to dispel. To him, CVC is like a family—all-inclusive and welcoming, and if this is true, then the role of the warm, pipe-smoking patriarch belongs to him.

As the *I Can* video rolls to an end, Chan is positively beaming. His comments to Cheung—who conceptualized, organized, filmed and directed the video—have a distinct proud-parent quality: "the tiling, man—very nice"; "Sweet video. It was awesome" and "I like how you framed their faces," followed by laughs and a high-five.

To stretch the family metaphor further, it's clear that Chan's heart belongs to CVC for the long run. As a fifth-year student, he is stretching out his remaining five classes to ensure that he has ample time left over to run the club. With their membership growing each year, it's apparent that CVC is doing something right.

A large percentage of their members are first-years, and like most clubs, CVC relies on their optimism and youthful energy. Recruiting first-year executives, however, is no cakewalk. Interviews run for two days and more than 150 first-year applicants are whittled down to fill only fifteen or so positions. It has the makings of high drama and many dreams are dashed in the recruitment process.

Being a first-year "exec" is a coveted position and Chan is genuinely baffled by it. "I just don't know why. I guess they want to get involved, but being an exec isn't the only way." Worse, he notes that many applicants who didn't make it don't continue to participate in CVC. "It's a rejection issue," he says. In matters of recruitment, hell hath no fury like a first-year scorned.

The newly-launched website is tricked out, glossy and features a photo gallery, videos, a bi-weekly podcast and an article series on everything from bussing to food to tips on taking naps, aimed at helping out first-year students. It's no wonder Timmy Cheung, incoming president of the Chinese Students' Association (CSA), considers CVC one of the best and most entertaining clubs on campus.

Members look forward to the annual ski trip where, according to longtime member Felix Cha, one can expect "lots of drinking and partying," in addition to snow sports and short-term romances in the comfort of shared cabins or the always-reliable hot tub. A fashion show, the *Chin and Chow Interactive Dinner* (in the style of *Tony and Tina's Wedding*) and the Supaskillz talent show are signatures in the roster of CVC's annual events.

If the *I Can* video manages to attract a more diverse membership, then everyone wins. To be sure, CVC is an attractive club. Its legacy provokes curiosity and, if Chan and Cheung are any indication, the genuine niceness of its leadership provides a safe, welcoming place for students to get a taste of what the largest club on campus has to offer.

How to beat textbook burn and get the deal you deserve

TREVOR RECORD
culture@ubyssey.ca

The textbook publishing business is greased with students who didn't put in the time or energy to look for the best possible deal. Even with a light course load, you're likely to pay several hundred dollars for textbooks each semester.

Don't be one of *those* people. If you're sneaky and creative, you can cut down your course material costs significantly (sometimes even completely).

1 The UBC Bookstore has overpriced materials, which they buy back from students for much lower prices than when they're resold. Returns are not accepted for new course packages after you have opened them, even a day after they were purchased. Since course packages are sold exclusively at the UBC Bookstore, they've *almost* got you in a bind.

2 Don't buy textbooks until you've been to your first classes. There is a chance you will find out that you don't actually need some of the textbooks. There are plenty of courses which recommend you buy a $50 textbook that has only one or two of your required readings.

3 See if you can find your materials online. From William Blake to Sylvia Plath, a large portion of the texts that make up your 100- and 200-level poetry courses are available for free—just a Google search away. The same applies for philosophy, film and many other Arts courses. It can't hurt to try. Unfortunately, you'll probably have less luck finding a good resource for science or math texts that match up with the one in your class.

4 Many of your texts will be available in libraries. You may not always be able to take them out for as long as you need, or even at all in some cases, but you can't argue with free. This route has the added bonus of placing you inside a quiet environment in which you are more likely to actually do some studying.

5 Shop around for the best deal. In the Student Union Building basement, you'll find iBook Union—a student-run operation which allows students to sell their textbooks at a price that they set. They include the prices that the same used textbook would be at the UBC Bookstore. It's also a great place to sell your textbooks since they allow you do set the price of your textbook yourself, and only take 19 per cent comission. Another option with a larger stock of books is the Discount Bookstore. You'll find it in the University Village, above the International Food Fair. They often have better prices than the UBC Bookstore. Make sure that you purchase the right edition of the textbook you need.

