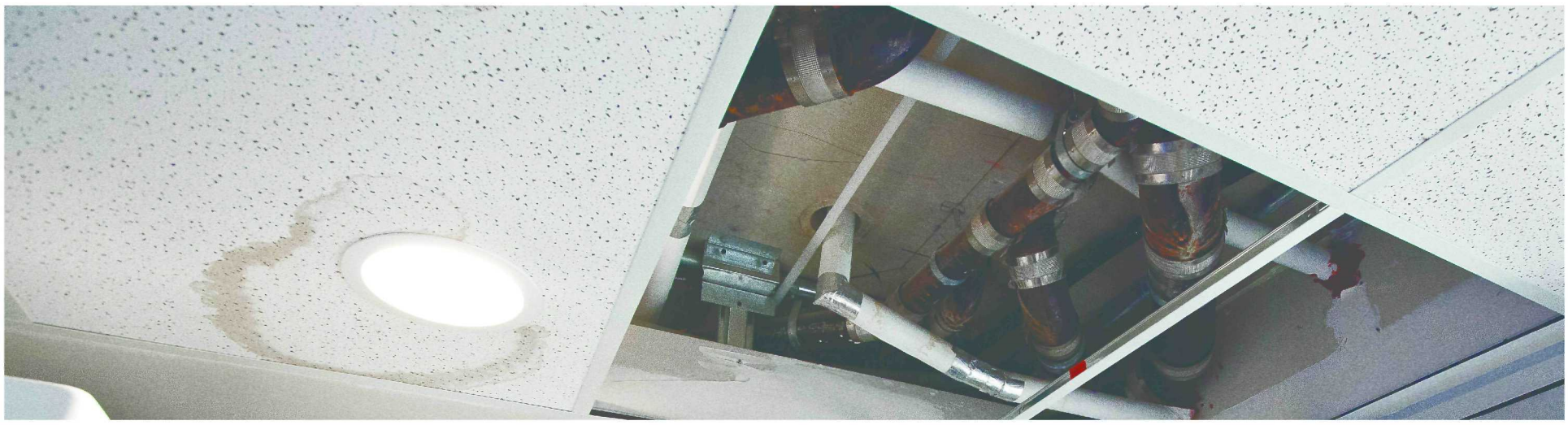

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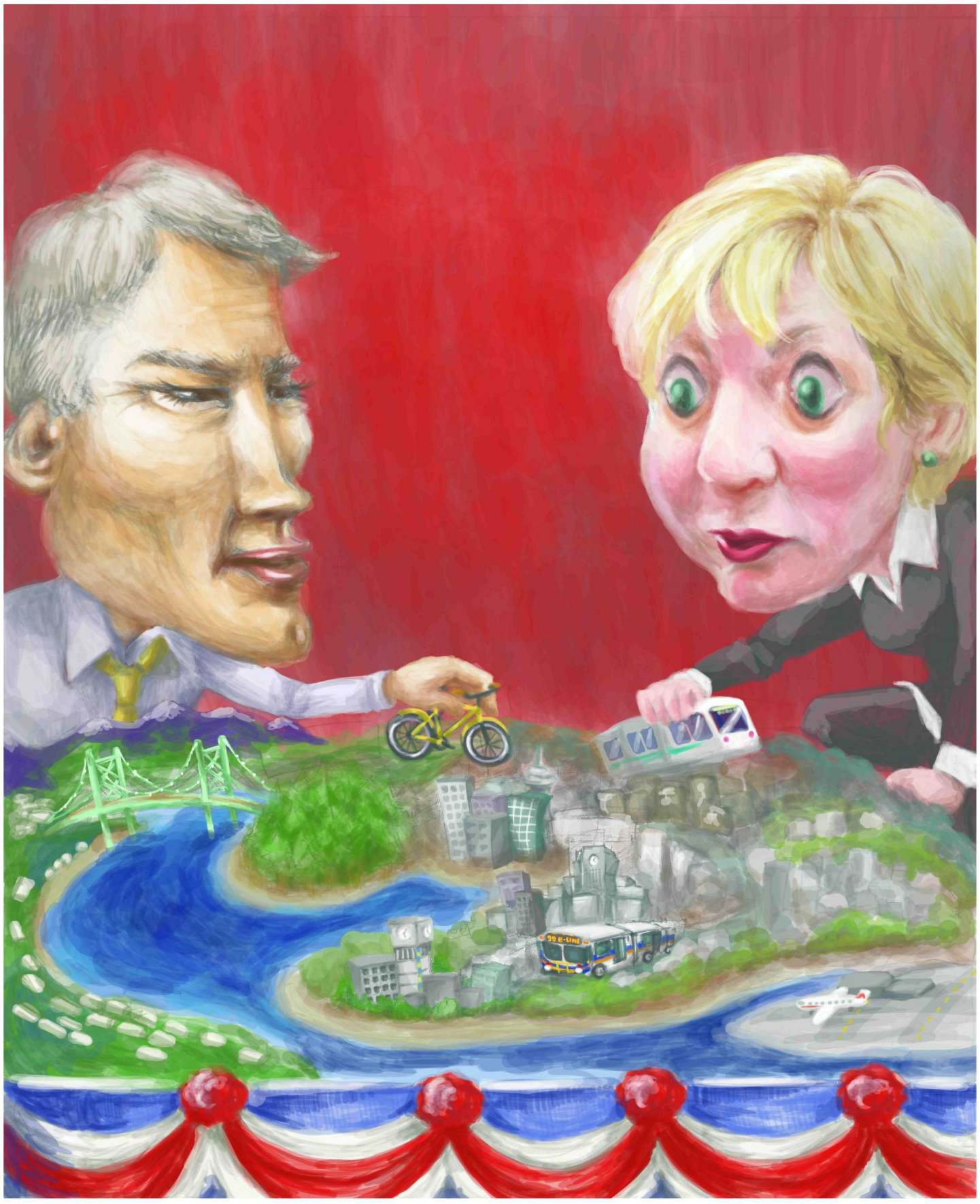
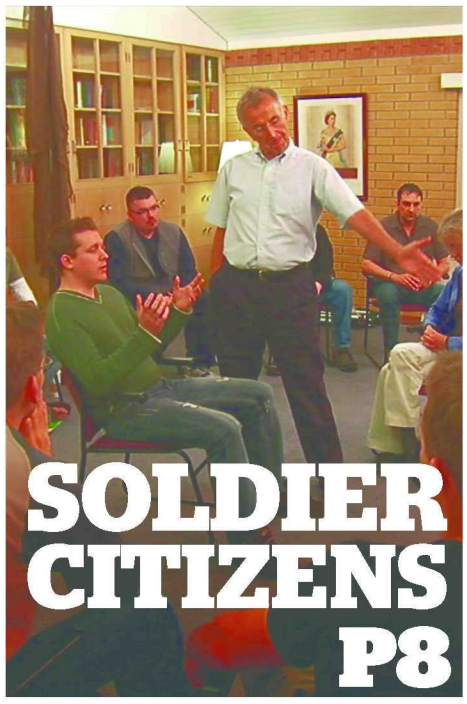
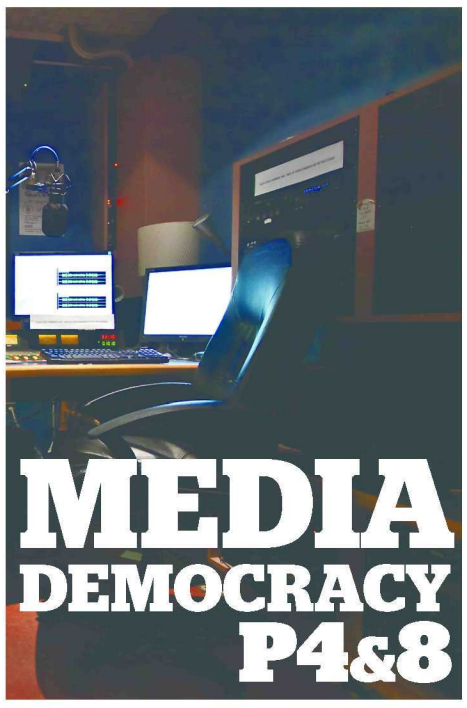




SOLDIER CITIZENS P8

BASKETBALL IS BACK P9



MEDIA DEMOCRACY P4&8

What's on This week, may we suggest...

17 THU LECTURES»

This Hour has Six Ideas: 6pm @ Buchanan A

Six profs each have ten minutes to present an idea that changed their world, covering subjects from music to economics. An evening of enlightenment and intellect, with the additional bonus of watching a prof try to express a complete thought in under 10 minutes. Oh, and it's free!

18 FRI DJS»

CiTR's Annual DJ Competition 8pm @ the Pit Pub

CiTR is hosting its annual DJ competition with eight up and coming DJs competing for the top spot. $5 in advance, $8 at the door (tomatoes not included).

19 SAT SPORTS»

Sports! @ Home

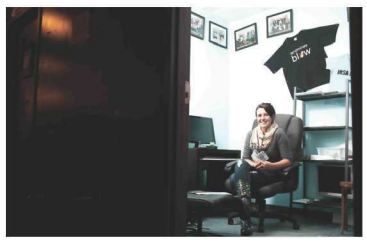
Name your sport and UBC has you covered this Saturday night. Men's volleyball, basketball and hockey along with women's volleyball and basketball all play on home turf. Check them out and cheer on your Thunderbirds (just don't expect any football). You'll have to learn the name of an athlete other than Billy Greene.

20 SUN LECTURE»

Cute Cats and the Arab Spring: 7pm @ the Chan Centre

The second annual Vancouver Human Rights Lecture examines human rights and internet activism. And with the promise of cute cats, who can say no?

21 MON FUNDRAISING»



Night of 1,000 Dinners

The International Relations Students Association (IRSA) is raising awareness of the devastating effect of land mines going kaboom in war torn third world countries by hosting a fancy-shmancy three course dinner. That's solidarity, if I've ever heard it.

Got an event you'd like to see on this page? Send your event and your best pitch to **printeditor@ubyssey.ca.**

THE UBYSSEY

November 17, 2011, Volume XCIII, Issue XXI

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Our Campus

One on one with the people who make UBC

JOSH CURRAN/THE UBYSSEY

Ethan Wong stands outside the Chinese Varsity Club office in the basement of the SUB. The CVC has more than 1200 members.

Ethan Wong: CVC's fearless leader

Joel Barde
Contributor

Ethan Wong is a busy guy. He's a full-time history student; he's helping to develop and promote the emerging field of Chinese Canadian studies; and he's president of UBC's largest club, the Chinese Varsity Club (CVC).

