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UBC Archives Serial

Tuesday, September 3, 2002

Volume 84 Issue 1

THE UBYSSEY

Heart attacks already since 1918

UBC over-enrols again

UBC admits more students than it's funded for

by Shawn Joseph Seiler
NEWS WRITER

UBC has accepted more students than the provincial government will fund this year, but the university registrar feels the quality of education at UBC will not be greatly compromised.

Official enrolment figures will not be available until November—but, like last year—UBC has admitted more students this year than it will be funded to teach by the provincial government.

Last year, UBC accepted more than 1000 students over the funded limit because the interim mark for UBC acceptance was set too low. This year, UBC has once again accepted students beyond its admission quota, this time in an attempt to keep new student enrolment relatively equal from year to year.

"Although our over-enrolment is going to be up, it will be stretched over four years," said Registrar Brian Silzer. "We've reduced the new student intake this year relative of last year, but it is still going to be a little over the ideal."

Students entering the largest faculties this year needed to obtain higher marks than those entering last year. Minimum final grade averages for incoming Arts students increased from 77 to 78 per cent, while those for Science students increased from 82 to 85 and those for Applied Science dropped from 83 to 81.

Silzer estimates that 37,608 students will be attending UBC this winter session, of which 81 per cent (30,598) will be undergraduates and 19 per cent (7010) will be graduate students. 6776 of these are new students, with 5085 in their first-year.

Alma Mater Society (AMS) President Kristen Harvey is concerned that over-enrolment will become a long-term trend at UBC,

See "Enrolment" page 2.

From the grill to the gas tank

PARTNERS IN GRIME: Students making biodiesel at UBC. Feature pages 6-7 NIC FENSOM PHOTO

Tuition up, pay down

TA's want compensation for the tuition increase

by Kathleen Deering
NEWS EDITOR

Fuming teaching assistants (TAs) at UBC are calling on the university to compensate them for a 16 per cent pay cut and threatening action if they don't receive it.

"TAs are desperate," said Alex Grant, president of the TA Union. "We're not prepared to take this sitting down and we are prepared to do anything necessary."

"Just imagine if every TA at UBC decided to mark every paper with an 'A'—100 per cent. Just imagine that," he said.

TA salaries are currently set at the same levels as last year, despite increasing graduate tuition fees which must be paid if the TAs are to keep their jobs.

"Paying tuition is actually a condition of employment," said Grant, also a zoology graduate student, "and if you don't pay tuition you don't have a job."

Students across BC are facing tuition increases following the provincial government's decision earlier this year to lift the province's six-year-old tuition freeze. Graduate student tuition at UBC will increase by about $500 for the 2002-2003 year.

ALEX GRANT: The TA Union is threatening job action.
NIC FENSOM PHOTO

The TA Union and the university have yet to solidify a date to start bargaining the TAs' new collective agreement. Grant said the university has cancelled meetings twice so far.

The university and UBC Human Resources were not available for comment by press-time.

In the last round of bargaining, TAs won a letter of agreement saying that if tuition went up they would get a rebate of 50 per cent.

According to Grant, however, that letter expired on August 31—before the university's newest proposed meeting time of mid-September. "We want to keep that agreement, that letter, and improve on it," said Grant.

There are four types of TAs at UBC. Markers and Undergraduate TAs are paid $4425 per year;

See "Strike" page 2.

THIS ISSUE:

NEWS: More time to drink?
BC bars now allowed to stay open until 4am. **Page 3.**

SPORTS: First game; first loss for football team
Rams beat T-Birds 15-10. Game story. **Page 5.**

CULTURE: Moby brings it
All the way to the West side. Concert review **Page 12.**

COMING FRIDAY:

NEWS: MBAs sue UBC
Business students call tuition hikes unfair.

FEEDBACK@UBYSSEY.BC.CA
WWW.UBYSSEY.BC.CA

HIKING ACCIDENT TAKES THE LIFE OF ENGINEERING STUDENT

by Chris Shepherd
NEWS EDITOR

Christina Huckvale, a fourth year metals and materials engineering student at UBC, died August 25 in a hiking accident on Mount Elizabeth, near Kitimat in northern BC.

September 2 would have been her 21st birthday.

"Christina enjoyed life," said Christina's father, Cuthbert Huckvale.

"She was an excellent snowboarder, loved hiking and camping, and played the French horn in a brass band," he added.

Christina took pleasure in her life at UBC and was active in the Engineering Undergraduate Society (EUS), serving as the secretary for the EUS throughout the 2001/02 school year.

EUS President Cameron Reeves described her as someone who was very involved with the engineering community and pleasant to have around.

See "Huckvale" page 2.

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Announcement

SPARTACUS BOOKS PRESENTS: MAINZER STRASSE: a documentation of the occupation of an apartment block by anarchist communities in early '90s Berlin. Sept 5, 8:30pm, Blinding Light (36 Powell St)

Miscellaneous

START YOUR OWN FRATERNITY! Zeta Beta Tau is looking for men to start a new Chapter. If you are interested in academic success, a chance to network and an opportunity to make friends in a non-pledging Brotherhood, e-mail zbt@zbtnational.org or call 800-431-9674.

FREE CLASSIFIEDS FOR UBC STUDENTS!

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If you are a student, you can place classifieds for FREE!

For more information, or to place a classified, visit Room 23 in the SUB (basement) or call 822-1654.

You missed an issue?! All is not lost! Check out www.ubyssey.bc.ca for all the back issues you could ever want.

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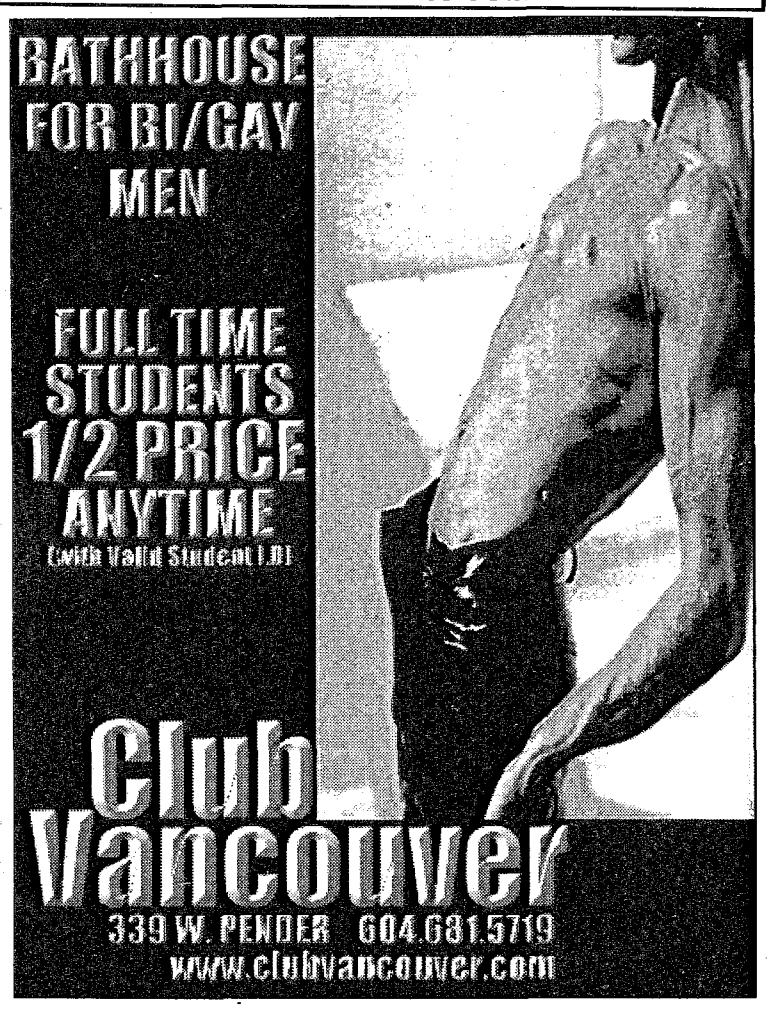


"Enrolment" from page 1.

and that the university will consistently accept students over the quota suggested by provincial funding levels.

"It is especially concerning because next year we will face the 'double cohort' from Ontario," she said. "The elimination of grade 13 is doubling the class-size [there]."

The provincial government receives funding from the federal government's Canadian Health and Social Transfer to give to post-secondary institutions. The institutions are granted funding depending on the number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) students that they are expected to serve, as determined by previous years' enrolment figures. The FTE figure is meant to ensure that an appropriate number of classes are offered and professors are hired.

The AMS feels the university's decision to admit more students than its FTE quota could affect students' education.

"Recent enrolment practices place the quality of education at UBC at risk," stated the AMS in a resolution passed at its June 5 Council meeting.

"When we accept more students than we have funding," Harvey said, "[there is a] concern of students having to take a reduced course-load because they can't get...the courses they need."

Kristen Harvey acknowledged that greater enrolment could increase accessibilty to UBC. However, she said, increasing the number of students beyond FTE funding is not a real solution.

"The real solution is increased core funding, be it increased funding from the province or the federal government. That is the solution, not accepting more students beyond the grant that we currently have."

But Silzer feels that extra funds from recently raised tuition fees will compensate for the higher number of students.

Dr Paul G. Harrison, associate dean for students in the Faculty of Science, said the individual faculties and departments are trying their best to accomodate students and move them off of waiting lists and into classes. He also said Science will give registration priority in every class to the students for whom that course is required.

Many students, however, are angry. When he went to register, first-year student Ian Wilson was frustrated because several of the classes he wanted were full. "Why couldn't they add just one more seat?" he asked. ❖

"Strike" from page 1.

Graduate TA II (Master's students) are paid $8873 per year; and Graduate TA I (PhD. students) are paid $9221 per year. Each type is paid for 384 hours over the winter session, which is roughly 12 hours per week.