6 Also consider buying your textbooks online. You can find good deals for used books on *saveonbook.com, half.com* or *amazon.ca*, although you should keep in mind that there will be a longer waiting period due to shipping.

7 Keep your eyes open for flyers advertising used textbooks. Many students, frustrated with the chump change that they get for used books from the UBC Bookstore, post flyers around campus offering to sell their used textbooks. The chances that you'll find the textbook you're looking for are higher if you're looking in the right faculty building. Even so, it is unlikely you're going to find all of your textbooks this way.

8 Consider textbook sharing. I've done this a few times in the past with mixed results. If you are sharing a class with someone you see often, this can work well. You can also end up in a situation where you both wait to study for far longer than necessary, and end up squabbling over book visitation rights.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Student Information Services

Ground Floor, Brock Hall, 1874 East Mall

Winter hours, effective Saturday, September 12, 2009

INFORMATION CENTRE

Saturday: 9:30 am to 2:30 pm (Welcome Centre only)
Monday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Tuesday: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm
Wednesday: 8:30 am to 5:30 pm
Thursday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Friday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

HELP SHAPE THE SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMIC STRATEGY.

SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMIC STRATEGY

ATTEND the SAS Community Consultation COMMENT on the draft Discussion Paper:
Wednesday September 16, 9am-12noon
Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, Golden Jubilee Room (fourth floor) 1961 East Mall, Vancouver, BC.

The Sustainability Academic Strategy sets the course for UBC's next phase of leadership and collaboration in **sustainability research, teaching, learning, campus operations** and **community partnerships.**

You can also comment on the draft discussion paper online:
www.sas.ubc.ca

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LAST TIME WHEN ONLY CELESTIAN RINCE SHOWED UP, KATE CRIED OPENLY AND TREVOR STARTED DRINKING AGAIN.

CULTURE@UBYSSEY.CA

On the Fringe; 25 years of acting out

KATE BARBARIA
culture@ubyssey.ca

The Vancouver International Fringe Festival began its 25th season on Wednesday, September 9. An inglorious, and often whacked-out celebration of new theatre, Fringe returns with a whopping 65 shows. It all adds up to 471 performances in 11 days all across the city of Vancouver. It has the most international participants of any Fringe Fest in North America and reigns supreme as BC's largest theatre festival.

So be prepared, potential patron of these dubious arts! This gargantuan labor of love features a cast of lucky lottery winners who applied for a spot in the festival. This means two things. First, since there are no juried entries, the show you choose to see could be, in the words of an esteemed patron, "mind-bendingly passionate and amazing," or conversely the worst thing to walk across a stage since Britney did it again. Secondly, because it's fringe theatre, anything goes.

Shows range from the temporal, van-based performance *Wagabondi-Ho* (that's right, inside of a moving vehicle alternately used for driving kids to soccer practice or elaborate road trips), to *Alms*, a physical-theatre show about a coin dropped at a bus stop.

Does the possibility of being confronted by a buxom burlesque dancer or a horny Catholic priest stop you cold in your tracks? While not an inappropriate response, try not to be overwhelmed by the eau d'pretension which Fringe gives off to the uninitiated masses.

Executive Director David Jordan admits that a lot of people feel intimidated, but countered that by saying, "It's probably the most accessible theatre available to audiences in Vancouver." Because every artist or group is pulled from a lottery instead of hand selected, "the audience, and the patrons, can be the artistic director," Jordan said. "They decide who is the best and the worst by word of mouth and ticket sales. There's no one deciding ahead of time what the most important show will be."

Last year saw 25,000 ticket sales, including "Pick of the Fringe," a special four-show series featuring the top-rated shows at the festival each year. All boxoffice proceeds go back to the performers to help pay for time, lodging and travel. It's a hard-knock life for the non-profit group, but they get by each year on government grants for the arts and sponsorships.

Vancouver Fringe is feeling the burn in BC's grant squeeze. According to Jordan the majority of theatre groups in the Lower Mainland expect up to an 80 per cent drop in fiscal support from the government in the next two to three years. "It won't hurt us this year or next, because our grant has been locked in....But we have to start thinking about alternate sources of revenue for future years. No one [can] make it like this."