Though he admitted his extracurricular responsibilities can be onerous, Wong said he would not have it any other way. He loves what he does.

"The more you put in," said Wong, "the more you get out."

And he should know. The Vancouver College graduate entered UBC in 2006, hoping to have a rich and exciting university experience. Yet his first year of Arts One, a demanding liberal arts program, left him wanting more. He dreaded the 40 minute commute to and from his South Vancouver home and didn't meet as many new friends as he would have liked. Going to school was a chore, not the fun experience he had anticipated.

At the suggestion of a friend, Wong joined the CVC in his second year. Wong said the club filled a void, giving him a sense of community and fun activities to take part in.

Wong said he likes to think of the CVC as UBC's version of *Cheers*. The club, which caters to off campus students, is located in the basement of the SUB and provides a refuge for students to hang out with friends. The CVC also organizes dances and events. Some members are currently playing Gotcha, a take on *MAD* magazine's comic strip *Spy vs. Spy*. The objective is to kill (shoot a water gun at) CVC-provided targets. The winner is the last person standing with the most kills under their belt.

Wong laughed as he recounted a story of how three CVC members traveled all the way to Playland to ambush another player. He said games like Gotcha help bridge the gap between the on and off campus UBC experience, giving commuters a chance to participate in fun activities that are traditionally reserved for students who live on campus.

"What you remember from university isn't necessarily the academics, it's the experiences," said Wong.

"Everyone comes to university wanting to have an extraordinary experience. That's what we try to provide."

Wong said he wants to be a high school teacher. He has coached high school basketball, worked as a teacher's assistant at an elementary school, and wants to bring a Chinese-Canadian "flare" to the classroom. Chinese-Canadian history, he said, is under-represented in Canadian high schools.

"Students are exposed to a lot of First Nations and Indian history—and that is so important," added Wong. "But it's just kind of neglected that [Chinese-Canadians] had a huge role as well."

Wong is currently working on a research project that aims to raise the profile of Chinese-Canadian history. *Chinese Stories* is a new web-based project dedicated to archiving and sharing Chinese-Canadian history with the wider public.

Wong said that between the research project, his academics and his CVC commitments, he has little time to relax. There are a lot of late nights, and it can be stressful. That said, he seems to genuinely relish every minute of it.

His advice to his fellow UBC students: "Join a club. Get involved."

CORRECTION

In the article titled "AMS too broke to pay for UBC Ombudsperson Office for Students" in the November 14, 2011 issue of *The Ubyssey*, we misidentified the AMS President as Justin McElroy. The AMS President is, in fact, Jeremy McElroy. Not Justin McElroy. Justin McElroy is, in fact, the Coordinating Editor of this newspaper. He is also the cousin of Jeremy McElroy. Justin has no role in editing or writing stories concerning the AMS. If any readers seeing this error believed he overthrew the AMS in a bloodless coup rife with Shakespearean drama, we apologize. That did not happen. We regret the error.

News»

Editors: Kalyeena Makortoff & Micki Cowan

STUDENT LOANS»

Student loan amendments helps applicants bypass signing guarantor

Micki Cowan
News Editor

Two amendments have been made to the BC student loan program that look to take the pressure off underage applicants or those facing financial hardship.

The changes were made to comply with federal rules, since the federal and provincial loan programs were amalgamated earlier this year.

The first amendment allows underage students to get a loan without a signing guarantor. The second amendment eliminated non-sufficient fund fees, which are usually applied if your account is overdrawn when paying back your student loans. AMS President Jeremy McElroy said the program still has a lot of shortcomings.

"It's great that [students] can now apply for funding independently at the age of 18, and I'm glad they're no longer penalizing students for being in situations of financial need," said McElroy. "But there is still a lot of work to do with the program and we've got all kinds of ideas for that."

McElroy said the AMS is lobbying to also change the expectation that parents should be paying for students' university fees and tuition.

"We're asking for reduction and ultimate elimination of expected parental contribution," he said.

Another issue the AMS is attempting to tackle is how liquid assets are evaluated. "Right now if a student owns a car that is worth more than $5000, they are expected to sell that car or have $5000 removed from how much they're eligible for student loans," McElroy said.

"Those of our students who commute in from Abbotsford, Mission and Chilliwack, they either have to sell their car, go to school somewhere completely different or not go to school at all."

Brittany Manson, a third-year international relations student on student loans, welcomes the changes.

"I know when I first tried to apply, it was kind of difficult...especially if you don't get a lot of support from your parents," said Manson. "You should be able to get the funding you need to go to university, so I think it's awesome."

"They told me I couldn't use BC student loans anymore because my parents don't live in BC, even though I do and I had been living here for three years, so it was a bit of a hassle for me," she added. "But it sounds like they're addressing the issue, though, so that's good."

RESIDENCE»

Totem residents without hot water

Liam Scanlon
Contributor

Maintenance problems have plagued residents of the new Totem Park buildings since they opened in early September, with plumbing and electrical issues, broken elevators and continued construction. But the most pressing issue for students of həm'ləsəm' and q'ələχən has been the hot water supply.

Kaitlin Hazzard, the residence life manager for Totem Park, said that the inconsistent supply of hot water has been a constant challenge.

"We are not confident that a complete solution has been found, and until such time as one is achieved, this will continue to be a daily priority for us," she said.

Hazzard said Student Housing and Hospitality Services (SHHS) has been working daily with the building's developers, UBC Properties Trust, and the contractors to try solve the problem.

While residents were also promised appliances like flat screen TVs in their lounges, it's the lack of basic services they say they've been cheated out of.

"We signed a housing contract... we should get the certain amenities that we pay for, and they're not holding up their side of the contract," said q'ələχən resident Nadine Clark.

"I often run to Kwak [Kwakiutl House] to take my showers. It's never been hot here the way it is there."

In an email to residents sent November 7, Hazzard explained that the control system has been shutting down the hot water system for both buildings, leaving limited supplies of lukewarm water followed by cold water.

TANNER BOKOR/THE UBYSSEY

Residents of the new Totem Park buildings have been dealing wtih continued construction, plumbing, electrical and hot water issues.

System shut-offs have been difficult to track, which has lead to lags in maintenance. Students were asked to immediately report changes in water temperature to the front desk.

"We are aware of the significant number of problems experienced with the showers in your buildings," Hazzard wrote, "and acknowledge the inconvenience caused by the cold water and non-functioning showers.

"This is definitely not the experience we want for you and we will continue to work with the buildings' contractor to increase the level of hot water available and improve the repair response time."

Residents of həm'ləsəm' and q'ələχən paid $5040 for their connected single room—$508 more than other Totem residents, who pay only $4532 for the eight-month contract. Some residents are now calling for reimbursement.

SHHS is currently reviewing the compensation they can provide to həm'ləsəm' and q'ələχən residents.

"A final amount will be identified once the problems have been permanently resolved, as the length of this disruption is an important consideration in determining the level of compensation," said Hazzard.

q'ələχən resident Sal Fuda said that what compounds the inconveniences was that she wasn't given a choice to live in the new residence buildings.

But Hazzard explained that the residence guarantee for new students is based on availability in both Totem Park and Place Vanier, and not everyone is able to have their first choice.

Kelly Gerlings, a first-year Arts student living in həm'ləsəm', said that the problems with her house are ultimately bearable.

"[It's] such a great place that a couple hiccups are worth the money we pay for it."

HEALTH»

Rapid HIV testing clinics continue on campus

FLICKR

Spencer Toffoli
Contributor

Rapid HIV testing clinics on campus are making it possible for students to find out their status in just 60 seconds, dramatically quicker than the 1-2 day wait usually required for HIV test results.

The rapid HIV testing clinics are part of the Seek and Prevent for Optimal Treatment HIV/AIDS Project, a joint initiative from UBC Student Health Service and Vancouver Coastal Health. It's meant to encourage sexually active students to be tested annually for HIV.

According to Dr Patricia Mirwaldt, Student Health Services director, 55-60 per cent of undergraduate students have been sexually active, and of those, most have had 1-2 partners. Yet only an estimated 30-34 per cent of students have ever had an HIV test.

The test involves a finger prick for blood, which results in a "negative" or "maybe positive" result within 60 seconds.

Sexually active heterosexual women are the campaign's targeted demographic, since a growing number of HIV diagnoses have been among heterosexual women, who aren't typically considered "at risk."

Mirwaldt emphasized the importance of knowing and managing your HIV status.

"About a third of people who have HIV don't know they have it. And that's the group that's actually spreading it."

So far 34 students have found out their status via the rapid HIV testing clinics.

The Know Your Status campaign has already hosted one on campus rapid HIV testing clinic on October 27, and two more are scheduled in the upcoming months, on November 17 and December 1.

For more information visit blogs.ubc.ca/knowyourstatus/ *or contact Student Health Services.*

News briefs

UBC to set up offices in New Delhi and Bangalore, India

UBC is establishing two new satellite offices in New Delhi and Bangalore, India to explore possible partnerships with universities and institutions in the area.

The New Delhi office will be operated in partnership with the University of Toronto, while the Bangalore office will be led by the Sauder School of Business. Sauder will be announcing memorandums of understanding with two Indian business schools, IIM-Bangalore and IIT-Madras.

These partnerships are expected to increase student exchange, research partnerships and collaborative program development.

First Canadian polymer plastic bill released at UBC

The Bank of Canada is circulating a new $100 bill made of a plastic polymer, the first Canadian polymer note.

The bill, which celebrates Canada's contribution to the field of medicine, was launched at an event held at the UBC Life Sciences Institute on Monday.

The $50 bill will be the second polymer note to be circulated in Canada, set for release in March of 2012, with the $10, $20, and $5 bills being unveiled by 2013.

In contrast to the paper currency currently used in Canada, polymer bills are more resistant to tearing and more difficult to counterfeit.

UBC-O workers reach deal on two-year contract

A new agreement has been ratified by support service workers at UBC Okanagan.

The workers, who are members of the BC Government Service Employees' Union, have reached a deal for a two-year contract which finance minister Kevin Falcon said "recognizes the current fiscal situation."

UBC Okanagan service support workers are comprised of over 300 employees from various branches of the university. The deal was reached under the provincial government's net zero cost mandate for collective bargaining.

UBC study shows war impact on elephant populations

A new UBC study suggests that humans have had a greater detrimental impact on African elephant populations than environmental factors.

The study was led by UBC researcher Rene Beyers. His findings suggest that poaching and armed conflict, such as the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo, "had a large impact on elephant populations, including those in parks and reserves."

According to the study, there are an estimated 6000 elephants left in the wild in eastern Congo, down from approximately 22,000 before the civil war.