However, President of the Graduate Student Society (GSS) Brian De Alwis said many TAs are overworked, putting in far more than the 384 hours they are paid for.

"It's important to note that TAs are not free money. They are 'work,'" he said. "Really the only difference between [working as] a TA and working externally is that you don't have to worry about getting to and from your work."

De Alwis said competition for good graduate students is fierce between universities. "Grad students are the workhorses of the university, and do much of the legwork of research," he said. "Because of this, universities have had to provide money as a lure."

The GSS proposed a policy last year designed to protect graduate students from unexpected tuition increases. The university did not approve the policy, however, which would have kept tuition for incoming graduate students at the same level as when they were accepted.

Graduate student fees are lower at UBC than at many other major universities, including the University of Toronto and McGill University.

But Grant feels that in order to continue providing the excellent education UBC is renowned for, the univerisity must continue paying TAs the salary they received last year.

"We're pretty cheap educators," Grant said. "We don't want a pay cut.

"[Our] demands are precisely that [we] don't have this pay cut. We don't care what the formula is, some rebate or fund, or whatever. We don't care, as long as it happens." ❖

"Huckvale" from page 1.

"A beautiful person in every way that the word means," Reeves summed up.

Christina had been hiking with Christopher Markoff, a Commerce student from the University of Victoria, when the two went missing on August 25.

A search for the two students commenced when friends noticed Huckvale and Markoff had not returned from their hike. Family of both Huckvale and Markoff went to Kitimat to help with the search, which included approximately 80 rescuers on the mountain.

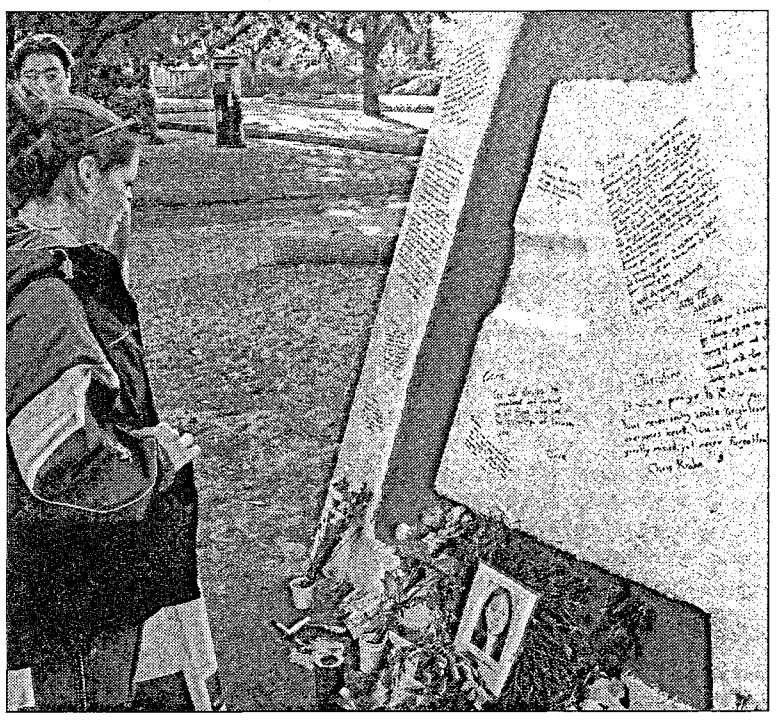
RCMP officers believe Huckvale left the trail and then lost her footing in the area, which is full of sudden drops and gullies.

Christina was in Kitimat working at the Alcan Aluminum smelter for an engineering co-op program.

A place to leave comments for the family has been set up at the UBC engineers' webpage at www.ubcengineers.ca. In addition, Reeves said the EUS plans to organise a permanent memorial for Christina.

A scholarship for engineering students will be established in Christina's name and donations can be left at any Royal Bank of Canada branch. A celebration of Christina's life will be held at 2pm on September 7 at her high school, Magee Secondary in Vancouver.

The search for Markoff was officially called off September 2. After nine days of searching on foot and with helicopters, no sign of Markoff was found. ❖



IN MEMOR:Y The Engineers' Cairn decorated with notes, flowers and candles for Huckvale. **NIC FENSOM PHOTO**

ALMA MATER SOCIETY STUDENT SOCIETY OF UBC
Come into SUB for the
BACK TO SCHOOL SHOW
A marketplace of information, services, and cool stuff to buy!
Sept 3 - 6
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Main Concourse
Student Union Building
an event brought to you by your student society

WANT TO PLAY *Yourself* IN A STARRING ROLE ON TELEVISION?

Point Grey Pictures is developing a six-hour documentary series about college life – to be shot on the UBC campus in the 2003-04 school year. We're looking for undergrads of all types and from all school years. Six to ten people will be chosen.

What's in it for you? Hey, you get to be on national television. AND – you *may* get free housing for the year.

If you're interested in submitting your name for consideration, please contact Mark Mauchline at *mmauchline@shaw.ca.*

Longer bar hours may come to UBC

by Kevin Groves
NEWS WRITER

Pit night may soon stretch long into the morning hours, if UBC adopts new guidelines for pubs and bars recently passed by the BC government.

In a press statement, Solicitor General Rich Coleman said BC pubs and bars will soon be able to stay open until 4am, provided the guidelines get municipal approval. Pending this approval, the new law will take effect December 2.

Because UBC operates on an autonomous liquor license from the City of Vancouver, the UBC Board of Governors will make final approval or disapproval of the new law.

UBC Vice-President Students Brian Sullivan said he plans to hold a meeting with campus leaders in the second week of September to discuss how UBC could implement the new laws.

"There are obvious implications that will need to be addressed," he said. "We may have to review our liquor law in light of the changes that have been made."

But obtaining final approval will likely be a long process, said Alma Mater Society (AMS) President Kristen Harvey. She said she expects this issue to be hotly debated in the fall semester. "To be honest I don't know if it will go through," she said.

Some bar managers on campus aren't exactly clinking glasses over the idea of longer bar hours.

Food and Beverage Manager for the AMS Nancy Toogood said she doesn't feel it is necessary to have bars open until 4am. She said she is worried about how longer bar hours could translate into more noise complaints from the UBC residences.

"We already have constant problems with people going back to their residence from the Pit [UBC's campus bar]," she said. "With longer hours, I could see this for sure becoming a bigger issue."

Simon Couverette, food and beverage manager for the Graduate Student Society (GSS), said he has concerns about how extended hours might affect staff at Koerner's, the GSS pub.

"Our staff are all students," Couverette said. "Obviously it's not beneficial for them to be working until 4am every night."

Sullivan said that both of these concerns will be discussed before any decisions are made.

The new law also allows restaurants to dedicate a maximum of 40 seats to a lounge where customers can order drinks without food.

Toogood said the Pendulum restaurant, located in the lower floor of the UBC Student Union Building (SUB), might adopt this change if UBC decides to approve the new laws.

"But we still don't know yet; we're waiting to see what happens," she said.

The new law also lifts a moratorium on building new cold beer and wine stores. Corner-store owners in BC have already launched a campaign for the right to sell cold beer and wine. Small stores in the Alberta, Quebec and the US are currently allowed to sell liquor.

But Toogood said UBC currently has no plans to open a cold beer and wine store. "For that you'd have to go to the Village across the street from UBC," she said. "There's a liquor store being built there."

Responses to the new laws have been negative at BC's two other large universities.

UVic SUB Business Manager Jim Gibson said his student society has no plans to adopt the new law because Vertigo, UVic's nightclub, has permanently closed. He also doesn't see any reason to keep the campus pub open past 2am.

"In my experience, if we run the pub well until 1am, that's the healthiest time for business," Gibson said. "After that, the sales really start to drop off so there's not much reason to stay open later."

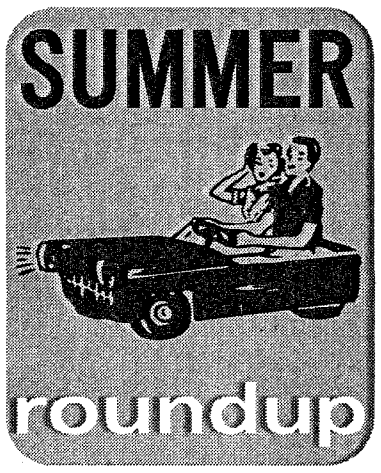
SFU SUB Business Manager Peter Grant said his student society is unlikely to institute longer bar hours for security reasons.

"The student society obviously doesn't want to be promoting people getting drunk later and knocking over trash cans after Pub Night," Grant said.

In a statement, Coleman said he felt the longer bar hours would allow police and liquor inspectors to focus on public safety issues like underage drinking and intoxication. ❖

Summer highlights

Things you missed while you were away



If you weren't caught up this summer in the insular community that is UBC, you may have missed some of the things that happened here. To help bring you back up to speed in time for the new academic year, *the Ubyssey* sums up the summer's goings-on.

For full stories, see past issues of *the Ubyssey* online at www.ubyssey.bc.ca.

Angus crank bomber caught and punished

A person who phoned in one of UBC's many bomb threats last year was caught and suspended from the university for two years.

After an anonymous call to 911 on September 24, 2001, UBC's Henry Angus Building was evacuated and classes were cancelled for three and a half hours while the building was searched for explosives by Campus Security and the RCMP. No bomb was found.

Police narrowed down the hoax suspects to a class with a midterm the day of the bomb threat. Officers played the students a recording of the 911 call, and the crank caller was identified by classmates who recognised his voice.

Making bomb threats is a criminal offence, and a perpetrator can be sent to jail for the crime. Charges were not pressed in this case.

G8 Summit free of violence

CALGARY—On June 26 and 27, leaders of eight of the world's most industrialised countries gathered for the Group of Eight (G8) Summit in Kananaskis Village, deep in Alberta's Rocky Mountains.