The Fringe's popularity shows no sign of abating this year, however. Amidst the pile of film and music festivals, it has become a mainstay of Vancouver's autumnal arts blitz. Voted Vancouver's Best Arts Festival for five years in a row by *Georgia Straight* readers, one hopes it has enough loyal followers to stick out the leaner (potentially more pricey) years to come.

Sure, Fringe ain't your mommy and daddy's theatre festival, with linear story telling and a costume department. But haven't you always wondered what a grown man dressed in a red body suit with an undulating pot-belly would do on a stage? The Red Bastard and 64 others will be only too happy to indulge your imagination.

UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

Over the next two issues, *The Ubyssey* will bring you reviews of: *The Lesson*, *Cam and Legs* (a puppet show), *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead* and *Hive and the New Bees*.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VANCOUVER FRINGE FESTIVAL

"Fringe ain't your mom and daddy's theatre festival...But haven't you always wondered what [a man] in a red body suit with an undulating pot-belly would do on a stage?"

UBC CULTURE ★FEST 2009

JOIN US SEPTEMBER 14 – 20 FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL UBC CULTURE FEST.
Discover some of the cool cultural attractions that UBC has to offer.
Pick up a Culture Fest voucher and receive a free 12oz coffee or tea at select UBC Food Services outlets.
For more information and full event details visit: **WWW.CULTUREFEST.UBC.CA**

JUL. 10 to OCT. 12 TONEL: PARTS OF ME THAT SWEAT THE MOST WHEN I GET NERVOUS
An exhibition of *Las partes que más me sudan cuando me pongo nervioso,* A large wall drawing, by the artist Tonel. FREE. **Koerner Library, 1958 Main Mall**

JUL. 20 to SEP. 20 MALCOLM LOWRY EXHIBIT
A showcase about one of B.C.'s most famous resident-writers is on display in Rare Books and Special Collections (RBSC). FREE. **Irving K Barber Learning Centre, 1961 East Mall**

SEP. 4 to SEP. 20 INTERROBANG: UBC MASTER OF FINE ART GRADUATE EXHIBITION
The exhibition *INTERROBANG* presents work by UBC's graduating MFA students. FREE. Public Critique with artist Liz Magor: Sep. 12, 12 to 5pm. **Belkin Art Gallery, 1825 Main Mall**

SEP. 3 to SEP. 30 TATAU: SAMOAN TATTOOING & GLOBAL CULTURE
The show features over 40 photographs by distinguished New Zealand artist Mark Adams. Monday closed. Free for UBC students. **MOA, 6393 NW Marine Drive**

SEP. 17 TOUCH THE SOUND Take a remarkable sound journey on screen with Dame Evelyn Glennie, a Grammy-winning classical percussionist whose solo work is unrivalled. She is also profoundly deaf. FREE. **12pm – Royal Bank Cinema at the Chan Centre, 6265 Crescent Rd**

Sep. 17 **The Live Sessions – Hey Ocean!** Hey Ocean is a young band with a talent for blending musical styles into their own brand of infectious pop. $15 | $10 students | $12 UBC staff & faculty.
5 to 6pm – Telus Studio Theatre at the Chan Centre, 6265 Crescent Rd

SEP. 17 MOA MASHUP An afternoon of spontaneous outbreaks of music, dance and interactive video & light throughout the galleries. FREE. Cash bar. **5 to 8pm – MOA, 6393 NW Marine Drive**

SEP. 17 & SEP. 18 UBC BOTANICAL GARDEN INDOOR PLANT SALE
Hosted by Friends of the Garden, tropicals, cacti and more at great prices!
11am to 6pm – Botanical Gardens, 6804 SW Marine Drive

SEP. 17 & SEP.18 UBC OPERA AT GREENHEART CANOPY WALKWAY Enjoy the sounds of opera high above in the beautiful forest canopy at UBC Botanical Garden. $20 adults | family, children and senior rates available. **Sep. 17 – 2:30 to 3:30pm and Sep. 18 – 1 to 2pm Botanical Gardens, 6804 SW Marine Drive**

SEP. 19 UBC FARM MARKET Come visit every Saturday 9am to 1pm every from June to October rain or shine, to get your hands on local organic produce. FREE. **UBC Farm, 6182 South Campus Rd**

SEP. 19 FestEVOLVE! OPEN HOUSE Bring the whole family to learn about evolution and celebrate biodiversity. Meet scientists, conduct experiments and create works of art. FREE. Hosted by the Beaty Biodiversity Museum. **10am to 2pm – Beaty Biodiversity Museum, 2212 Main Mall**