Electoral Area A hopefuls face off in debate

All five candidates touch on transportation, governance and land use issues at UBC

Colin Chia
Contributor

On November 10, candidates hoping to be elected Electoral Area A Director gathered for the all candidates meeting, touching on transit, land use and governance issues. The five candidates, Colin Desjarlais, Mischa Makortoff, Scott Andrews, Alexandria Mitchell and incumbent Maria Harris, answered questions in an attempt to secure their seat in this coming Saturday's election.

Candidates from left to right: Alexandria Mitchell, Colin Desjarlais, Mischa Makortoff, Scott Andrews and Maria Harris.

FILE PHOTOS/THE UBYSSEY

Transit

In regards to public transportation, candidates Colin Desjarlais and Scott Andrews pushed for rapid transit to UBC, while Mischa Makortoff said that an increase in the number of buses and light rail would be an adquate solution.

Alexandria Mitchell stressed that more transit to campus was neccessary and pointed to a Mayors' Council statement that the Broadway corridor was not a priority. "This is a problem," she said.

Incumbent director Maria Harris also said she wants expanded transit, but said the province should be pressured for more funding.

Harris emphasized her experience and ability to influence the other board directors.

Land use

Audience members requested that candidates discuss the proposed housing development plans at UBC, specifically the plans for increased density in the Wesbrook Village area in south campus.

"I enjoyed hearing the candidates, and I was gratified by the fact that there are young people who are willing to do this," said Stephen Drance, who has lived in the community for over 60 years, but is disappointed that there is not more debate over land use at UBC.

"UBC has a very clear understanding of where it has to go and wants to go with the lands that are under its jurisdiction, and they have benefited enormously from the density of Hampton Place and what's been developed [on south campus]. That's in their own self-interest...Whether this is the ideal way of developing this community and this fabulous land is a very different issue but I don't see that ever being debated," he said.

Richard Alexander expressed anxiety over plans by Campus and Community Planning to dramatically increase housing density, which were presented at a recent open house.

"We understand that it's going to happen. But the extent of it is a surprise," he said. "They didn't provide a very good explanation for that, either historically or currently."

Governance

Candidates Desjarlais and Andrews were concerned by the governance situation, with Andrews saying that governance reform was fundamental. "Everything else is a symptom of that issue," Andrews said.

Ben Seghers, a resident of the area for the last seven years, said many new residents are beginning to get a grip on the unusual governance structure at UBC.

"I think for a lot of people, they're going to be educated to some extent," said Seghers. "Unless there's some big uprising from the grassroots it's probably not going to change any time soon."

Seghers also sees the debate over density and development leading to a split in how residents of different parts of the UBC lands will approach the election. The issues vary along with the density, he said.

"It's a very strange part of the world, Point Grey."

Media Democracy Day is here

"It's know the media, be the media, and change the media," says organizer

Caroline Chingcuanco
Contributor

The Remembrance Day weekend was abuzz with events on media literacy and democratization as part of the annual Media Democracy Day.

Gala Milne, head coordinator of the event, said the focus was media awareness. "Our motto falls under three arms. It's know the media, be the media and change the media," she said.

"All of these fall under creating media awareness for people. We're all consumers of so many forms of media daily."

The annual three-day event was free to the public and attended by local newspapers such as *The Georgia Straight* and *The Tyee* and non-profits including *OpenMedia.ca*. It began with a screening of *War Made Easy* at Pacific Cinémathèque, a film that explores militarism, media and war.

Panel discussions at the Vancouver Public Library discussed changes to the media landscape, including journalism models, the Occupy movement, civic engagement and examining ShitHarperDid and Slutwalk. The final day featured workshops on DIY radio basics and using social media for online campaigns.

"[The workshops] are a chance for people to get hands-on experience and discover ways to challenge mainstream media's dominant voice," Milne explained.

Professors from the UBC School of Journalism spoke at the panels, including Peter Klein, David Beers, Candis Callison and Duncan McCue.

"This is an important event in Vancouver," said Peter Klein, acting director of the UBC Graduate School of Journalism.

"Media and democracy are inextricably linked, and to have a multi-day event discussing these issues doesn't happen very often."

Klein spoke at a panel about the crises and opportunities in journalism. "I think that journalism has gotten much better. Journalism has actually gotten much richer," he commented.

"On the other hand, as I mentioned in my talk, your audience has gotten much smaller...so for one news organization, whether it be corporate or independent or whatever, to be able to invest in the amount of money and time that's needed to do difficult journalism well, I think that's become a real challenge."

Julie Jenkins, a UBC political science undergraduate who also works for *The Tyee*, attended the conference.

"The great thing [about] Media Democracy Days...is it really addresses the role of information. And how information, free-flowing information and conversation is really vital to a healthy democracy."

Milne also stressed the importance of being an active consumer.

"We live in very mediated environments, from advertising, to the constant flow of information through our social networking sites," said Milne.

"It's important for us to know what we are consuming, and to have ways to critically break it down and understand it," she said.

COURTESY OF VANCOVUER MEDIA DEMOCRACY

Workshops

The Future of Journalism:
Crisis & Opportunity

Resistance and Renewal:
Unions and Public Opinion in the 'Crisis Economy'

Indigenous Choices, Indigenous Voices:
Aboriginal Uses of Media

ShitHarperDid, Slutwalk & LeadNow:
New Directions in Civic Engagement

The New Frontier is Interactive:
Advancing Progressive Storytelling and Journalism with Multi-Platform and Social Media Tools

Media Policies for a Democratic Future:
A Multi-Party Panel

Lost in Translation?:
Challenges of Inclusivity in Diverse Media

Mapping Media Democracy in Vancouver:
A Launchpad for Action

Mediated Violence

DIY Radio Basics

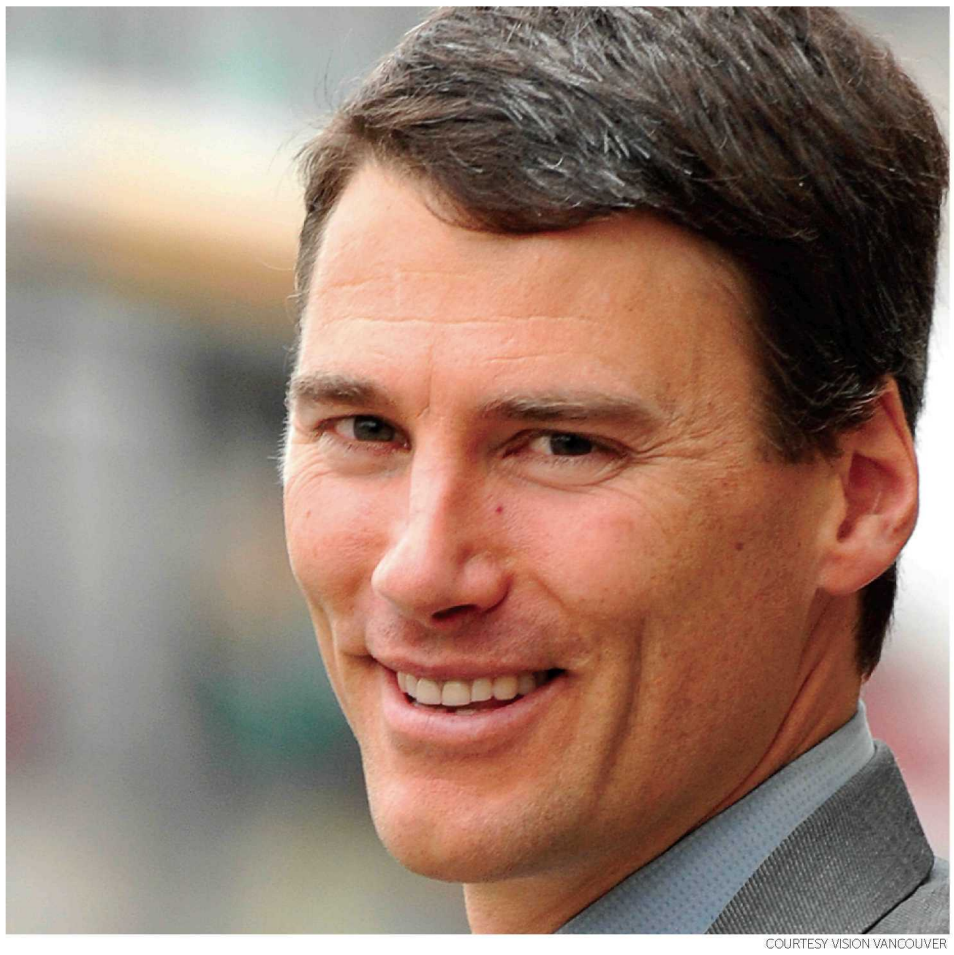
THE STRUGGLE FOR CITY HALL

THE TOP CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR HAVE VERY DIFFERENT PLANS IN MIND FOR THE CITY. GREGOR ROBERTSON AND A VISION COUNCIL AIM TO CONTINUE WITH THEIR GREENEST CITY PLAN OF BIKE LANES AND SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT. NON-PARTISAN ASSOCIATION CHALLENGER SUZANNE ANTON HAS ATTACKED VISION FOR GREEN WASHING, FAILING TO LEAD ON ISSUES LIKE OCCUPY AND PURSUING AN ACTIVIST AGENDA. MEANWHILE, RENTS CLIMB, TRANSIT SLOWS AND HOMELESSNESS REMAINS.

WHO WILL VANCOUVER CHOOSE?

For the full interviews, including video, visit ubyssey.ca.

Jonny Wakefield
Managing Editor, Print



COURTESY VISION VANCOUVER

DAVID MARINO/THE UBYSSEY

Robertson and Vision swept the council race in 2008, but Anton and a revitalized NPA hope to take back city hall.

Gregor Robertson and his Vision Vancouver party members on council have managed to weather a number of political storms during their three-year term. In 2009, the city asked the province for unlimited borrowing power to complete the disastrous Olympic Village development. Then Robertson caught flak from downtown business owners after installing a number of controversial bike lanes. On top of that, his political opponents have spent the past few months trying to tar him with the Stanley Cup Riots and Occupy Vancouver. Still, his campaign seems to be resonating with voters, who are drawn to his Greenest City Plan and small business policies. *The Ubyssey* reached the mayor by phone on Monday.

Q: How do you see the role of a city government?

A: To make sure the city is safe and enable people to live in the most livable city in the world. The city role is limited, as 92 per cent of tax revenue goes to provincial and federal governments, and also through the provincial legislation that restricts the power city hall has. So we're focused on land use, public safety, libraries, parks and recreation.