The G8 meets annually to discuss economic issues affecting its member states. This year's summit focused on global economic growth, partnerships with Africa, and the war on terrorism.

Snake marches and a major counter-conference in nearby Calgary drew large crowds of people opposed to the G8's global economic policies, while the protests themselves remained peaceful.

Security for the event cost the federal government approximately $300 million, and included a 150km no-fly zone around Kananaskis and on-site military guards as well as extra police in Calgary.

Attempted assault at Totem Park

A visiting Japanese student was attacked in the early hours of Saturday, July 27. The attacker gained access to the victim's room in Totem Park Residence when she responded to his knock on her door. He attempted to sexually assault her, but fled the building after she fought back.

The victim was unharmed during the attack, and was able to provide the RCMP with enough information to generate a composite drawing. No arrests have been made yet.

Totem Park operates as a hotel during the summer and has year-round security. According to Paul Wong, personal security coordinator for UBC, residence staff carry out frequent security checks and Campus Security visits residences during patrols.

Sexual assault centre open on campus

A Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW) satellite office is now open on UBC campus, providing support and information to victims of sexual assault.

Opened last month, the office is staffed 15 hours per week by coordinator and UBC student Lisa Lafreniere. It is located next to the Wellness Centre in the basement of UBC's Student Union Building, with a private door linking the two offices.

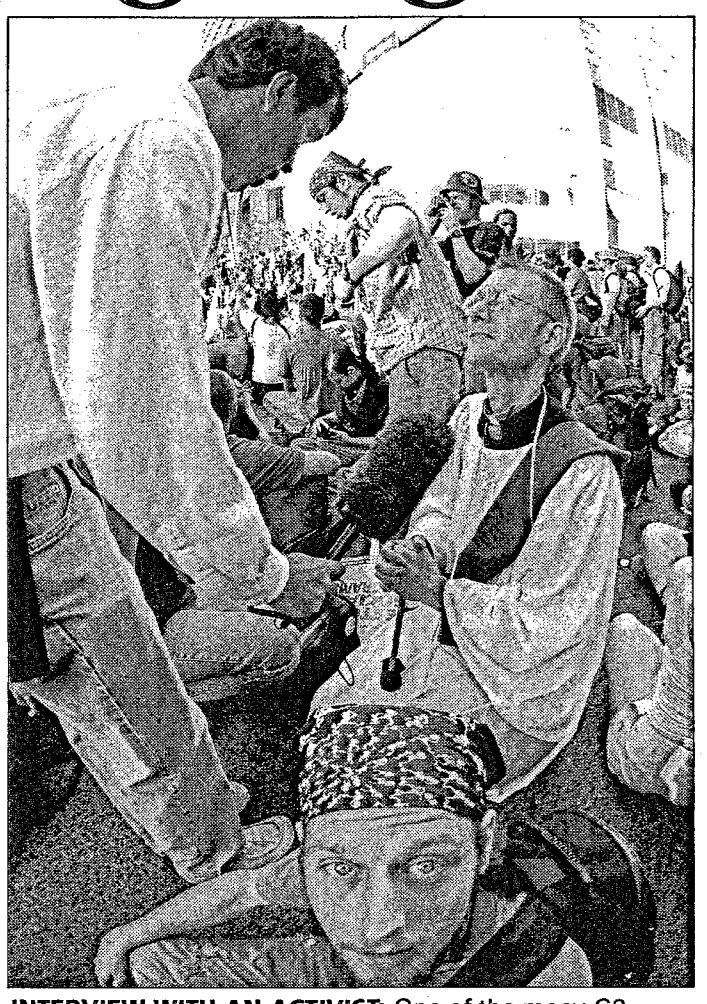
Funding for the Alma Mater Society pilot project comes from money raised for WAVAW at last year's Arts Country Fair, as well as from provincial government grants and a $4500 grant from UBC's Innovative Projects Fund.

Scads of ads coming to the SUB

UBC's Alma Mater Society (AMS) has ratified an agreement with Zoom Media, a company that sells advertising space. The deal will bring about 90 new ad frames to the Student Union Building.

In exchange for signing the five-year deal, the AMS will receive approximately $100,000 in the first year of the advertising agreement, and $85,000 in each subsequent year. $34,000 of the money will be received directly, with the rest coming as scholarships, and advertising credit for the AMS with the Montréal-based advertising company.

Installation of the frames to hold the ads began late August.



INTERVIEW WITH AN ACTIVIST: One of the many G8 protests in Calgary. NIC FENSOM/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO

Mapping the pleasure trail

UBC graduate student Shonna Penhale is studying the nerves that carry messages of sexual arousal through a woman's body.

Penhale has spent the last two years staining slides of different levels of female genitalia and examining them to locate erectile tissue. With the help of a computer graphic artist, she has built a model tracing the path of nerves.

This research has never been done before, and is a first step towards finding treatment for female sexual dysfunction, a disorder that has been researched relatively little in comparison to the equivalent problem in males.

This research will also help surgeons performing hysterectomies and other surgery to avoid cutting or removing the pleasure nerves, preserving a woman's ability to be aroused.

Fraternity Village on the horizon

Seven of UBC's eight on-campus fraternities will be moving next summer to a new Fraternity Village, to be located on Wesbrook Mall near Osbourne Gym and the campus RCMP station.

The seven fraternities are currently leasing land from UBC. Although none of the leases are set to expire until two years from now at the earliest, the university and the fraternities are already negotiating a new agreement that would give the student groups 99-year leases on the new properties.

The fraternities are all expected to move by the beginning of the 2003-2004 school year. Housing for university faculty and staff will replace the current fraternity houses.

Beta Theta Pi, the one fraternity on campus that owns the land where its building stands, was given a chance to join the Fraternity Village but turned the offer down.

Former UBC student runs for NDP leadership

Bev Meslo, a former Arts representative on the Alma Mater Society Council, has announced her candidacy for leadership of the federal NDP. She will run with the NDP Socialist Caucus, and has said she believes the NDP must take more of an anti-war/anti-racism/anti-corporate-globalisation stance.

Sustainabilty pledge for students

This fall, UBC student Rebecca Best is spearheading a project that encourages UBC students to make a personal commitment to sustainabilty.

The UBC Sustainability Pledge Program is a pilot program where students sign a pledge saying they will consider and be accountable for the social and ecological consequences of their decisions.

Students who sign the pledge will also be added to a mailing list that provides resources and information on making sustainable decisions at UBC.

The Campus Sustainability Office and Student Development are also collaborating on the project. ❖

The AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan

You're covered

As a student at UBC and a member of the Alma Mater Society (AMS), you're covered by the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan.

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Health benefits
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Vision benefits
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For a complete list of benefits, visit **www.studentcare.net**. More information will be available in the Reference Guide - available online and mailed to you in September.

The Plan is a valuable service provided by your student society and is designed to fill the gaps left by provincial medicare and a parent or spouse's plan.

Coordinating benefits
If you're covered by another plan (i.e. a parent or spouse's employee benefit plan), you can combine this plan with the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan to maximize your overall coverage and eliminate out of pocket costs.

Family enrolment
You can enrol your family (spouse and/or dependants) by completing an Enrolment Form and paying an additional fee, over and above your fee as a member of the AMS/GSS. Common law and same sex couples are eligible. Forms are available at **www.studentcare.net**.

Change of coverage
Additional enrolments and opt outs **must** be completed between Sept. 3 - 24, 2002.

Fee
The cost of the Plan is included in your student fees. It covers you for the whole school year, from September 1, 2002 to August 31, 2003 or from January 1 - August 31, 2003 for new Term 2 students.

Note: There are changes to the AMS/GSS Health Plan benefits, effective Sept. 1, 2002. Visit **www.studentcare.net** for details.

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Kitchen training program leaves campus

by Chris Shepherd
NEWS EDITOR

The Musqueam Food Services Training Program (MFSTP), a program to train First Nations students in kitchen skills, is leaving the Graduate Students Society (GSS) building.

The move comes after prolonged discussion between the GSS and Local 116 of Canadian Union for Public Employees (CUPE).

In September 2000, the GSS was approached by the MFSTP, who asked to use the second-floor kitchen in the Thea Koerner House as a training centre for cooks. The kitchen, originally run by CUPE 116, closed more than five years ago because it was losing money.

But since plans for the First Nations training program included selling lunches five times a week, CUPE 116 intervened in the deal between the GSS and MFSTP, claiming that food services on campus fall under its jurisdiction.

After much discussion, the MFSTP and CUPE came to an agreement that allowed the program to run a catering service from the kitchen, but only if the food was served off campus.

After seven months of catering, the MFSTP has decided to move to a new location where it can operate as a restuarant.

"Not being able to serve lunch or to cater on campus completely impedes the program," said Jenny Spencer, operations manager at MFSTP.

The MFSTP will be moving to the Fraser Arms Hotel where it will run the dining room. Doing so will allow the program to prepare its students in a more realistic job environment.

GSS President Brian de Alwis is not happy with the program's departure.

"The whole goal of this from our perspective, was to provide cheap, affordable and nutritious meals for graduate students," he said.

"We tried our damndest to accommodate [CUPE's] requests and each they time threw up further roadblocks," de Alwis said.

CUPE 116 could not be reached for comment by press-time. ❖

Tuition increases outpace inflation

Tuition has increased more than six times faster than the rate of inflation in the last ten years, according to a Statistics Canada report released August 21.

The annual report on tuition and living costs revealed that across Canada, average tuition for post-secondary education is $3733, up 4.1 per cent from last year. Because the inflation rate was lower than this, students attending university will likely face even higher debts than before.

"When tuition is rising six times faster than inflation measured by the [Canada Price Index], you recognise governments aren't investing in our future," stated Canadian Alliance of Student Associations representative Liam Arbuckle in a press release.

British Columbia, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick had the highest tuition increases in the country last year.