SEP. 19 MANITOBA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Extraordinary solo percussionist Dame Evelyn Glennie joins the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra in a program of works ranging from Shostakovich to Evangelista. Music director Anne Manson. $37–$45 | student & senior discounts.
8pm – Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, 6265 Crescent Rd

SEP. 20 THE SINGERS WHO TEACH THE STARS OF TOMORROW Voice Faculty from the UBC School of Music in concert performing opera arias and art song. Tickets available at the door, $20 | $18 Seniors | $15 Students. **2 to 4pm – Music Building, 6361 Memorial Rd**

THE CHUNG COLLECTION: ONGOING One of the most exceptional and extensive collections of its kind in Canada, the Chung Collection offers insights into the very essence of what it means to be Canadian. FREE. **12 to 5pm – Irving K Barber Learning Centre, 1961 East Mall**

FREE GUIDED TOURS – CHAN CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS Enjoy a 50 minute guided tour of one of North America's premier performing arts venues. FREE. Space limited. Visit www.culturefest.ubc.ca for dates and times. **Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, 6265 Crescent Rd**

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from the desk of THE UBYSSEY

Dearest students,

The Ubyssey would like to revive our letters section. You seem to have had a summer fling with another paper, leaving us sad and alone and missing our scintillating (and sometimes steamy) correspondence. If you could just let us know what's going on in your life, or what you think of textbook costs. We miss you. Please write us.

Love,
The Ubyssey

Ideas

Ideas Editor: *Trevor Melanson*

SEX COLUMN

TOO SEXY

KASHA CHANG & AUSTIN HOLM
toosexy@ubyssey.ca

Dear readers,

Answering your letters has been truly swell, but as itinerant sex columnists at large, we need our freedom. We hope you won't take it personally. It's not you, it's us. We want you to know that you and your letters are very special to us and that we really value the connection we feel with you. But the open road calls, and these cowpokes gotta roam.

This issue of *Too Sexy*, we're taking a break from one-on-one advice to bring you a set of pointers hopefully useful to every reader alike. Think of it as a giant orgiastic bonanz—as opposed to the quiet candlelit nights we've brought you thus far—and everyone's invited. So without further ado, we present to you The Hall of Shame. Here are the top five things sure to get you kicked out of bed—or worse, ruin your chances of getting there in the first place.

5. H-Y-G-I-E-N-E!

This one's obvious, and for that very reason too often neglected, but trust us—good grooming is a surprisingly important aspect of being appealing. We at *Too Sexy* sympathize with the legions of the messy. In fact, we're card-carrying members. It's easy to let things pile up, especially once class work kicks in, turns you into a stress monkey. But that doesn't change the fact that a grimy living space and poor personal hygiene are major obstacles when seducing those special someones. So remove the mouldy socks from the sink, take out that trash you said you were going to dispose of last week, and shower once every couple days at least. And for goodness' sake, launder the sheets.

4. KEEP YOUR FRIENDS CLOSE...

Okay, exploring new frontiers and boldly going where it's none of your business if others have gone before is exciting and all. So exciting that often your first instinct is to tell all your friends. And while sharing is caring, remember that loose lips sink relationships. Over-disclosure can turn your best friend into your worst enemy if they know something they shouldn't—and can't keep a secret—and it's one of the surest ways to put a damper on your sex life if your lack of discretion gets back to your partner. You know that scene in *Teeth* where the guy spills the gory (literally) details to his buddy over the phone while he's in bed with Dawn? Yeah.

3. PANTS ON FIRE

Lying of any sort is generally bad for relationships. We don't mean "creative answers" to inane questions about articles of clothing; we mean the big stuff. If your casual squeeze asks if you're sleeping with other people, tell the truth. If you're not feeling it anymore and you want to break it off, avoidance is not the answer—honesty is. If you get a sexually transmitted infection, tell your partners. Which brings us to...