Q: The Occupy movement is quickly becoming the defining issue in this election. Is there anything you would have done differently in your handling of the tent city?

A: No, my approach has been to achieve a peaceful resolution to the encampment and to enable the protest to continue, because it is a global movement. But this is more challenging, with my political opponent taking a more militant stand against protest and grandstanding politically to try to score points. That's added some instability to everything and repeatedly flared up media and made it more difficult to make progress in resolving the tent camp issue. Occupy is certainly a short-term challenge that we're grappling with, and I'm just focused on ensuring that that happens without conflict and violence.

Q: The NPA plans to raise two million dollars for this election. Last time around, Vision spent around $1.6 million. Is this kind of campaign spending undemocratic?

A: We've pushed hard for changes to ban corporate and union donations and cap the contributions in civic elections, but the BC government has refused to make those changes. The rules stand, but we're hopeful that we get changes in the years ahead, and this is the last election with big donation involved, but that's the history of Vancouver: very expensive elections per capita that don't reflect well on the political arena.

Q: Both you and Councillor Anton said in a debate on homelessness that street homelessness would be eliminated at the end of your respective governments. Do you stand by this?

A: [Under Vision] we've seen an 82 per cent drop in street homelessness, so I'm confident we're going to achieve that goal by 2015. The bigger objective to solve homelessness will take us to 2020 at least. Our ten-year affordable housing plan is focused on solving overall homelessness in a decade, and that's a much bigger plan to tackle, so it's not feasible by 2015. We need to make sure that no one's stuck outside ASAP, but it'll take more years to fill out the housing to solve homelessness overall.

The Ubyssey *spoke with Robertson in October about his government's relation with UBC.*

"We've had a constructive relationship with UBC. The city and UBC didn't actually communicate that much in the past, and we've had a really concerted effort to reconnect and look at opportunities we can explore together....On the land use and zoning and governance side, those are longer-term questions and we're not in any hurry to amalgamate or do anything drastic like that. We're on the side of having stronger partnerships."

The Non-Partisan Association (NPA) was handed a defeat in 2008 unlike many in its 74-year history. The venerable "party that says it isn't a party" lost all but one of ten council seats to Vision Vancouver and the Coalition of Progressive Electors (COPE), decisively breaking its firm grip on city hall.

Suzanne Anton, the sole NPA councillor, has now emerged at the head of a reinvigorated party. This time around, the NPA plans to break spending records and has recruited the help of Campaign Research Inc., the firm behind Rob Ford's victory in Toronto. Anton has attacked Mayor Gregor Robertson for his transportation priorities, his handling of the Stanley Cup Riots and Occupy Vancouver, and some of his green policies like allowing chicken coops within city limits. *The Ubyssey* sat down with Anton at a coffee shop near her Kerrisdale home.

Q: How do you see the role of city government?

A: City government has actually a limited role in providing all the services that cities do. We do streets, we do street lighting, we do parks and we do land use. The biggest thing we do is land use.

Q: If you had been mayor during the Occupy protest, how would you have handled things differently?

A: I would not have let the first tent get set up. The protest is fine but the tents are not. Experience shows that exactly what has happened always happens in these tent cities. They start off with a fairly benevolent purpose, people have good motives, but they deteriorate. And this one has deteriorated completely, culminating on the weekend with the death of this girl, Ashlie Gough, a 23-year-old girl. The same age as my son...Gregor dither[ed] on this [by] not taking decisive action at the front end and telling people, 'Oh, you can stay forever.'

Q: Your campaign plans to raise two million dollars in this election, a new record in Canada. What do you think this will do to public perceptions of the NPA and politics more generally?

A: Well, I would think Vision Vancouver is hoping to raise about the same. I think in the last election we raised pretty much the same amounts and I think it was some where in the vicinity of one and a half million, two million. We each raised about 1.6 last time, so I would think [Vision] is trying to raise the same amount this time. So I don't see a lot of difference between the two major parties.

Q: Some people at UBC and on the Metro Vancouver Board have argued that, as the second largest transit destination in the Lower Mainland, the university should have a seat on the TransLink Mayor's Council. Do you agree with this proposal?

A: No. I would like UBC to be a part of Vancouver. UBC is unincorporated right now. I think Vancouver would be enriched by having UBC as part of Vancouver. People already think UBC is part of Vancouver. I would like to be lobbying for UBC on these kinds of issues. As mayor of Vancouver, I can speak out on a lot of these important issues, but I would like to be able to speak out for UBC on the transportation issue. UBC needs to decide what its governance is going to be. I grew up in the country; unincorporated meant a few houses up a mountain. Unincorporated does not mean a major settlement out on Point Grey.

Q: You and the mayor have said that homelessness would be eliminated by 2015 under your respective governments. Do you truly believe this?

A: Well, the question was about street homelessness, and yes, I do believe we can get people indoors. But [homeless] people come to Vancouver, and we can't control how many more people come here. So if we're looking at the street population we have now, can we help them move indoors? Absolutely.

THE PARTIES AND THE CANDIDATES

npa

Mayor:
Suzanne Anton

Council:
George Affleck
Elizabeth Ball
Sean Bickerton
Joe Carangi
Ken Charko
Mike Klassen
Jason Lamarche
Bill McCreery
Francis Wong
Bill Yuen

Parks board:
John Coupar
Casey Crawford
Melissa De Genova
Gabby Kalaw
Dave Pasin
Jason Upton

School trustees:
Fraser Ballantyne
Ken Denike
Stacy Robertson
Sandy Sharma

Vision Vancouver

Mayor:
Gregor Robertson

Council:
Heather Deal
Kerry Jang
Raymond Louie
Geoff Meggs
Andrea Reimer
Tim Stevenson
Tony Tang

Parks board:
Constance Barnes
Sarah Blyth
Aaron Jasper
Trevor Loke
Niki Sharma

School trustees:
Patti Bacchus
Ken Clement
Mike Lombardi
Cherie Payne
Rob Wynen

COPE

Council:
RJ Aquino
Tim Louis
Ellen Woodsworth

Parks board:
Brent Granby
Donalda Greenwell-Baker

School trustees:
Al Blakey
Jane Bouey
Gwen Giesbrecht
Allan Wong
Sophia Woo

NSV

Mayor:
Randy Helten

Council:
Elizabeth Murphy
Nicole Benson
Marie Kerchum
Terry Martin

Other candidates

Mayor:
Gölök Zoltán Buday
Lloyd Alan Cooke
Menard Caissy Dugbee
Randy Helten
Robin Lawrance
Gerry McGuire
Victor B. Paquette
Samuel Pelletier
Darrell "Saxmaniac" Zimmerman

Council:
Kelly Alm
Nicole Benton
Adriane Carr
Cord "Ted" Copeland
Michael Singh Dharni
Amy "Evil Genius" Fox
Grant Fraser
Sandy Garossino
Lauren R.I.C.H. Gill
Ian Gregson
Marie Kerchum
Terry Martin
Chris Masson
RH Maxwell
Elizabeth Murphy
Bang Nguyen
Marc Tan Nguyen
Rick Orser
Chris Shaw
Aaaron R.I.C.H. Spires
Wendythirteen

Parks board:
Juliet Andalis
Eleanor Hadley
Jamie Lee Hamilton
Peter Haskell
Stuart Mackinnon
Andrew Murray
Pri Toor
Tammy Truong

School trustees:
Louise Boutin
Lily Harvey
Peter Raymond Haskell
Misha Lauenstein
Bang Nguyen
Robert Allan Stark

THE CITY CHOOSES

VANCOUVER IS A CITY WITH NO SHORTAGE OF PROBLEMS: ASTRONOMICAL RENT, A LARGE HOMELESS POPULATION, A CLOGGED TRANSIT SYSTEM AND A STRUGGLING ENTERTAINMENT SECTOR.

ON NOVEMBER 19, VANCOUVERITES HAVE THEIR CHANCE TO CHOOSE WHO RUNS THIS CITY.

MORE **FROM THE MAYORAL CANDIDATES ON THE ISSUES**

ON THE COST OF HOUSING

GR: We're focused on a ten-year plan to build 38,000 affordable housing units that will alleviate the crunch for people on lower incomes. We're also pushing for a more creative housing supply, like laneway homes, row housing, mixed use projects around the city and more density at transit stations throughout Vancouver.

SA: I think you have to take detached houses out of that equation, because we cannot make detached houses more affordable. The supply of them is getting smaller every year, not bigger. What we can do is create affordability through other forms of housing: allowing townhouses to be built and allowing condominiums to be built and allowing rental housing to be built.

ON THE NPA'S PROPOSED STREET CAR

GR: In a nutshell, the NPA platform has $390 million in new capital spending and another $10 million in operating spending—and no explanation as to where this money comes from. They say they're going to cap property taxes. If you combine the capital and operating costs, it's a five per cent tax increase, which they said they would not do. So who's going to pay for this? And how?

SA: The current team at City Hall doesn't believe in public/private partnerships. I do. I will find private funding and I will find federal funding through their P3 fund. And don't forget that the city has already spent a lot of money on the project. We've already built part of the line and the city has purchased all of the line. The NPA is the party of "yes we can." Vision is the party of "no, no, don't do that!"

ON VISION'S DOWNTOWN BIKE LANES

SA: The downtown bike lanes went in as a trial, but they're not treated as a trial. And the consultation on them was weak. Now I'm a cyclist, and we have a lot of bike lanes around the city. And the NPA put in 400 kilometres of bike lanes. It's the downtown bike lanes that really caused this sort of conflict and caused problems in the bike lane program. So I support putting in facilities that work.

CANDIDATES **HOPE TO BREATHE LIFE INTO 'NO FUN' CITY**

Andrew Bates
Senior Web Writer

A year after a documentary dubbed Vancouver the 'No Fun' city, have things gotten better for artists seeking cheap studio and performance space?

"It's not that it's no fun here, you can make your own fun here. It's just that it's not easy. I mean, that's just a fact," said Melissa James, co-director of *No Fun City*.

The 2010 documentary depicted the difficulty for artists to create affordable studio and performance spaces, given the demand for land in the city. According to Vision city council candidate Heather Deal, spaces had existed as part of a system of passive negligence, where old, run-down buildings were used as arts spaces when they were really zoned as offices but were allowed to persist.

"Unfortunately, because of the price of those buildings is so high, the owners of those buildings are wanting to flip them and turn them into something that's more profitable," Deal said. "We can't allow that system of passive negligence, we can't rely on that to serve our artists anymore."

The issue has manifested itself when spaces that open under the radar find themselves trapped by bylaws. The Little Mountain Gallery, on 23rd and Main, had been reported by neighbours for noise violations, at which point it was discovered they were zoned as retail, rather than a performance space, according to Deal.