AMS calls on UBC to maintain digital archive of calendar

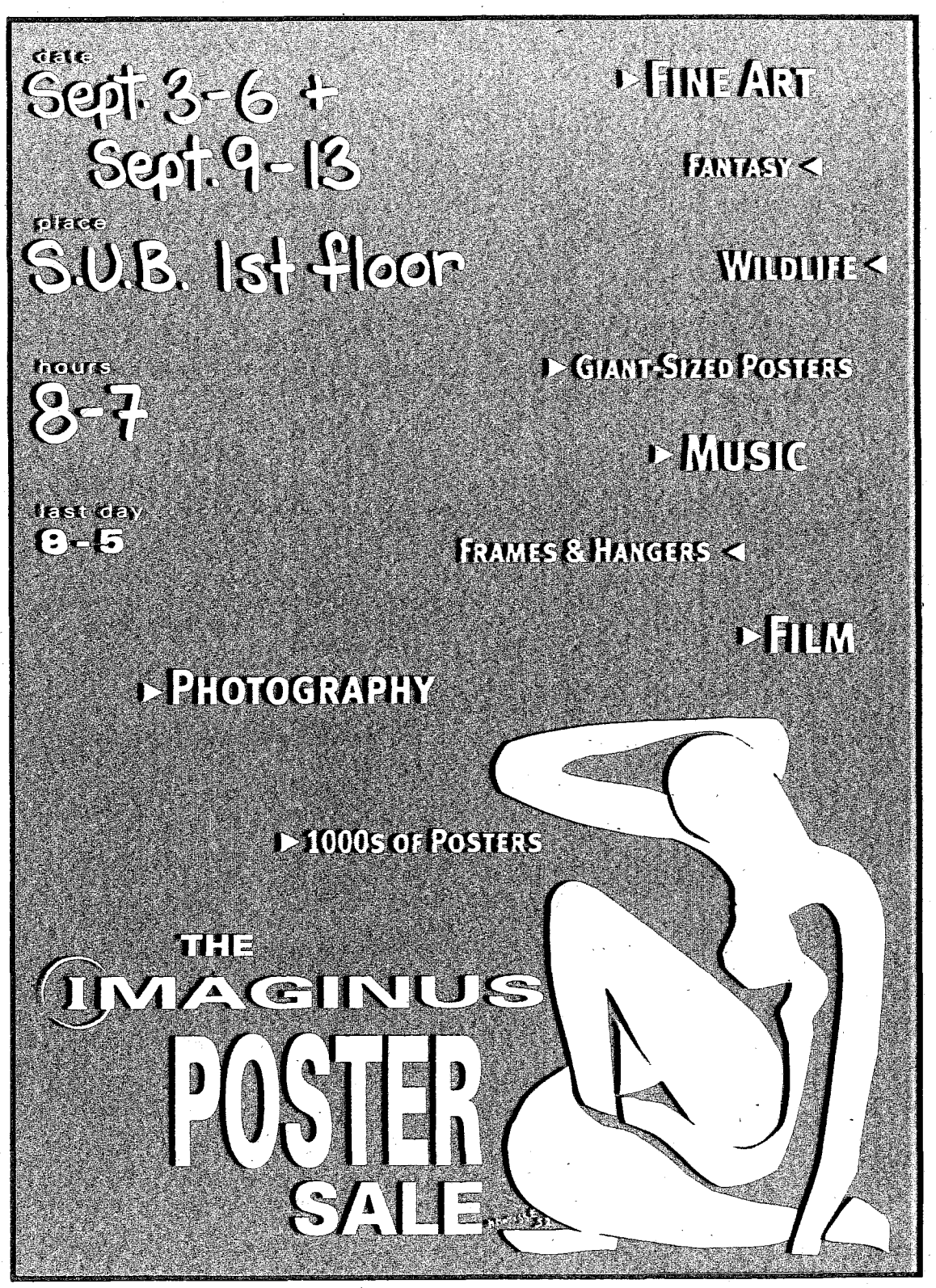
The Alma Mater Society (AMS) Council passed a resolution at its August 28 meeting, calling on the univeristy to maintain each on-line version of its course calender for a minimum of five years.

The official UBC calendar is kept on-line and is updated four times a year.

Academic regulations allow students to graduate by meeting either the requirements that were in effect when they first enrolled, or the revised requirements approved by the university Senate during their degree. This is on the condition that a student does not take an "extraordinary number of years to complete their studies."

The archive would give students access to the official degree requirements that were in place when they began their degrees.

The AMS expects to begin lobbying the university this month. ❖



Staff Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, September 4, 2002 12:00pm

1. intros
2. volunteers
3. news and culture meetings
4. brochures and styleguide
5. elections
6. caucuses
7. social
8. PWRCUP

THE UBYSSEY
MEETING AND GREETING SINCE 1918

NIC FENSOM/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO

UBC football team is much improved

But still drops season opener against Regina

by Daryl Wener
SPORTS WRITER

REGINA—The UBC football team came into its 2002 season opener with a new coach, a brand new attitude and a squad that the Thunderbirds predict will produce far more victories than the two-win team of 2001. But while the team did look much better in its season opener in Regina on Saturday, it was not good enough.

gamescore
UBC 10 — REGINA 15

It was truly a case of two UBC football teams at Taylor Field. The defence and special teams unit repeatedly gave the offence excellent chances to score points, but except for a last-ditch effort in the final minutes, neither the rushing or passing attack was able to produce for the T-Birds. UBC's offence gained just 118 yards in the game, while the Rams made 423 and went on to win the game 15-10.

UBC Thunderbird starting quarterback Zack Silverman feels there are several reasons the offence had so much trouble.

"You can't just put your finger on one thing," he said. "It's early in the season and that's always tough. When it's the first game, you're not positive what they're going to do, and what they ended up doing was kind of the opposite of what we thought they were going to do. And we just didn't execute when we had the chance."

There were many defensive stand-outs for the Thunderbirds, who were repeatedly threatened by Regina but never gave up the big score. The most notable of these was fourth-year safety Sandy Beveridge, who produced UBC's only touchdown of the game with a 43-yard interception return to tie the game 10-10 late in the first half.

"We were blitzing on the play," said Beveridge, "so I came up on the man coverage. He ran a quick little out on me, and I just stood in front of him and there was just green grass the rest of the way."

The defence looked much improved over that of last year's squad, and this was evident in the play of the rushing defence—UBC's weakness the last two seasons. While Saturday's Birds still gave up 190 yards, they were against the Rams' excellent running back Neil Hughes (26 carries, 185 yards). And each time the UBC defence absolutely had to stop the Rams, the Birds stepped up big.

"The key to the game was...mainly we bent, but we didn't break," said Beveridge. "Once they got down to that red zone we stepped it up and tried to limit them to only field goals, which we did."

Other standouts for the Birds on defence were defensive lineman Jason Taylor and linebacker Michael Hitchborn.

UBC opened the scoring just 3:42 into the first quarter on a 30-yard Leon Denenfeld field goal, set up by Dan Lazzari on an excellent 45-yard punt return. Regina came back early in the second quarter to tie the score with a 34-yard field goal. The big play for the Rams came midway through the second quarter as Mike Kissinger intercepted Silverman near midfield and ran the ball all 59 yards into the end zone, giving the Rams a 10-3 lead. The Beveridge interception tied the game just before halftime.

Midway through the third quarter, the Rams added a 19-yard field goal. A safety by Regina's Jeff Zimmer, who sacked UBC back-up quarterback Troy Therrien with just over a minute left in the fourth quarter, was all the Rams needed to claim a five-point victory.

"We have to run the football a lot better, but there were some really good signs as well," said new Thunderbirds head coach Lou DesLauriers the next day. "I think we did a real good job on special teams, and on defence we didn't give up a touchdown, so those are some things we can build on."

It's still unclear who will fill the UBC quarterback position this season since Silverman, a first-year Law student, was relieved late in the third quarter on Saturday by SFU transfer Troy Therrien, only to return for UBC late in the fourth. Coach DesLauriers is not sure whom he will choose for UBC's next game, in Manitoba on September 14, when there may be three quarterbacks available if third-year Rob Kenney is healthy. "We will have to watch the tape, and see where some of the breakdowns were," he said. "There is no way all of those mistakes are the quarterback's." ❖