2. THE BUG

We can't stress this enough: go to the clinic, get tested and know your STI status. If you get sick, take measures to cure it or control the symptoms. And above all, be honest with your sexual partners about STIs. While having that conversation is never pleasant, it's a heck of a lot better than the angry Facebook messages, phone calls, manifestos and stabbings you're going to get if you pass along that little something extra to a partner without making them risk-aware. Seriously guys, this is really, REALLY important. Not only can an STI you don't know about screw up your sex life in the short run, it can have pretty unfortunate consequences for your long-term health and that of your partner if left untreated. So listen to the little voice in the back of your head and ask a doctor about that peculiar smell.

1. THE EASY BUTTON

A UBC Residence urban legend tells of a fellow who had a Staples Easy Button on his nightstand. When finished with coitus he'd roll over, press the button, and an automated voice would say, "That was easy." We at *Too Sexy* don't know for sure if this legend is true, but regardless...DON'T BE THAT GUY. If you are that guy and an irate ex-partner hasn't axed you by now, rest assured you're gonna get what's coming to you.

That's all, folks. Next week we return to our regularly scheduled programming, so be sure to send your questions, comments, rants and raves, hurt feelings and furry little problems to toosexy@ubyssey.ca. It's anonymous.

STREETERS

How much did your books for the term cost?

Janice Hanson
Psychology 4

"I haven't bought my books yet....I'd probably buy them from the discounted bookstore, but even then I'd probably be spending too much...I do book buy back every year....I made good money this year so that was awesome, but sometimes I've definitely been ripped off."

Toby Lee
Engineering 2

"They were like $500 for four subjects, which is a lot. One of my books was the tiniest thing ever and was so thin... like 100 pages and it was $150, which is ridiculous....They have new and used prices, except there are no used books. So you have to buy the new ones—it's like they're teasing you."

Hannah Keller
BAPSC 2

"I bought...books at the discount bookstore and I still felt like they were ridiculously expensive....Buy-backs are a ripoff because you don't get very much money....My other books I'm getting from students last year that took the classes....I don't want to spend that much money. I spent like $300 for two classes."

Chrison Wong
Science 1

"I bought [my books] at the UBC bookstore and it cost about $600-$700."

Trueman Lam
Forestry 1

"I got half from the Discount Bookstore and the other half from the UBC Bookstore. And I think so far I've spent $200-$300....I was looking for used books everywhere, but then I realized all of [the books I needed] were new editions, so it's not like I could buy them anywhere else anyway."

—Coordinated by Tara Martellaro with photos by Chibwe Mweene

BRYCE WARNES GRAPHIC/THE UBYSSEY

EDITORIAL

UBC doesn't care, do you?

As the first few classes of the new school year have passed by, there is a good chance that while walking down Main Mall or University Boulevard you've looked up, seen the teeming masses, and thought "Whoa. That's a lot of people." Or words to that effect.

Yes, there are 46,121 of you enrolled at UBC. The vast majority are undergraduates finding their way in the world. And the truth is this university doesn't care for you all that much.

What UBC really cares about is graduate students and research. That's what brings in dollars and prestige. And when UBC President Stephen Toope sat down with *Maclean's* magazine two months ago (along with the presidents of other large Canadian universities), he advocated for the government to step in to allow UBC to take in significantly less undergraduate students in order to "put more money towards graduate education and research." It's an argument that won't get much sympathy.

As Jeffrey Simpson noted in *The Globe and Mail* last month, universities like UBC already receive a mammoth amount of federal grant money, and have sophisticated fundraising methods that bring in millions upon millions every year, much of which goes toward research.

The top priority of UBC shouldn't be getting more federal dollars to fund research. It should be looking at the undergraduate students who are here right now, ensuring they get a satisfying university experience. They pay good money to come to what they're told is an internationally-renowned university. They shouldn't have to put up with classes of 150 people, tenured professors who can't be bothered to learn names, and sessional lecturers who are overworked and underpaid.

UBC consistently ranks near the bottom of the country in all student engagement surveys. We know Toope cares about improving this. So the next time he decides to get up on a national soapbox, we would appreciate it if he talked a little more about improving that. Imagine it.

AMS sucks at spending our money

The AMS voted at their Council meeting last Wednesday to approve $9055 for funding for Lobby Days, an annual event for student societies of post-secondary institutions that aims to lobby government officials and representatives for change. Council took two hours to reach a decision, first arguing about where the money would come from, then about the amount of money and if the funding could be better spent.