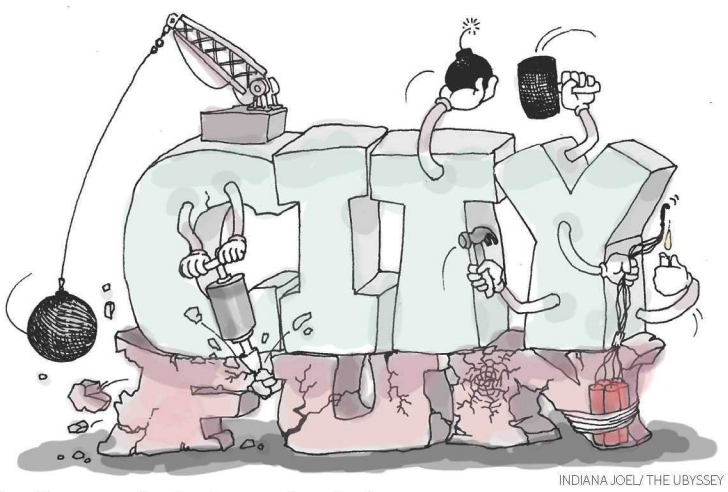
Deal, who is an incumbent councillor, said that if an organization knows they don't comply with bylaws, the city currently will agree to hold off on enforcing them as long as the organization works with them to function legally, which Little Mountain has been doing.

"We've been working on loosening those to the point where we're still making sure people are safe, but we're not being over-restrictive," she said. This is functioning as a pilot program to identify necessary changes to bylaws and according to Deal, a finished report will reach council in the beginning of the new year.

According to NPA councillor George Affleck, artist spaces need to be planned in new development. "When you develop it, think about creating spaces that are affordable for artists," he said, noting that artists don't always require more than a few hundred square feet. "[It] doesn't have to be a retail space, [it] can be a little bit of studio space inside the building."

The NPA plan for dealing with affordability is creating a new endowment fund, funded by a percentage of fees paid by developers to the city. "I understand the arts world, through how challenging it is," said Affleck, a director for the Vancouver Children's Festival.

"The biggest challenges artists have and those groups have is steady cash flow, steady funding, steady predictable funding." The NPA also hopes to fill the fund through encouraging donation from people who have received estate inheritances.



INDIANA JOEL/ THE UBYSSEY

The fund could be used to loan money to groups that haven't yet received grants, according to Affleck. "Beyond that, as far as arts spaces, it could go to that as well," he said. "The endowment fund, depending on the size, could be used for all sorts of things, even arms-length organizations that could be used for facility space."

Since the release of *No Fun City*, James said consultations brought up a lot of the issues and progress has slowly been made. "There was an epiphany it seemed like, from city council," said James. "It's slow, and when you have such a huge process...and you want to start changing all those laws, it doesn't happen overnight.

"That's why I'm kind of scared that if we lose some of these people in the election, it's going to all start over at zero," she said. "All the projects that were already set in place, all the licensing, the conditional licensing that they've been granting people, who knows what happens to it, right?"

But according to James, both parties are still reliant on donation money from the developers, which prevents change. "Because of the infrastructure and how it's set up, how they donate, and how it keeps the money in the city, the livability and affordability crisis is not going to go away," she said.

"I think the term 'No Fun' city definitely still applies."

COPE **platform aims for affordability**

> I SEE A LOT OF YOUNG PEOPLE MOVING OUT OF THE CITY BECAUSE THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO LIVE [HERE].
>
> **RJ AQUINO**, COPE COUNCIL CANDIDATE

KALYEENA MAKORTOFF/THE UBYSSEY

RJ Aquino and COPE hope to make housing affordable, possibly through quotas placed on new developments.

Kalyeena Makortoff
News Editor

The Coalition of Progressive Electors (COPE) is trying to increase its presence on Vancouver's city council after the 2011 election. After winning two spots last year, they're planning to secure seats for all three of their council candidates in Saturday's election.

COPE's platform for this election, explained council candidate RJ Aquino, revolves around affordable housing and accessible transit. "It all ties into the affordability in the city," he said.

The left-leaning party has an agreement with Vision Vancouver to only run sufficient candidates for the seats open on the parks board, school board and city council. Instead of splitting the left vote, Vision Vancouver is running seven council candidates while COPE fills in the final three.

"More often than not, our priorities overlap and we'd rather work with them than against them," said Aquino.

However, COPE's policy on campaign donations and their platform for election finance reform is one thing that sets the parties apart.

"One of the main differences between COPE and Vision is that COPE does not take any big donations from developers or corporations," Aquino said. The majority of COPE's funding comes from unions and labour organizations.

"We are advocating for limits to the amount of spending that is done in municipal elections," said Aquino. "That just creates a more level playing field, creating greater availability of opportunity for anybody else who might be willing to run. It's something that our membership is proud of...we don't want to be beholden to any special interests."

Aquino said that COPE also wants to emphasize the importance of arts in the city and make sure that large corporations don't overshadow local entrepreneurs.

"Small businesses really promote the character of the community and are a stronger economic stimulator for the local economy," he said.

"We're not saying that big business needs to go, but we're saying that small business needs to co-exist with large corporations and that's why we're proposing a tiered tax system."

While Aquino said that COPE isn't targeting a specific demographic in its campaign, "The platform we have, we feel, will speak directly to young people. It's just a matter of making sure that people understand that our platform does affect their lives and that's why they need to get involved.

"Affordable housing is so crucial," Aquino explained. "I see a lot of young people moving out of the city because they can't afford to live in the city, even though they may get good jobs, be finishing school or even going to school. It's hard to find a good place to live that's relatively affordable for a lot of people."

One proposed solution is inclusionary zoning. In any buildings over 6 stories high, 20 per cent of the units would be reserved for affordable housing.

"The development is going to continue but we need to make sure that with this new development, affordable housing is in place," Aquino said.

"We need to make sure that developers are developing for the people in the city and not for themselves. We need to make sure that we hold developers accountable for the service that they're providing, which is building homes, and you're building homes for everybody."

While COPE may not be holding the majority of seats on city council anytime soon, Aquino stressed that there's something more important to focus on.

"Our main concern is to make sure that we're able to retain a strong progressive presence in city hall and that we're able to find partners to work with and...get things done."

HOW **TO VOTE IN THE CIVIC ELECTION**

STEP 1: DETERMINE IF YOU'RE ELIGIBLE

Must live in the city of Vancouver, be a Canadian citizen and lived in BC for at least the last six months. UBC residents cannot vote in the mayoral or council races, but can vote for school and parks boards. However, UBC residents can vote in the Electoral Area A and School Board races. For more information on the candidates, please see pages 4 and 10.

STEP 2: FIND OUT WHERE TO VOTE

The City of Vancouver has polling locations listed on its website (*http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/elections/2011election/where.htm#1*)

STEP 3: PROVIDE ID AT THE POLLING STATION

Unless you've previously registered to vote from the place you currently live, you must provide two pieces of valid ID

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19!

INDEPENDENT **CANDIDATES TRY TO MAKE A SPLASH IN BIG MONEY ELECTIONS**

> PEOPLE LIKE ME CAN'T BUY RADIO TIME OR TV SPOTS OR SPEND THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN SIGNAGE.
>
> **TED COPELAND**, INDEPENDENT COUNCIL CANDIDATE

Mike Dickson
Staff Writer

As the Vancouver municipal election draws closer, political parties like Vision Vancouver and the Non-Partisan Association are busy posting signs, rolling out banners and buying radio time. They are sparing no expense in convincing people that their candidates are the best choices for mayor or city council.

Such campaigning requires some loose purse strings and a thick wallet. But for the independent candidates running in this election, many of those campaigning tactics are luxuries they cannot afford.

"The chances of [an independent] getting elected are pretty low, mostly because it's so hard for independents to spend the kind of money that parties can," said Michael Dharni, a human kinetics student at UBC who is vying to become a city councillor.

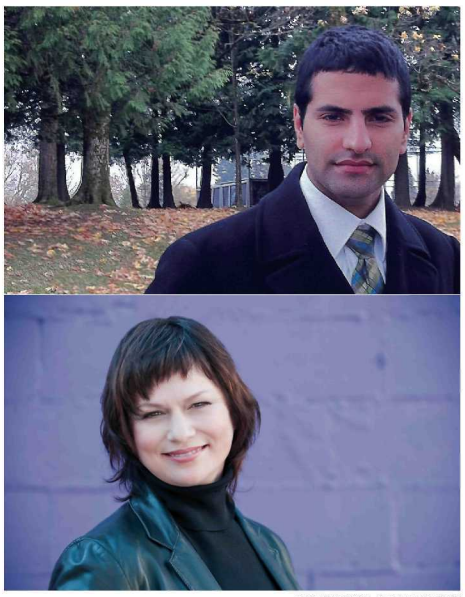
Under the previous ward system, neighbourhoods were combined according to population to form an electoral district. Independents had a realistic chance of winning in these districts because the scope of their electorate was much smaller.

But the current at-large system encourages the formation of political parties because the task of reaching all of Vancouver's 1.5 million residents is overwhelming, both financially and otherwise.

"People like me can't buy radio time or TV spots or spend thousands of dollars in signage," said Ted Copeland, an independent running for city council for the first time.

"Being an independent, the only way I could have an impact policy-wise would be to have the support of one of the two major parties."

Copeland is referring to the NPA and Vision Vancouver, who, along with the Coalition of Progressive Electors (COPE), dominate Vancouver's political landscape.



COURTESY THE CANDIDATES

Michael Dharni and Sandy Garrosino are independent candidates running for council. Dharni is a UBC Human Kinetics student, and Garrosino made her name as co-founder of the anti-casino Vancouver Not Vegas movement.

This leaves little room for the independent underdogs to make their voices heard—only one independent councillor has been elected in 25 years

One option for independents is to secure an endorsement by one of the parties. As prospective city councillor Sandy Garrosino explains, endorsements mean more exposure, and when your electoral area holds 1.5 million people, exposure is everything.

"Having the endorsement from the NSV really expands the base of people that will suddenly look more closely at my position," said Garrosino, co-founder of the Vancouver Not Vegas movement.

"It's also a no-strings-attached commitment, so my status as an independent isn't jeopardized."

Meanwhile, party candidates have several strings attached to their platform, and those strings operate as double-edged swords when it comes to municipal party politics.

On one hand, parties enable voters to determine where a candidate stands based on their affiliation and make a decision based on that information.