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We have an opening for one of the following positions:
Coordinating Editor Copy Editor
Job descriptions can be found at *the Ubyssey* office (SUB room 24). Position papers are due by September 11 and you must be a UBC student to run.
Decisions are made by election and you must be a staff member to be able to vote. Become a staff member by contributing to the paper three times and attending three out of five staff meetings. Questions can be directed to the interim coordinating editor at **coordinating@ubyssey.bc.ca**.
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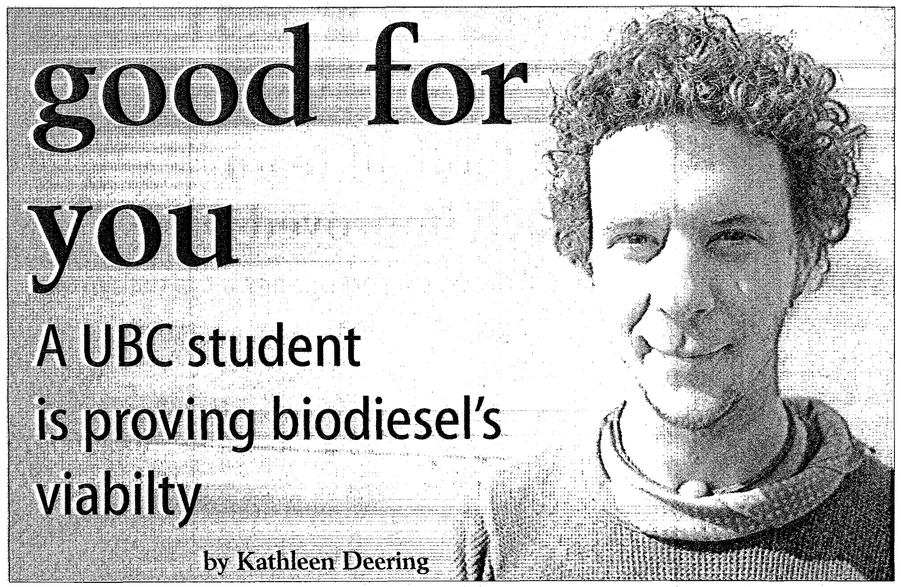
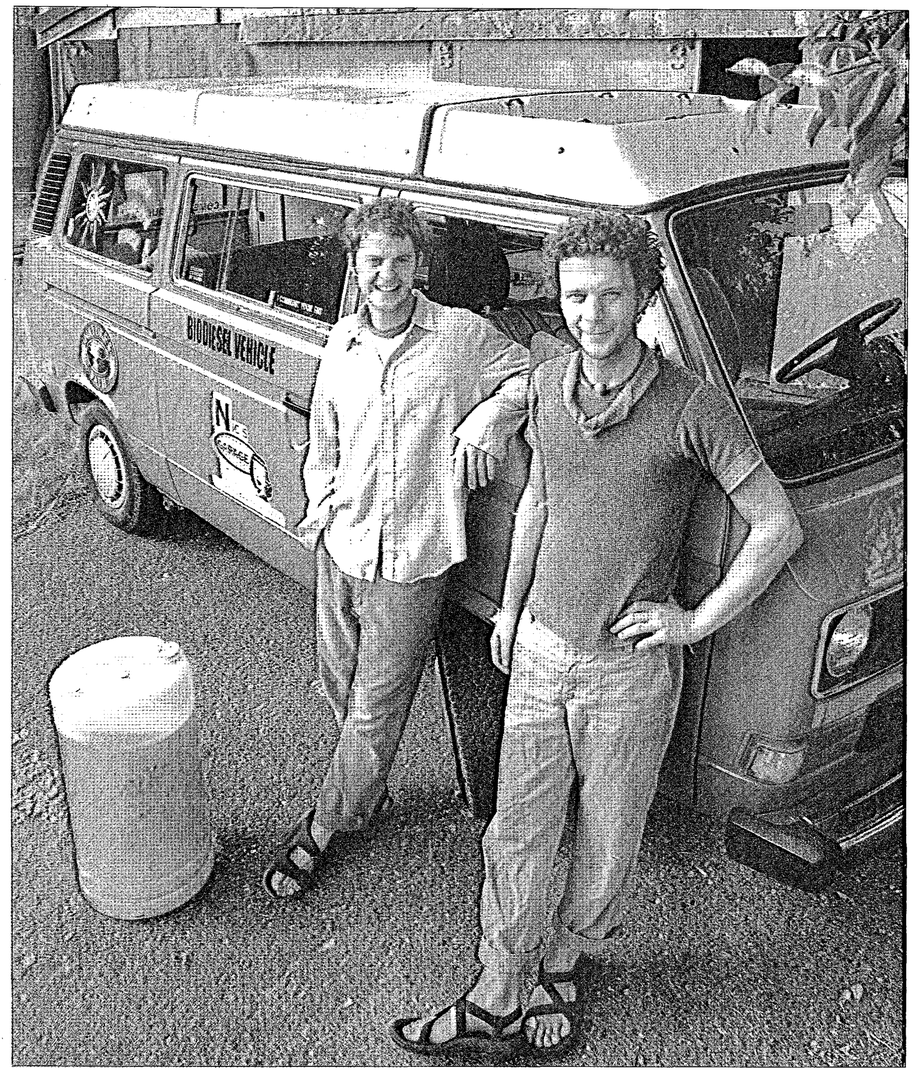
Grease that's good for you

A UBC student is proving biodiesel's viabilty

by Kathleen Deering





GREASE MONKEYS: Geoff Hill (above left) and Peter Doig (bottom left) are the brains behind the Biodiesel Van, a vehicle that runs on reused vegetable oil. NIC FENSOM PHOTOS

Geoff Hill stands proudly by his "Biodiesel Van," a hulking orange VW Westfalia beauty, which doubles as both his home and the only existing vehicle at UBC running solely on 100 per cent biodiesel, a fuel made from recycled vegetable oil.

I admire the new decal pressed to the back window of the van: "We combust your fat."

When *the Ubyssey* wrote a story about Geoff Hill's unique project in February, Hill had made only one litre of biodiesel. It was made in a blender in the UBC Bike Kitchen, and Hill's VW Jetta served as a test car. He admits he probably could have poured the same amount of peanut butter as he did biodiesel into the tank and his car would still have run.

Skip forward six months and we find a much different biodiesel-making operation existing at UBC. Thanks to the generous support of the UBC Farm, Hill's fledgling idea is taking on enormous proportions in the back room of a cavernous building near the Animal Science building on Wesbrook. The building is a former pig barn, but once he leads me past the vacant stalls, we come to a spacious room with wide doors to the outside—essential for Hill to bring in the grease he collects from around campus with bike carts.

Every drop of used grease on campus is converted into the biodiesel that runs his van. Each week, he and his two staff—paid by the Environmental Youth Alliance (EYA)—pump out about 200 litres of fuel. Hill follows a recipe for making biodiesel used by someone in the US—he says improvisations are necessary because the instructions are based on using clean vegetable oil.

"I'm really keen on using the recycled vegetable oil, and especially oil from UBC," says Hill. "We just did a trip a week ago on a bike cart and filled up about 130 litres of vegetable oil from all the various restaurants and cafés around UBC. Totem, Place Vanier, taking it from the Pit Pub...the Sage Bistro..."

The beauty of the project lies in its simple transfer of energy.

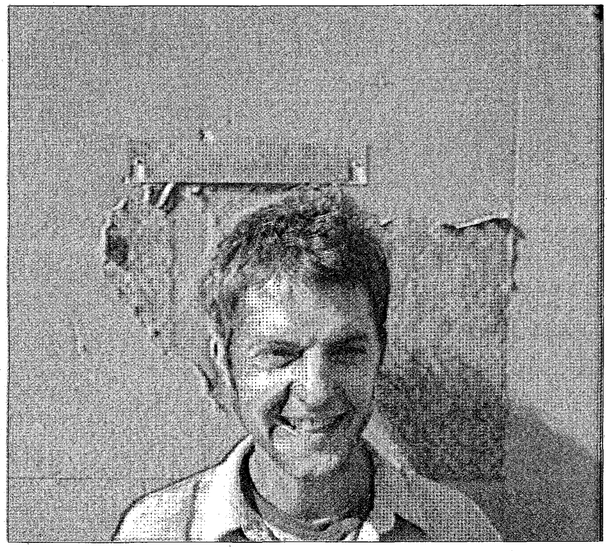
Using human energy (the bike carts) he takes used vegetable oil and recycles it into something that can power vehicle. The by-product, glycerin, is also useful. Use of biodiesel helps reduce harmful toxins in the environment like carbon monoxide, hazardous diesel particulate and acid rain-causing sulphur dioxide.

Why use biodiesel? Pure biodiesel is good for the environment as a renewable resource and reportedly produces an aroma similar to that of french fries when combusted—much more pleasant than the smell of regular diesel and gas. It is biodegradable, nontoxic and essentially free of sulphur and aromatics. For any vehicle, biodiesel provides horsepower, torque and miles per gallon similar to diesel.

I request a ride in the Biodiesel Van, which is outfitted with all the essentials-fridge, stove, and sleeping area. It roars to life and sputters noisily, but Hill assures me this has nothing to do with the biodiesel, the van just needs some work. I sit in the back seat and listen to Hill talk about his passion. He started in the Bike Kitchen in the SUB basement mixing the fuel in a blender and then moved to his bathroom with a large coffee urn. "Everyone started slipping when they went into the bathroom because there was grease all over the place," he says.

It was clear he had to expand. Joined by graduate student Peter Doig, the biodiesel project moved to a tiny bio-resource engineering lab about the size of the current Biodiesel Van. The two found it difficult to make large enough quantities of fuel for the project to be viable—the 200 litre reaction vessel took up a lot of space, and Hill had higher aspirations. "Now with the farm space," he says enthusiastically, "we're going to be able to scale it up to make 1000 litre or 5000 litre batches, really big drums."

Hill wants to power UBC with the large quantities of fuel he will be able to make-selling it commercially is his next goal. He already has contracts with UBC Plant Ops, and biodiesel is expected to power emergency generators around campus. He takes us past some campus lawn mowers he expects to be powered by biodiesel next year. Currently the biodiesel is being tested for quality, and must be approved before this next step goes ahead.



There are other alternative fuels that are also good for the environment, but Hill feels that biodiesel has a better chance than most at becoming popular. "Oil products have just been way too easy," he says, suggesting that solar and wind as fossil fuel alternatives haven't been picked up because too many changes need to be made to a vehicle to make use of them.

Literally no changes need to be made to a regular diesel-chugging car in order for it to use a partial mix of biodiesel. Some small differences exist; biodiesel has a higher heat capacity than regular diesel—it burns at a higher temperature—so it needs to warm up longer before use than regular diesel does. This high flash point actually makes it safer than any other alternative fuel to use.

To run on 100 per cent biodiesel, as Hill's vehicle does, the only change needed was switching the rubber tubes that run from the fuel tank to the engine to plastic ones.

Many people use a mix of regular diesel and biodiesel in their vehicles because of its natural lubricative properties. "A lot of people use it just as a mix: [for example] B2-biodiesel two per cent," Hill says.

"When it's used in such small concentrations, it's mainly as a lubricant, because it lubricates the engine much better than regular diesel does. And as people are decreasing the sulphur content of diesel, it's becoming a lot more abrasive, so the B2 is really good for the engine."