We at *The Ubyssey* feel that some of the items on the list could have been allocated differently. Spending $1000 for a mini-van rental and $2500 for one of the nicest hotels in Victoria? Holy crap. We're glad that our student society is trying to make our voices heard, but we don't like how our money is being spent.

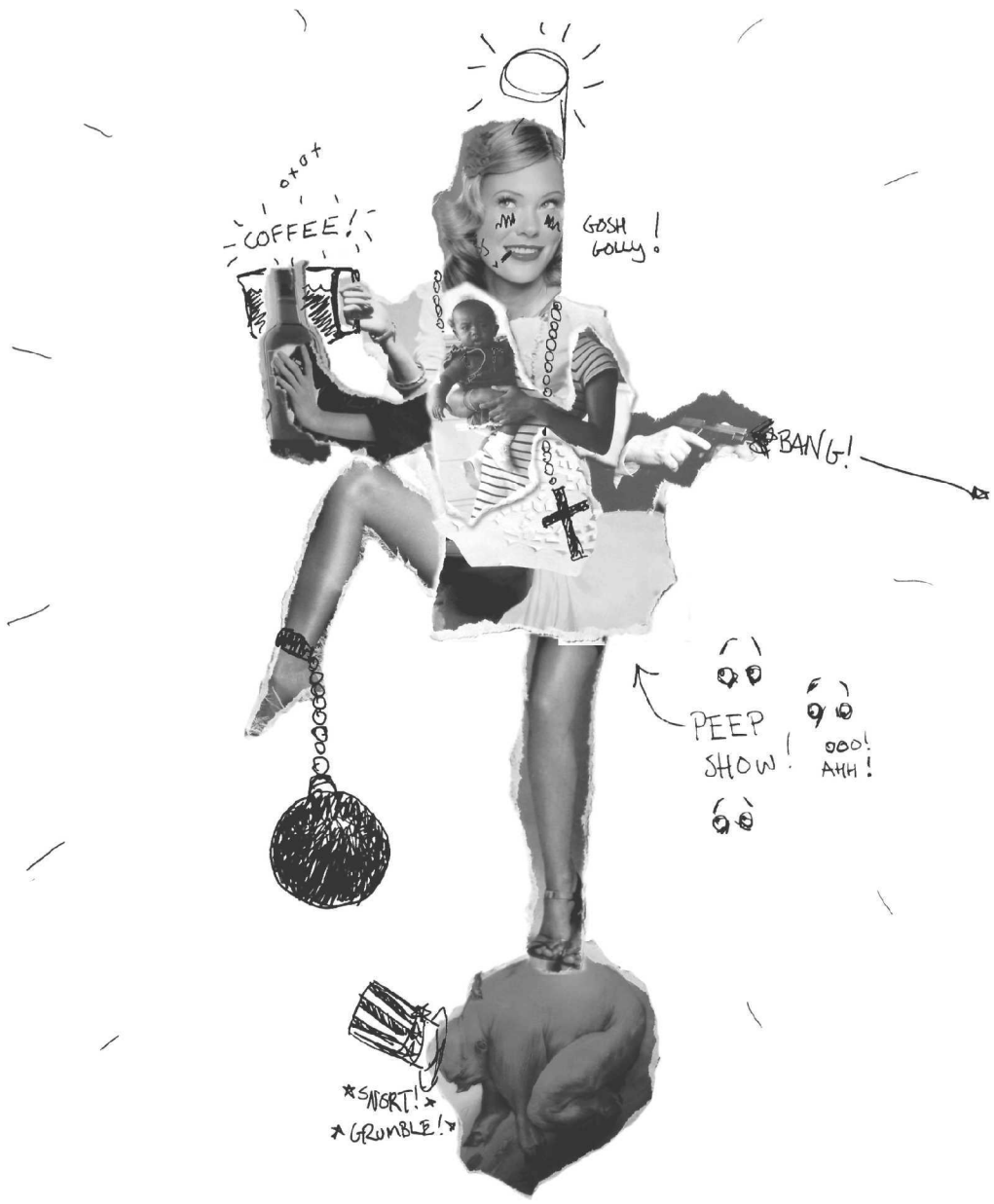
Last year the AMS decided to drop down to associate member status in the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), an organization that lobbies the federal and provincial governments on student issues.

The drop meant that the AMS no longer holds voting rights within CASA and a $22,000 decrease in the amount of fees they paid to the association. One of the reasons for this was so that the AMS could use this money to put more resources into lobbying initiatives.