"Parties simplify the voters' task by simplifying broad electoral themes," said Sean Bickerton, an NPA candidate who was also involved with the Vancouver Not Vegas movement.

"They enable voters to make broader choices and to choose individuals within them. They also provide a sense of continuity and responsibility, in that there's a sense of being able to hold an entire grouping of people accountable."

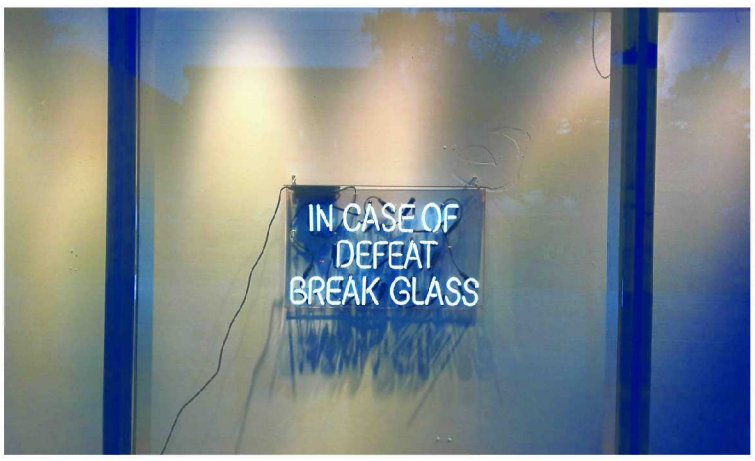
But on the other hand, parties can prove divisive and crowd the space for independent thinking. They can also restrict party members in their ability to truly and honestly voice their beliefs.

"Party politics tend to heighten or create an atmosphere of conflict and division, both in office and the public realm," Garrosino said.

Her sentiments are echoed by Copeland. "COPE is supposed to be a political party, but they're like the kid who only gets to play in the football game if he brings the ball."

"We have the most partisan municipal politics in Canada," said UBC political science professor Fred Cutler.

"Independent candidates are usually people who want to get their message out there. They have almost no chance of winning unless they have a high-profile background in politics, sports [or] business."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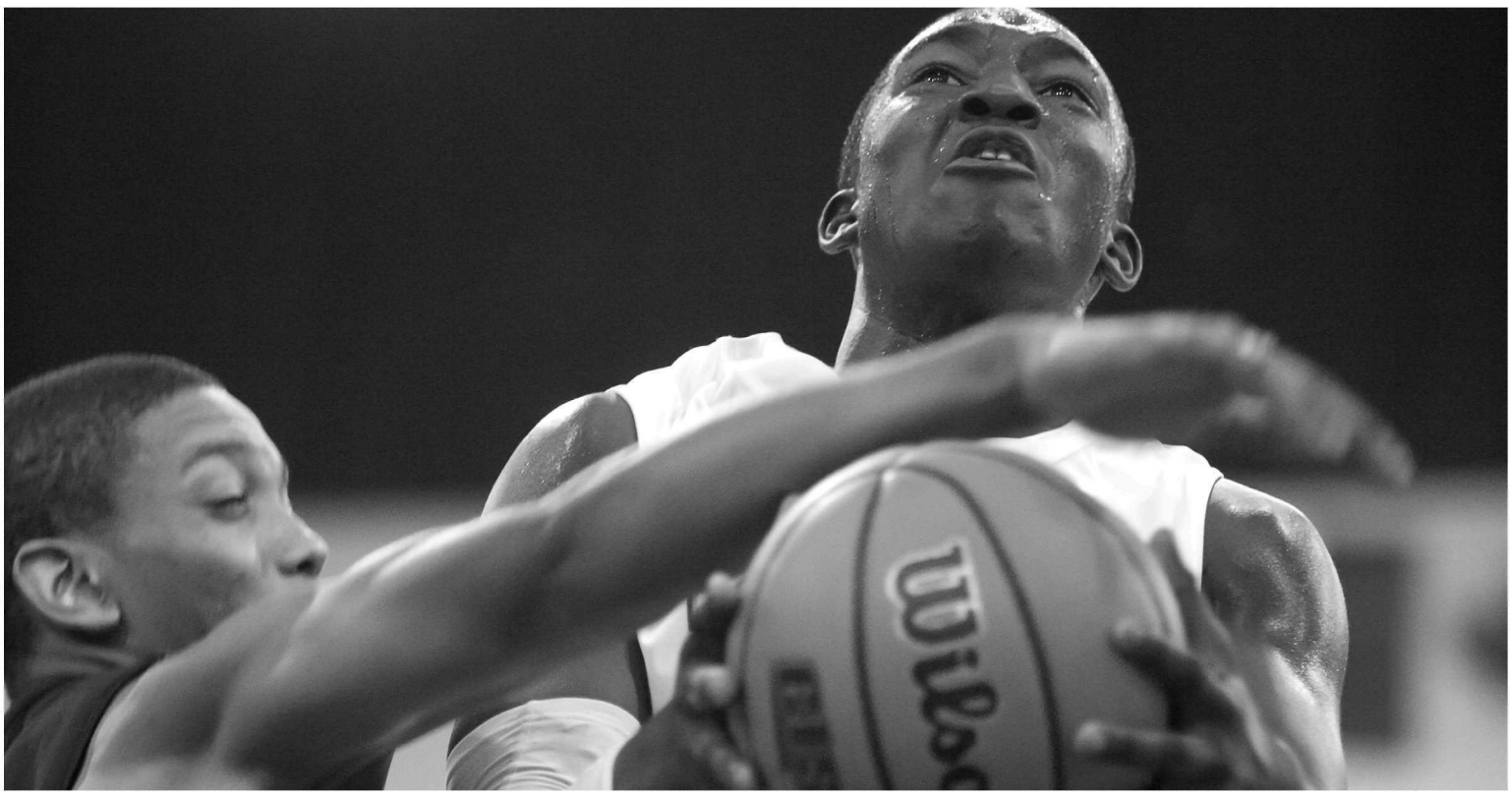


JOSH CURRAN/THE UBYSSEY

The UBC men's basketball team began their season with two victories. The women's team split their weekend series. Both teams are entering the season with championship aspirations.

Thunderbirds basketball season preview

Men's basketball

Last season, UBC was only 11 seconds away from playing in the national championship.

With the clock winding down, Trinity Western's Kyle Coston drained a three pointer to propel Trinity into the lead and ultimately end UBC's hope of playing for their first national title since 1973.

With the 2011-12 season just beginning, UBC has a long way to go if they hope to match the success they had last year, let alone capture a CIS title.

Veteran stars Josh Whyte, Alex Murphy and Brent Malish are gone. Yet for the 'Birds, replacing those stars is not an issue; the team has five players in their last year of eligibility. What UBC must overcome is that the rest of their roster is young and relatively inexperienced.

On the 14-man squad, UBC will dress 6 rookies and have 8 players who played zero minutes for the blue and gold last season.

"In years gone by, we have been pretty talented in terms of depth," said UBC head coach Kevin Hanson. "One of the problems over the last couple of years was that we weren't recruiting in that area because we thought we were going to be going to the NCAA and we didn't want to have kids in the program that were going to have to end their careers early or lose eligibility because of that."

Despite the infusion of youth, there is an expectation for UBC to succeed this season. The 'Birds finished 22-4 in conference play last season and in the past four years UBC is an astounding 118-13. The program has flourished under coach Hanson, with back-to-back CIS title appearances in 2009 and 2010, and a perfect 20-0 regular season record in 2006.

"Every year the expectation is to try to win the Canada West, to get to the national championship and to try to win nationals," said fifth-year guard Nathan Yu.

Yu, along with seniors Doug Plumb, Balraj Baines, Kamar Burke and Graham Bath, will form the nucleus of UBC's roster, and their experience at the CIS level will be paramount in UBC's bid to finally capture a gold medal.

In particular, Yu is a player Hanson expects to lead the 'Birds this season.

"Everybody knows it's [Yu's] team and he has to produce for us in order for us to be successful," said Hanson. "I think as a fifth-year guy you strive to have it as your team and I think that pressure turns into a very positive thing.

"You want that as an athlete, you want to be the guy, and he is going to have to perform well for us, without a doubt, in order for us to be successful."

Though not a full-time starter last season, Yu was an integral part of the 'Birds offence, providing a spark from the bench with his deadly three-point shooting. His skill on the court got him noticed by Team Canada scouts, and this summer he represented his country at the Universiade Games and the Pan Am Games.

Yu said he and his fellow veteran teammates are prepared to step into a leadership role for the team's rookies. Despite the challenge of having a team with less depth than past years, he believes the 'Birds are up for the challenge of going toe-to-toe with the best in the Canada West.

There are four rookies—guards Nakai Luyken and Malcolm Williams, and forwards Mike Lewandowski and David Wagner—that Hanson expects big things from this season.

They have received valuable minutes in the preseason and when the fatigue of the season kicks in, Hanson hopes those minutes will pay dividends, allowing the 'Birds to rely on their depth rather than having the burden exclusively rest on the shoulders of the veterans.

"Those guys are going to be very valuable to us and they are the future of our program," Hanson said.

UBC has started their season 2-0 and will be looking for revenge against the Coston-led Trinity Western Spartans Thursday night at 8pm and Saturday night at 7pm at War Memorial Gym.

—Drake Fenton

CHARLES TO/THE UBYSSEY

Women's Basketball

If there is a winning formula for basketball, then the UBC women's team has shown they have it, albeit with two key ingredients missing. Head coach Deb Huband believes that a lack of toughness and consistency prevented them from achieving success last season.

"I think first and foremost, after last season we had a chance to look at ourselves in the mirror and isolate a few things we wanted to improve on in the off season, and one thing was overall team toughness," said Huband.

After dropping the Canada West quarterfinals to the Alberta Pandas last year, the T-Birds kept busy during the off season by working on offensive execution as well as strength and conditioning to increase both mental and physical strength.

While grueling runs on Wreck Beach and hikes up the Grouse Grind are sure-fire ways to increase tenacity and toughness, the ability to perform with these attributes consistently is an entirely different matter.

"The last year or two we've maybe under-performed a little bit and haven't been able to get over the hump when the playoffs hit, as far as getting consistent performances from the people we rely on," said Huband.

"We have two fifth-year players who we're really going to look to, to lead us on the floor."

Those two players are forwards Zara Huntley and Alex Vieweg, both of whom have received MVP and All-Star recognition.

Huband says the team will look to Vieweg for leadership, tough defensive play and point scoring.

Huntley's strengths are scoring points in the paint and dominating on the glass.

It takes a team to win games, however, and a deep talent pool is necessary to be a contender with the high level of competition in the Canada West.