Despite the many, many hours Hill has spent during the last eight months getting the operation running smoothly, he can't even leave biodiesel at home when he goes on vacation this September-although the metaphorical wrench has been thrown into his plans. Originally he was going to drive to Yosemite, California in the Biodiesel Van to help create awareness about sustainable fuels, and complete the entire trip combusting nothing but 100 per cent biodiesel.

Unfortunately, a safety inspection last week grounded those plans—the VW Biodiesel Van is staying in Vancouver to be fixed up. But, Hill stresses, none of the problems hindering the van have anything to do with biodiesel. In fact, he says, the engine was just about the only thing working properly with the vehicle.

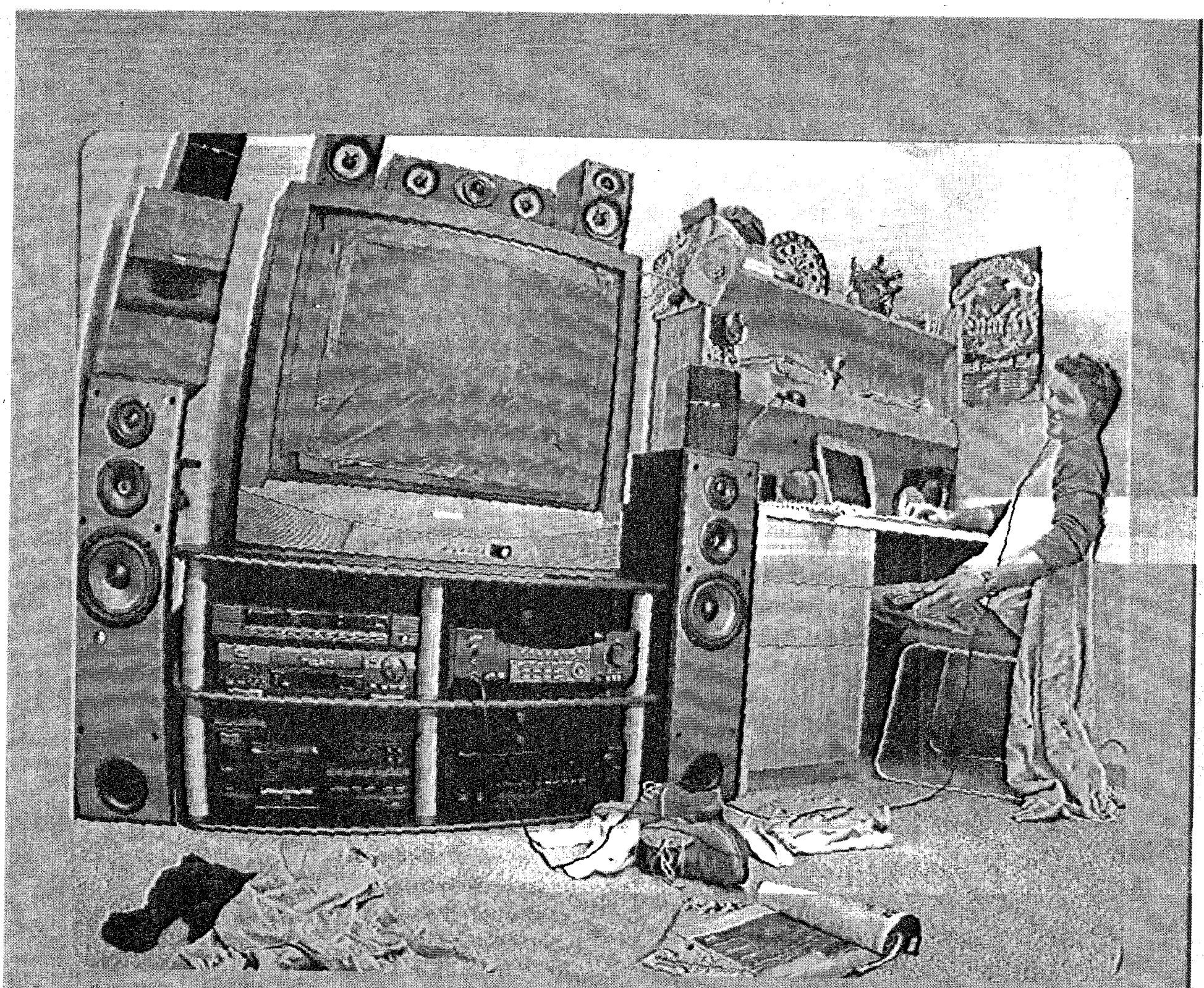
Nic's Garage, a car maintenance shop in Vancouver's Mt. Pleasant neighbourhood, has donated time and parts to the project and, according to Hill, has been extremely supportive of the project. They even changed the fuel lines running from the fuel tank to the engine for free.

When I called Nic's Garage to ask about Hill, the van happened to be in the shop for its safety inspection. "I think it's great," said Sandy Spicer, a Nic's employee, "because it's an alternative fuel and it helps the environment to help reduce emissions. Just because you have a garage doesn't mean you can't help the environment."

The Biodiesel Project has come far in a short period of time. Hill is determined to make it go even further, and has his eyes focused on the used grease created by your favorite restaurants in Point Grey and Kitsilano. Although he likes the idea of using only bike carts to transport the grease, he says they wouldn't be the best option for grease transportation up some of the steep hills leading to UBC.

To expand his project, he'll need money. Although everyone he talks to about the project is incredibly enthusiastic, he says funding has been difficult to come by. He does get paid for part-time work by EYA and he has applied for the VanCity EnviroFund grant, worth $25,000.

Still, with funding or without, it is the connection to the environment that appeals to Hill, and keeps him dedicated to his project. "There needs to be a shift of paradigms of values to sort of reusing and recycling," he says, "and just connecting and a lot more with what's available." ❖



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The Fluffer
now playing

I guess this is better than that live floppy phallus show, *Making Porn*, they sent me to last year that tried to be a satire of the gay porn industry. The story centres around Sean McGinnis, played by Michael Cunio, who gets involved in the Men of Janus porn company after he accidentally rents a gay porno—he rents *Citizen Kane* and gets "Citizen Cum" instead. Real clever, I know.

Aside from camera work, Sean also fluffs (keeps the porn stars aroused between takes) and falls in love with porn star Johnny Rebel (played by Scott Gurney) while on his knees. The movie is filled with many hopeless relationships, including the straight home life of Johnny Rebel and his stripper girlfriend Julie, played by Roxanne Day.

The best comments are usually from the mouth of Silver, played by Adina Porter, a cynical, black lesbian working at the company. "People get messed up working at K-Mart and in Hollywood. This is an adult industry and you have to be an adult to work in it."

For a movie that targets gay audiences—it originally screened as part of the Queer Film Festival—it is strange that none of the main characters really admit to being gay. The queer focus is instead put on internalised homophobia in Sean, who had negative gay sexual experiences early on, and Johnny, who is scarred by the porn industry.

While *The Fluffer* does not always leave the bad porno dialogue within the bad porno scenes, it sometimes redeems itself with some witty dialogue and well done beginning and end sequences. It's a mediocre movie not entirely perverted and not entirely serious, satisfying the same craving one would have for *Boogie Nights*. ❖

When it's raining and it's September

p:ano
When It's Dark and It's Summer
[Hive-Fi Recordings]

The brainchild of founding members Nick Krgovich and Larissa Lovya, p:ano has been calling Vancouver's attention to their delicate music for around three years. The band has gradually added instrument after instrument, layer after layer to its sound, a progression that has recently seen the release of p:ano's debut full-length album, *When It's Dark and It's Summer*.

Although Krgovich is the group's principal songwriter, many Vancouver musicians have lent their talents to the album. Collaborating players on *When It's Dark and It's Summer* include a long list of celebrated Vancouver innovators, notably Veda Hille, as well as Ida Nilson and Stefan Udell of Beans.

The songs are mostly piano-based, slow and quiet, with intriguing titles like "C'est Hi" and "Billions and Billions." (Is Krgovich a Carl Sagan fan?) The keen arrangements (which include instruments from guitar and accordion, to organ and pop rocks) put p:ano in a class of its own, albeit in the same frame of reference as lullaby pop touchstones such as Low or Belle and Sebastian.

In the opening track—"All of November, Most of October"—Krgovich's lilting acoustic guitar sets the stage, as he barely raises his voice over a hum to exhale his nostalgic lyrics. By the time shadowy horns and strings build into the mix, the sound couldn't be better for an autumn stroll.

"Be Flat," one of the best of the album's nine songs, toggles between time signatures, seamlessly shifting from a slow lament into a buoyant waltz and back. This track shows off some of the musical agility found on the album, and finds Lovya contributing vocals to the chorus. The effect of this male-female vocal section is greater than the sum of its parts; the combination of the two is movingly fragile. Such vulnerability, often seeming to belie Krgovich's formidable songwriting, is a hallmark of this album.

—Michael Schwandt

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AMS Firstweek Sept 2nd - 6th

Get ready to kick-off an awesome year at AMS Firstweek. This year's round-up of free events include: BBQ's, Pit Night, Karaoke, Beachfest, live bands, and performances by Default & Baby Blue Sound Crew.

Tuition deferral

Students who are waiting for student loan funds, or those who are in need of this service, may request a one month deferral of tuition at the beginning of every term (September, January and May). Requests may be directed to the Information Centre, the Records and Registration counter, or the Student Financial Aid counter. In September, this service will also be available at the Robson Square Registration and Information counter. Students who need a longer deferral are encouraged to contact a Financial Aid Advisor (who may be aware of other available funding sources or options).

Opt out deadline for AMS fees

The deadline for opt-out is on September 17, 2002. Please apply in person at the AMS Administration Office, Room 266 in the SUB. Office hours are 11 am to 2 pm.