Except that the External office isn't spending money very wisely. In the summer, $19,000 was spent on five ads for the *24 Hours* newspaper during the May provincial elections. The AMS has a President's Fund, which was created after a large donation was given, and used up rather quickly. It is allocated to be used for special projects. Some councillors on the AMS are upset about the existence of the President's Fund.

We are too. The fact that the AMS has a huge wad of cash they can use at their discretion makes us a bit nervous—especially since they used it to pay for a swanky hotel this time.

So, Tim Chu and the External office, don't spend our money on nice hotels and trips to the island. If you're going to lobby for change, do it on a tighter budget.



LEAVING THE SOUTH

part II
by PIERCE NETTLING

Welcome to Part Two of Pierce Nettling's chronicle of his journey through the South, in which he questions his wanderlust, his grandmother's attitude toward death, and the hypocrisy of the Southern Ideal. In Part One, Pierce reflected on his childhood experiences in the South, and the destruction of its natural beauty. For the full story, read our last issue, or go to **ubyssey.ca**.

PIERCE NETTLING
Conributor

FINDING MANCHESTER

While the strip mall is America's architectural and city planning gift to the world, the majority of small towns in the US still have a functioning town centre. This somehow escapes the South, especially Manchester, Tennessee—home to the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival.

Driving through Manchester, you'll realize nothing is in the town. On the night my sister and I were there and in need of food, our options were limited to the local Waffle House or the Huddle House. We were about to experience Southern culinary excellence whether we wanted to or not.

The Waffle House, much like all of the chain's establishments, has the look and feel of a place of last resort. This building was no different, with its traditional yellow roof and darkened windows, a lonely down-and-out man slumped over at the bar consuming his generous portion of late-night waffles. On this particular night, I wasn't in the mood for waffles. So in the monsoon rain, we drove across the street to the Huddle House.

The Huddle House chain is a relatively new revelation for me. Apparently during the decade that passed since my last visit, it has taken a sizeable share of the Waffle House's business. While the Waffle House was composed of its usual drab and unwelcoming exterior, the Huddle House was bright and shiny and welcoming. It was nearly freezing inside, though, which had me second guessing the decision to not bring the winter coat—you never know when you'll need it, even in August. The interior mirrored the Waffle House's 50's diner style, with a miniature jukebox on each booth's table, an exposed kitchen in front of the bar, and the audible ambience of Fox News. It was small, intimate and charming.

SMALL TOWN AMERICA

Upon entering a Southern establishment, you'll be greeted like family. The cook with jheri curls says hello sporting a genuine smile, and the waitress is welcoming and warm. We could do no wrong tonight at the Huddle House. Before receiving our food, the waitress explained that Jeremy, the cook, was "working on his masterpiece."

"It's your lucky night," she said, "he rarely goes to this length."

My sister's strawberry waffle was the most elaborate I'd ever seen. The whipped cream was exquisitely placed in nine small swirls around the strawberries. The waffle was amazing. We really didn't want to eat it; we wanted to admire the work.

The two employees represented the essence of small-town America: two young people in the small town they grew up in, perfectly content.

For most of my life, I've always struggled to come to terms with this ideal. How could someone find eternal bliss in a place where time stands still has never sat well with my insatiable appetite to wander, explore and travel. I've always associated small town America with wasting one's life, having it pass by.

My urban elitism probably developed through my mother's upbringing, her desire to get out. She grew up in this world, a place I've always unfairly looked down upon, and left for more opportunities. As the only woman in her graduating class to go to college, her 70's feminism—faced with a society that believed women should stay home—still colours my beliefs. But I do wonder if my life is really more fulfilling than that of the employees at the Huddle House. Yes, I do travel the world in search of knowledge and culture, but I do all of this exploring alone with a rather empty personal life. Instead of my parents being three doors down, they're three airports and a country away.

As a young twenty-something, my friends are always temporary. I will eventually venture out into the world at the expense of my friendships. The absence of stability in my life always compels me to question if all of this is worth it. Do we really live the more fulfilling life? Is it even possible? When I come home to the place I grew up in, with friends and family not recognizing who I am anymore, I can't honestly say I'm better off.