Huntley believes solid repeat performances will be determined by the depth of this year's roster. "In the past we haven't been consistent enough to make it as far as we wanted to, but we have more talent, we're really good this year. I think we can do it," she said.

Some of the new recruits have already begun to make waves in the preseason.

"Cassandra Knievel is a rookie guard from Nanaimo who has been getting decent minutes and is a real sniper from the three-point line and a solid defensive player," said Huband. "The rookies are working hard and I think they're all going to be solid for us as their careers go on."

With only one loss in the preseason and a tournament sweep, the 'Birds have shown they are a championship calibre team.

Whether or not they can hold onto this game-winning formula throughout the season will determine if they are a contender or a pretender.

UBC has started their season 1-1 (see sidebar for recap) and will host the Trinity Western Spartans at War Memorial Gym this Thursday at 6pm and Saturday at 5pm.

Teams kick off regular season

CJ Pentland
Contributor

Women's Basketball

The 'Birds had an up and down weekend. They completely annihilated Brandon University 88-21 on Friday night, but then lost to the No. 1 ranked University of Regina 77-66 on Saturday.

Friday's game could have been a practice with how dominant UBC was. Brandon only scored one point in the entire first quarter.

Sophomore shooting guard Kris Young led the 'Birds in scoring with 18 points. Zara Huntley and Alex and Erica Vieweg all had double digit scoring performances.

On Saturday, UBC had to refocus against a much tougher opponent. In the first half the 'Birds looked capable of downing the nation's top ranked team, forcing Regina to commit 15 turnovers. UBC exited the half leading 39-35.

Regina came out flying in the second half, however, outscoring UBC 20-10 in the third quarter.

"They turned it up a notch and really came at us in the second half, particularly in transition, and we had a few breakdowns that gave them the momentum," said UBC head coach Deb Huband.

Regina would hold on for the win, but UBC showed an incredible resilience in their comeback bid. Point guard Kristen Hughes put the team on her back, scoring 16 straight points to help the 'Birds get within 6 points.

Huntley and Hughes shared the team lead in points with 16.

Men's Basketball

Last weekend the men's team (2-0) got off on the right foot to start the regular season. They opened the season Friday night with a strong 91-55 win over Brandon University (1-3) at War Memorial Gym. On Saturday, they soundly defeated the University of Regina (0-3) 100-71.

The wins left head coach Kevin Hanson happy with how his team opened up the regular season. "I thought this was the first weekend that we played two good basketball games," said Hanson.

UBC forced an overmatched Regina team into 29 turnovers on the Saturday and led them in every statistical category. They built up a comfortable 30-13 after the first quarter and never looked back.

Fifth-year point guard Nathan Yu stole the show with an impressive 34 point and 8 assist effort, controlling the offence and leading a potent fast break.

Freshman Malcolm Williams nailed 5 three-pointers on Saturday, while second-year Tommy Nixon also chipped in 19 points.

CHARLES TO/THE UBYSSEY

DAVID MARINO/THE UBYSSEY

Forget hot water; you could put Totem residents in a shack and it still beats a Surrey basement suite.

The Last Word

Parting shots and snap judgments on today's issues

Take time to consider your Electoral Area A vote

This Saturday, from 8am-8pm, there will a ballot open in the SUB for people wishing to vote in the election for the director of Electoral Area A. If you've lived in BC for six months and have lived on campus for at least 30 days, you can vote.

Obviously, we urge you to do so. Yes, you'd be hard pressed to find an election where we wouldn't say "vote," but the person elected director of Electoral Area A is the only person on campus who can claim to represent all students and residents in a democratic way. Furthermore, if UBC or the provincial government begin to move on creating a long-term governance structure for this campus, the director will hold a great deal of symbolic importance. And even if the status quo prevails, the director still has a great deal to do on the Metro Vancouver board.

We would hope that students could elect a strong, experienced, enthusiastic candidate who would fight for the interests of students and advocate for governance reform. Unfortunately, that candidate does not exist in this election.

It certainly isn't Colin Desjarlais, who has done little campaigning for the position, and has little experience that will aid him should he be elected. Mischa Makortoff is very earnest and very committed to learning the skills required by the position, but we wonder about his lack of experience and ability to take a hard stance on an issue when it matters.

Maria Harris, who has held the position for the last three years, is running for re-election. She has the experience and contacts to perform in the position. However, students should know that in the last three years, UBC's democratic accountability has decreased, the debate between Metro Vancouver and the UBC community on rapid transit has gone nowhere, and much of Harris's strength and expertise aid people in the University Endowment Lands, rather than students.

That's understandable; the UEL is what Harris knows and where her base of support lies. But students should be aware there are other people who will represent student interests more effectively.

There are two candidates—one a current student and one a recent graduate—who we have no doubt will have students fully in their mind if elected. But Alexandria Mitchell and Scott Andrews have their flaws as well.

Andrews has does a good job campaigning on campus and has the strongest commitment to tackling the governance conundrum on campus, both of which are to be commended. We do worry about his lack of political experience, though, as an effective director needs to have a firm hand on issues from the outset.

Meanwhile, Mitchell is an incredibly involved student, very ambitious and already politically active. All of these things are to be commended, but they also make us wonder if she would have the time and dedication needed for the position for the entire three years.

That said, there are no perfect candidates in any election. The position will be filled regardless of whether you vote this Saturday. But in an election where less than 1000 people are projected to cast a ballot, your vote will matter a great deal. Choose wisely.

Davis Cup coming to UBC is the exception to the rule

The Davis Cup is the biggest tennis tournament in men's team play. Over 100 countries enter teams into competition. And it's coming to UBC.

Or at least one round of it, anyway. Canada plays France in the first round in mid-February. The matches will take place in the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre, marking the first time a tennis event has been held there. It is also the first time a sports event of any significance has been held there since the Olympics, aside from regular CIS hockey games which have embarrassingly low attendance.

And that serves as a reminder that the arena is currently a giant white elephant on campus, a beautiful new sports venue that is very costly to operate and sits empty almost all year. UBC Athletics had planned to hold concerts there until that plan was scuttled by the RCMP and campus residents, and there aren't many big sports games that come through the city and are suitable for the arena.

We know Athletics is trying to find a solution to get more use out of the Doug Mitchell Centre, and we wish them luck in that endeavour. It's a real shame that such a nice venue, built at little cost to the university, is so under-used.

Hope for the worst traffic light in the world

Though we aren't very happy with the return of cars to University Boulevard (the strip of road outside Mahony & Sons), we have to admit that there is one real benefit that will come out of this: the worst traffic light in the world should see a slight improvement.

You must know the traffic light we're talking about. It's the one right by Shoppers Drug Mart. And if you've ever tried to cross it on foot, you know what hell is.

We can't count the number of times we've stood there for ages waiting to cross, noticing that every direction incomprehensibly has a red light. Turning arrows will stay on forever, thus barring pedestrians, despite the fact that the only traffic coming out of the current University Boulevard is a bus every five minutes.

The light pattern just makes no bloody sense and nobody with the power to change it seems to care, which leaves us screaming at the sky every time we try to cross. With the return of semi-regular traffic to the Boulevard, some kind of order should return to that intersection.

Keystone XL victory is a hopeful sign

Perspectives

>> Gordon Katic

Being an environmentalist isn't easy.

When we survey this changing planet, we experience sweltering temperatures, suffer turbulent seas and witness melting ice caps. The processes we've begun are unprecedented; the Earth we've become accustomed to has already been fundamentally altered in irreversible ways.

When we review the leading scientific literature, we notice how little time we have—how dire our situation has become—and we struggle to hope in the face of this mounting despair.

When we open our newspapers we see, despite all our efforts, that we're pouring more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than ever before, that temperatures are reaching new peaks, that storms and wildfires are ravaging our communities and that climate change is causing drought, famine, disease and untold misery for the most innocent and vulnerable.

When we turn to our political elite, we're met with unsatisfying accords, vacuous plans, pledges, press conferences and decrees. After decades of fruitlessly pleading for real leadership, we've come to realize, in the words of the great American philosopher John Dewey, that "politics is the shadow cast on society by big business." That business is oil, coal and natural gas.

Climate change is the defining issue of our time. And yet, thus far, our response has been nothing but an abject failure.

Being an environmentalist isn't easy.

However, I've never been more proud to be one, I've never had more hope, and I've never been more confident in our ability to author a greater, greener future.

The reason for my optimism is last week's victory by Bill McKibben and thousands of other activists (including prominent Canadians, like Naomi Klein and Maude Barlow) in forcing President Barack Obama to suspend the Keystone XL pipeline for an independent review, which most analysts think will kill the project. Keystone XL was slated to transport dirty tar sands oil through a 3456 kilometre pipe from Alberta, through the Midwest, and down to Texas. NASA's chief climatologist James Hansen said this would effectively mean "game over" for our climate.

Everything seemed a-go; TransCanada had already moved a million dollars of pipe across the border, and they even began to seize land by eminent domain. But, in the words of Bill McKibben, this "done deal came spectacularly undone."

Their victory teaches us an amazing lesson in how to best push for political change: people power. Day after day, these brave activists encircled the White House. One day there were 12,000 shoulder-to-shoulder; another day 1254 of them were arrested in a massive act of civil disobedience.

UBC needs to learn from this moment. We are world-renowned for our sustainable operations and innovative research in the field, but we could do more to politically mobilize our students and faculty. We must be both academics and activists; it is our duty to make efforts to understand the science, and the politics. The science is clear; it informs our urgency and forecasts our future. The politics are messier, but our experiences have shown us that the solution lies not in waiting for our leaders to act, but in forcing their hand.

It's particularly important we learn this lesson now, because the next climate battle is likely to be in our backyard. Canada's finance minister, Jim Flaherty, told Bloomberg that this "may mean that we move quickly to ensure that we can export our oil to Asia through British Columbia."

Our odds still look bleak, but one thing is certain: we have a stronger and more focused movement than ever before, and I would like you to be a part of it.

Letters

Re: Time to turn the page on campus planning, Nov. 14

Dear Mr McElroy,

While I respect your right to express opinions on the university's plans and governance, I take objection to your singling out Nancy Knight, our Associate Vice President of Planning, in your opinion piece of November 14.

Ms Knight is part of my team. She does not make decisions in isolation, nor does she set the university's directions and policies. Ultimately, the university's Board of Governors makes the final decision on all of our plans.

Take exception with the decisions themselves, with the rationale underpinning them or with their consequences if you will. But please leave personalities out of it.