You may opt out of the following fees:
- Student Aid Bursary Fund $12.00
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* Provided you have equivalent coverage

Shinerama
UBC's Day to Shine

UBC is participating in Shinerama - a national student-run fundraiser for the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Some fundraising events to watch for during the week of September 2nd to 6th are: Shinerama Bookstore Round-up (round up your purchase to the nearest dollar), Shinerama Lollipop Sales, and a "Stop the Pop" booth outside the SUB.

On September 5th, come out to "UBC's Day to Shine" and take part in the AMS car wash at the War Memorial Gym, a Spam-eating contest, dance demonstrations by the UBC Dance Club, hair braiding by the Caribbean African Club, a dunk tank and Z95.3 on location outside the SUB. All monies raised will go to Shinerama.

If you would like to become involved, please contact Eran Norton at: shinerama@ams.ubc.ca or at 604-822-6273

ROUND UP
September 3rd to 14th
Give change to make change

Round Up is your opportunity to make a difference at UBC! When you make a purchase at the UBC Bookstore or the AMS Outpost, you will be asked if you want to "round up" your purchase to the nearest dollar. Remember, every penny counts. We are aiming to raise $20,000 for various campaigns, including the Shinerama 2002 campaign (raises money for Cystic Fibrosis research), as well as student bursaries through the AMS Special Bursary Fund.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2002
VOLUME 84 ISSUE 1

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Laura Blue, billowing with ennui, decided to commission the first Kumite Royale, pitting one crazed associate against another. It began quite by accident when Hywel Toscano paid Nic Fensom a fair sum to pour Kosher salt into Chris Shepherd's eyes. As the latter was writhing in pain, Duncan McHugh threw a hardened brick of Fraser Valley butter straight into the gullet of one Kevin Groves. Vampyra Draculea took advantage of the volatile situation by taking bets from Michael Schwandt and Jeff MacKenzie on the highly anticipated towel-whipping confrontation between Kathleen Deering and Elietha Bocskei. Daryl Wener was noted for his cheap shots on Jesse Marchand and Shawn Seiler, attacking from behind and diligently tearing out hair, one follicle at a time. Iva Cheung, attempting to escape the madness with her life, ended it as she slipped on a pool of whipping cream and cracked four vertebrae in the fall. No other hazelnut torte would see so much blood.

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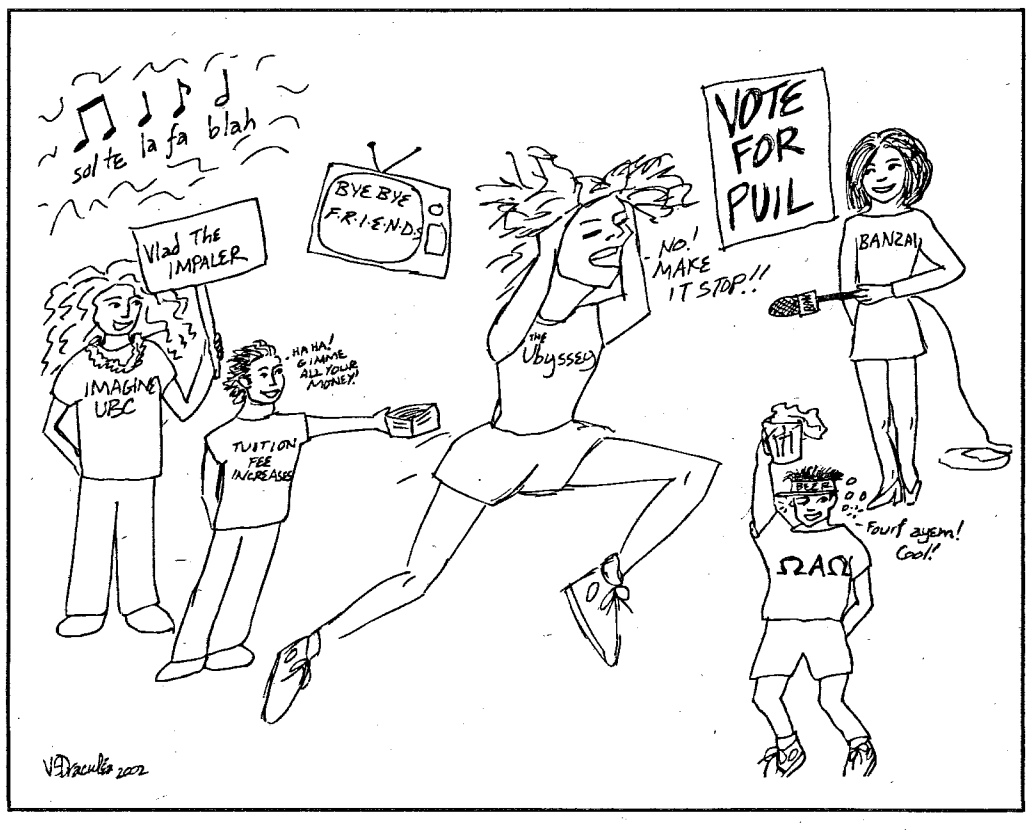
What has us *really* scared



The Ubyssey is brave, yes, but only a fool has no fears. There are loads of things that can make you nervous this time of year, especially if, like many, you're starting a new set of courses or are new to the city. But don't worry too much about finding your classes and getting your textbooks. You'll figure it out. Chin up, now. Here's the stuff that you really should be worried about.

Tuition Hikes: Terrifying

Obviously. Most UBC students are preparing to pay almost 20 per cent more for a full courseload than they did last year. Those in the MBA program are having their tuition fees quadrupled. Yes, quadrupled. With the provincial government threatening to gut programs like work study, an education at UBC is only becoming less accessible. And why stop with this year? We're frightened about not having a tuition freeze at all any more. What will protect us from even more hikes next year? Yikes!

Imagine UBC: Irksome

For some reason, someone somewhere decided that the best way to make newcomers to UBC feel welcome is to pack them into a dark, crowded gymnasium and encourage them to scream at each other while weilding wooden stakes with little signs attached to them. How is this a good idea? As if the leis and mediocre bands weren't frightening enough by themselves.

Extended Bar Hours: Horrifying

Provincial law has changed to allow bars and pubs to extend their serving hours until 4am. Whether or not on-campus establishments will be allowed to stay open this late is up to the university's Board of Governors. Here's hoping the board maintains the current 2am closure. Frankly, the idea of drunken res rats and frat boys stumbling their noisy way home even later is, well, scary. Dorm fire alarms going off at 2:30am every Pit night is bad enough. Fire alarms going off at 4:30am is inhuman.

***BANZAI*: Baffling**

This TV show is a British parody of Japanese game shows, and features some of the most ridiculous, sexist and repulsive competitions imaginable. In a recent episode, a man chugged three pints of gravy in a race against the clock. We keep watching, though, like moths drawn to a flame. Weird? Maybe. Frightening? Definitely.

School of Music Performance Tests: Gut-wrenching

Sure, theoretically being able to sight sing in movable-do solfege syllables might be a useful skill in the real world—in the same way that being able to balance golf balls in a column could be useful. But when even those who do well on these tests are stressed, crying, faint, nauseated and contemplating a career change to selling encyclopedias instead of music, maybe changes are in order. The terror factor far outweighs their mark value.

Councillor George Puil: Petrifying (or is it petrified?)

Last year, George Puil was the chairman of Translink, making him, essentially, the person responsible for the four-month long transit strike that hit the Lower Mainland—and students in particular—very hard. Sure, a strike was likely, but for it to go on for four months reveals Puil's arrogance and his contempt for those who rely on public transportation.

Puil also happens to be a long time Vancouver city councillor, and recently confirmed that he will seek re-election this fall. This cannot happen. Puil must be punished for the pain and suffering he was responsible for last summer. Burial in the political graveyard is the only fate that Puil deserves, besides maybe being forced to take transit himself.

Translink's new website: Puzzling

What's the dilly-yo with the 'link's new site? Trip-planning, my ass; give us back the full schedule

Anti-Gay Marriage Law: Absurd

The federal government moving backwards instead of moving forwards and towards equal human rights is the main concern here. As well, leaving anything to the sole jurisdiction of the church is quite terrifying.

***Friends'* Last Season: SCARY**

We're bothered not by the fact that they are going off the air, but the fact that the sitcom's sextet will now have more time to lend its celebrity to cheesy romantic films. The scariest part? That people actually think the full feature revamps of their TV characters are funny and endearing. Not to mention Jennifer Aniston now has time to procreate with Brad Pitt. Could Hollywood get any fucking cuter? ❖

Enjoy your tobacco-free paper

$20,000 is a lot of money. We could all use $20,000. *The Ubyssey* is no exception. Sure, we get money from ads and from students, but an extra $20,000 would certainly made things a lot cushier for us. Well, it just so happens that *the Ubyssey* was recently offered $20,000 worth of full-colour ads—ads which would allow us to publish bigger issues and in full-colour, full glorious colour.

But as with most large sums of money, this $20,000 came with a catch. The catch was that these ads were from a tobacco company. Granted, the ads weren't advertising cigarettes directly. They were publicising some scholarships the company has for fine arts students. But the reality is, a tobacco company is eager to pony up 20 grand for ads to get more people to smoke. Cigarettes. Cigarettes that are addictive and kill people. The scholarship information will be readily available to the relatively few people on-campus who are eligible to apply; the company is willing to the drop the cash to get their logo in print, not to inform a small group of students.

All of this was a bit of a non-issue because tobacco ads have long been at the top of *the Ubyssey*'s ad boycott list, up there along with ads for fur companies and the armed forces, amongst others. Still, with the amount of money involved, and the freedom that money would have given us, we did some serious thinking.

Some people said we should take the money and run, that our readers were intelligent enough to decide about cigarettes for themselves. While we don't doubt the intelligence of our readership, we also don't doubt people's desire to read a newspaper without having to wade through ads from companies that sell harmful products and have dubious ethical records, and we are loath to support these companies by printing their material. We have high standards for the articles that we publish (despite what you might think). Why would we compromise ourselves by selling ads to companies we are so philosophically opposed to?