GEORGIA: THE DUKE BOYS OF HAZZARD COUNTY

The beauty of the Appalachian Mountains stands in stark contrast to Georgia's dry, flat sprawl.

As a young twenty-something, my friends are always temporary. I will eventually venture out into the world at the expense of my friendships.

Yes, I do travel the world in search of knowledge and culture, but I do all of this exploring alone with a rather empty personal life.

MORE ON PAGE 22

President's Campus Town Halls

VANCOUVER CAMPUS

OKANAGAN CAMPUS

a place of mind

SFU still part of CFS

BURNABY, BC (CUP)—BC Supreme Court Justice Richard Blair was unable to come to a decision regarding the nearly year-and-a-half long trial waging between the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and the Simon Fraser Student Society.

The judge announced on August 10 that he could not come to a decision, and instead of the case going to a 15 to 20 day trial, the two parties should attempt to settle their dispute out of court to avoid substantial legal costs. ***Check out peak.sfu.ca for more.***

What is the CFS?

The Canadian Federation of Students is an organization dedicated to advocating for post-secondary issues federally and provincially. UBC is an associate member of Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), another student lobbying group.

National

'They gave us a couple of minutes and kicked us out'

Montréal students evicted from apartment say city and media created emergency

CLARE RASPOPOW
The Link
(Concordia University)

MONTRÉAL (CUP)—"Slumlords don't come in and work on the building every single day," said Mary Walton as she stood outside her former apartment building, trying to stow what she could of her belongings into a backpack.

Residents of a Montréal apartment building at 1900 Tupper Street, including Walton, are upset by what they see as media spin surrounding their hasty eviction on the night of September 4, when police arrived after receiving a tip that the building violated fire code.

Those living in the building—largely students from McGill, Concordia and L'Université de Montréal—were given minutes to grab what possessions they could before being barricaded from their homes by emergency workers. Many of the evicted were international students.

"The news networks made it seem like our landlord was a slumlord. That the building was 'hanging by a thread.' It's not," said Walton on the afternoon of September 6.

"Everyone who lives here loves the apartment building. We're like a big family. Our landlord is a great guy."

Those living in the Tupper apartments were allowed back into their homes during the day on September 6 to retrieve some of their things. Walton and other residents picking up their belongings said that the city overreacted and made the situation worse than it had to be.

"There was no emergency," explained Walton. "We weren't given any time to fix the things they found wrong. If they had let us, we would have run out and gotten some fire alarms and extinguishers. They mentioned a blocked fire exit; it wouldn't have taken us long to clear it. We could have done that and stayed in our homes. Instead, they gave us a couple of minutes and kicked us out."

Walton and other students claim that it was city that created the emergency, and the media just made it worse.

"The whole building likes our landlord and nobody had anything negative to say," said Walton, getting nods of agreement from the other residents at the building.

"The building owner is committed to this building and is doing everything he can to get us back in," said one resident who requested his name not be used.

"The only person that CTV talked to who had anything bad to say, doesn't even live in the building. We all watched the news coverage and were absolutely shocked. No one knew who that guy was," said Walton in reference to an unnamed young man on Montréal's CTV Evening News on September 5, who spoke out against the building administration.

Walton and others said they believe that the series of events was the fault of an ex-resident who had recently been kicked out for using drugs in the building. The resident, whose name they refused to divulge, had called the tip into the city as a form of revenge.

"He called some of us as the fire trucks were sitting outside, laughing and asking how things were going," said Walton.

Those who have apartments in the building must now figure out how to get to their classes from the Park Inn Hotel near Pierre Elliot Trudeau International Airport, where the Red Cross has placed them. U

Residents had little time to pack before doors were chained. COURTESY OF THE LINK

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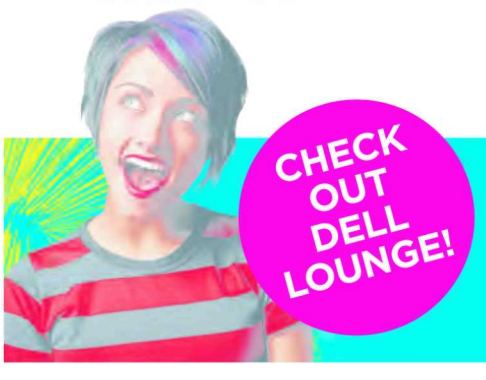

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