—Pierre Ouillet is UBC's Vice President Finance, Resources and Operations

STUDENT BODY »

Reclaiming the lost art of masturbation

Happy Healthy Horny Raeven Geist-Deschamps

Before I start my ramble, a few preliminaries.

Masturbation has no known physical or mental risks: everyone from HealthLine to Wikipedia says so. Boys tend to do it less than they say, while girls do it more than they say. In fact, a quick solo roundabout has been credited to decrease depression and improve self-worth.

If you are spending more than half your time in private exploration, you may want to speak with someone, but other than that, masturbation is a safe space to explore your orgasm and yourself. It also isn't going to disappear anytime soon, so you should probably join the bandwagon and get your jerk on.

A few months ago I had a shocking realization: besides a brief stint with a sex toy which then succumbed to drunk escapades and pranking unhappy neighbours, I had been masturbating in pretty much the same way for nearly a decade.

What's worse, I figured sex was an adequate replacement for my lack of curiosity in exploring ways to pleasure myself. And there are a few problems with this. If you're not curious enough to spend the time alone on the craft of discovering what your unique anatomy needs, how are you supposed to develop a fulfilling sex life?

Sex toys can be the way to go if you're comfortable going to a sex shop or ordering them online. The most important thing you should keep in mind when looking for sex toys is avoiding phthalates AT ALL COSTS. Phthalates are toxic chemicals used to increase the durability and flexibility of plastics, and they will seriously mess with your reproduction.

All toys marked as novelties are a big no-no, because the label is used as a way to circumvent safety standards placed on sex toys. It allows the companies to make 'em cheap and dirty, not exactly what you want in and around your genitals.

Silicone is still the best quality, but note that top grade silicone is opaque, not see-through, and if you're going to use a jelly vibrator or dildo, it should be covered with a condom because some of that porous material can hold anything from scents to dye. And there are a number of male options, like the Tenga egg and the fleshlight. The former is cheaper, but less durable, but the latter comes with add ons that allow you to plug it into your computer and synchronize it with your favourite porn!

GEOFF LISTER/THE UBYSSEY

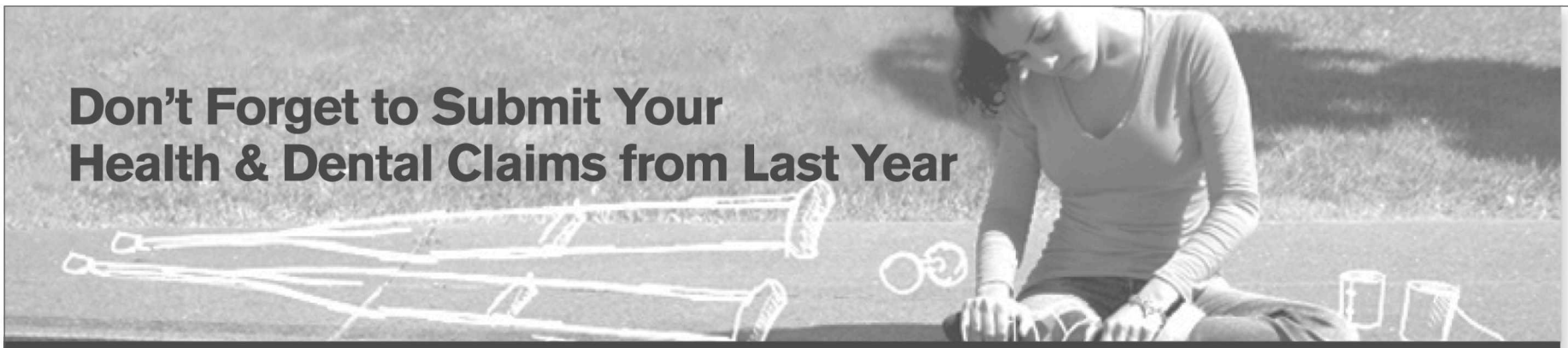
A lot of students masturbate—and so should you!

While masturbation aids can help to up your pleasure, they're not for everybody. What's more important is learning what your body needs. As a starting point, I'd recommend examining your breathing and, for once, take your time and try to kill the story in your mind's eye if it's drawing you away from the immediacy of sensing your own body.

As much as every doctor, public health policy activist, teacher and grandma might pummel you to have a balanced lifestyle, why aren't we recommending frequent masturbation the same way we're supposed to run around for at least 20 minutes a day to stay healthy?

Seriously. The National Health Service in England made this—the running, not the other thing—a public health announcement in 2009. I can still dream that Harper will take time away from cutting our budget on environmental spending and relocate funds to Private Pleasure Policies.

I'm not promoting public masturbation; I don't think the Knoll is a great venue for a solo rumble in the hay, and the Rose Garden should be left to the elderly, tourists and graduating students. I'm not necessarily talking about peeling a daikon, shaping it and disappearing into the woodshed for agricultural elation. I'm just saying, the power is in your hands! And palms. And fingers. Use it wisely.



Important notice for students who were enrolled in the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan in 2010-2011

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING CLAIMS FROM LAST YEAR (for students covered in 2010-2011)

All health and/or dental claims incurred on or before August 31, 2011 (for the 2010-2011 policy year) must be **received** by the insurance company **(Sun Life)** by **November 29, 2011**.

In order to ensure that your claims are transferred by the deadline, they must be **dropped off at the Health & Dental Plan Office (SUB Lower Level, Room 61) no later than Thursday, November 24, 2011**. If you're mailing claims directly to the insurance company, please leave adequate time for delivery. The address for Sun Life is recorded on the back of all claim forms.

Claims received after the deadline will not be reimbursed.

Claim forms are available at **www.ihaveaplan.ca** or call the Member Services Centre at 1 877 795-4421 from 9 am to 5 pm on weekdays.

Have a smart phone with a QR code reader? Scan the box to be directed your Plan's website.

ams Student Society of UBC Vancouver

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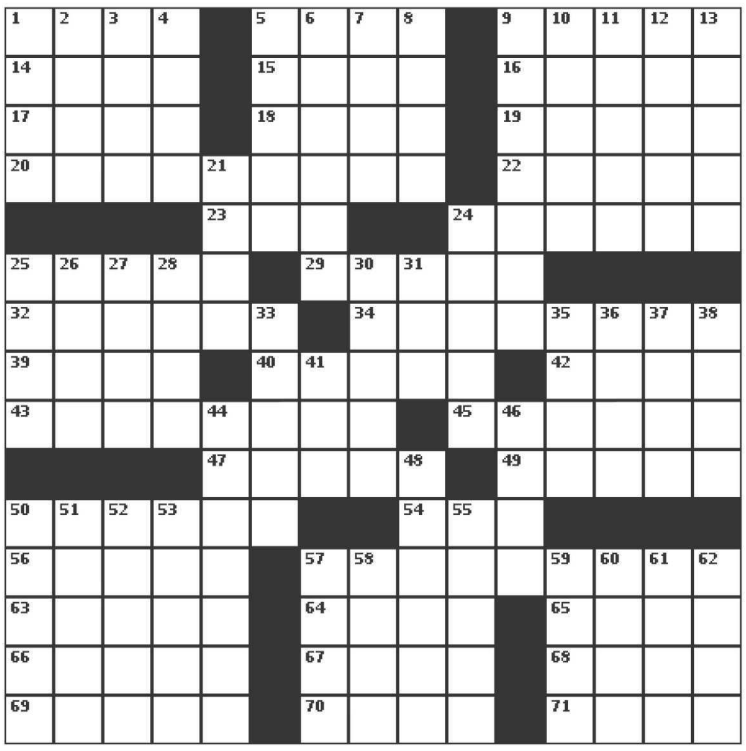
Crossword



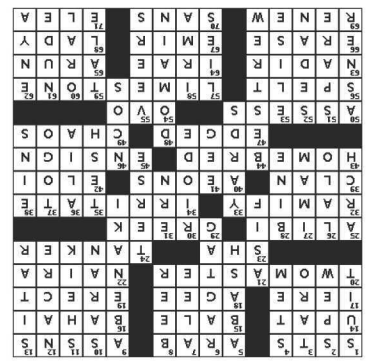
Puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com. Used with permission.

Across

1– Fast fliers
5– Bedouin
9– Orgs.
14– __ __ the crack of dawn
15– Bundle
16– Religion founded in Iran
17– Able was ____...
18– Pulitzer winner James
19– Build
20– Vessel with two masts
22– Currency unit in Nigeria
23– Doo-wop syllable
24– Arabian Sea vessel
25– "The dog ate my homework," e.g.
29– Ancient tongue
32– Extend into subdivisions
34– Annoy
39– Extended family unit
40– Ages
42– The Time Machine race
43– Native
45– Banner
47– Beat by a hair
49– Confusion
50– Evaluate
54– Egg head?
56– European wheat
57– Calcium carbonate rock
63– Low point
64– Dies ____
65– Make ____ for it
66– Clear the board
67– Chieftain, usually in Africa
68– Gentlewoman
69– Continue a subscription
70– Lacking
71– Zeno's home

Down

1– Diamonds, e.g.
2– Gush
3– Edible corm
4– Flower part
5– Disconcert
6– Disheveled
7– "Hard ____ !" (sailor's yell)
8– Ale, e.g.
9– Eastern Algonquian language
10– It's a wrap
11– Arab chief
12– Mother-of-pearl
13– Lute of India
21– Yeah, right!
24– Curt
25– Flatfoot's lack
26– Composer Schifrin
27– Muslim elder and prayer-leader
28– Common hop
30– ___ __ Janeiro
31– Directional ending
33– Fenced areas
35– New Age musician John
36– Inter ____
37– Fast–food option
38– Half of zwei
41– Hosp. readout
44– Lie scattered over
46– Sgts., e.g.
48– Realm
50– Lou Grant star
51– Surplus
52– Four–door
53– Beethoven dedicatee
55– Swerves
57– Falsehoods
58– The Joy of Cooking author Rombauer
59– Account
60– Like some history
61– Unclothed
62– "Only Time" singer



Sudoku

2	4		8	3				
5		6						
							6	2
	8				9	6	2	
4								9
	2	5	4				8	
3	7							
						3		8
				2	4		9	7

2	4	7	8	3	6	9	1	5
5	1	6	9	4	2	8	7	3
8	3	9	7	5	1	4	6	2
7	8	3	5	1	9	6	2	4
4	6	1	2	8	7	5	3	9
9	2	5	4	6	3	7	8	1
3	7	4	1	9	8	2	5	6
1	9	2	6	7	5	3	4	8
6	5	8	3	2	4	1	9	7

Do you feel strongly about our games page?

Contact our Managing Editor, Print with complaints or suggestions

Jonny Wakefield | printeditor@ubyssey.ca

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