The reality is, a tobacco company is eager to pony up 20 grand for ads to get more people to smoke. Cigarettes. Cigarettes that are addictive and kill people.

Others argue that it's hypocritical for us to publish car ads or alcohol-related ads if we're not going to take cigarette ads. When you look at the amount of pollution and death related automobile use, and the pervasiveness of alcohol abuse, this becomes relevant.

Still, cars and beer are not purely bad things, and many people use them responsibly and without dire consequences. Despite making you look cool (right) and giving you a bit of a buzz, cigarettes are totally evil. Cars or alcohol, used with proper caution, need not be harmful; cigarettes, used in moderation, have addicted and killed millions. And cigarette advertising, in particular, is something we don't want to support; cigarette ads make false connections between smoking and active, athletic lifestyles and are usually geared towards young people with their whole smoking lives ahead of them.

So, the next time you look at *the Ubyssey* and bemoan how thin it is, or how it only has one colour (we were lucky today), remember there is one luxury you *will* get; you get to read our paper free from the influence of tobacco ads. Enjoy. ❖

Write us a letter and we may publish it.

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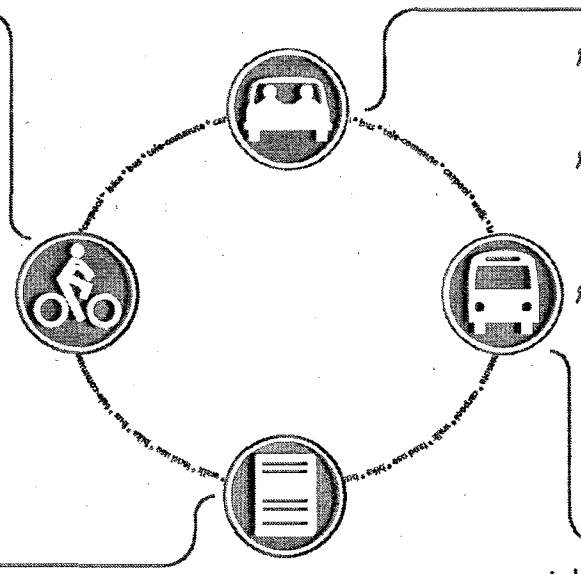
Bikes & Cycling

- Free BikeCart loaners are being distributed on and off campus - great for errands, deliveries and shopping. Visit our website to find the depot nearest you....
- Bike Right! Free 4-hour bike safety course aimed at improving your cycling skills. Contact TREK for workshop details and registration information.
- Join the Bicycle User's Group! Monthly meetings provide ongoing feedback on campus developments from a cycling perspective. Contact TREK for more details....



Carpool Program

- Join TREK's new Carpool Program. Save money while reducing uneccessary stress.
- Earn great rewards! Registered carpool groups have access to preferential parking spaces, an emergency ride home program, and much, much more!
- Need a ride? Looking for someone to share gas expenses? Check out the new and improved AMS/TREK rideboard located in the SUB, directly across from Blue Chip Cookies.

Transit

- UBC students can make a 1-zone fare card ($63) into a 3-zone card (worth $120) with a FastTrax sticker ($2)! Pick yours up from the AMS TicketMaster (in the SUB) today.

Other News

- TREK has two new Natural Gas Vans available for use by UBC departments. If you need a vehicle for UBC field trips, to provide a shuttle service or for other work/school related activities, give us a call...
- TREK and AMS Safewalk are now offering a "Safe Ride Home" Program for all UBC students that live on campus. Contact AMS Safewalk for more details.....
- TREK's new Emergency Ride Home Program removes the "what if's" of commuting. If you regularly vanpool, carpool, bike, walk, or take transit, you now have access to a reliable ride home via a cab when an emergency arises and TREK will reimburse you 90% of the cost.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE LATEST EDITION OF THE UBC TRANSPORTATION GUIDE!! YOUR TICKET TO TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION.....NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE TREK OFFICE OR BROCK HALL STUDENT INFO CENTRE.

For more info and updates, go to our website: www.trek.ubc.ca

or drop by the office at 2210 West Mall, Vancouver. Phn (604) 827-8735, Fax (604) 822-6119, Eml trek@ubc.ca

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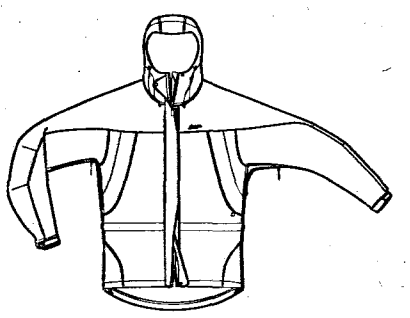

MEC Outerwear

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Fill out this entry, self propel yourself into your local MEC, stuff it in the box and cross your fingers.

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Would you like to receive our monthly email newsletter? [Y] [N]

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UBC01

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LEGAL MUMBO JUMBO: No purchase necessary. Entries must be deposited in one of the entry boxes provided at MEC retail locations. To be eligible, entries must be deposited no later than 5:00 p.m. local time at the MEC retail location at which the entry box is located, on October 6, 2002, the contest closing date. Only one entry per person. The contest is open only to legal residents of Canada, excluding residents of Quebec, of the age of majority in their province/territory of residence at time of entry, except employees of MEC, its affiliates, advertising or promotional agencies and members of their immediate families. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received. One (1) prize will be awarded consisting of products up to a retail value of $1000 selected by the winner from products currently available and in stock at the MEC retail location at which the winner claims the prize. Approximate retail value of the prize is $1000. Prize has no cash value and is not transferable. Products selected are not refundable. To win, the selected entrant must correctly answer a time-limited mathematical skill-testing question. Blah, blah, blah. For full contest rules, visit one of our retail locations, or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Communications Co-ordinator, Mountain Equipment Co-op, 149 West 4th Ave, Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 4A6.

Moby

a whale of a time

MOBY
with Dirty Vegas
at the Plaza of Nations
Aug 17

by Jeff MacKenzie
CULTURE WRITER

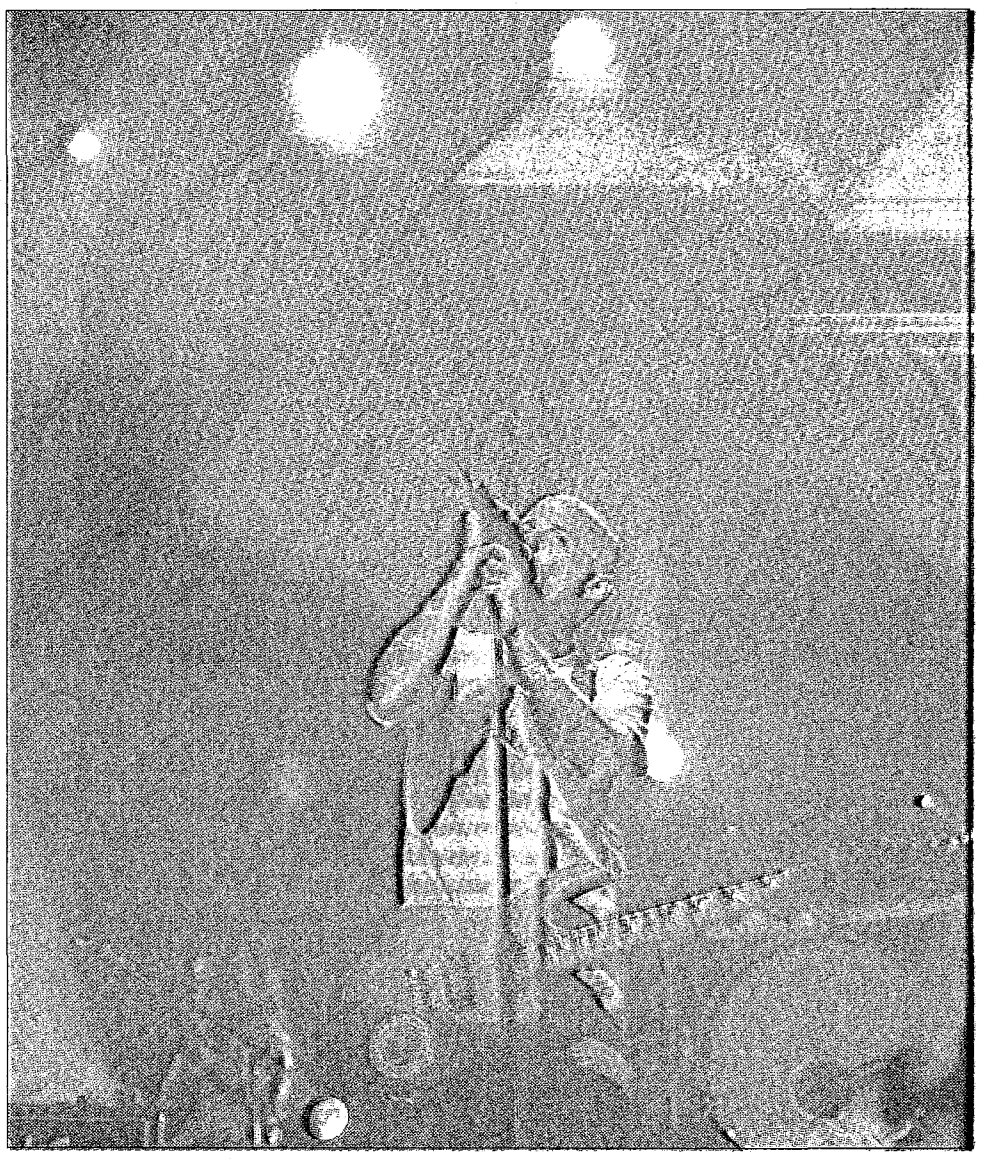
Moby's latest video, for "We Are All Made of Stars," features an oddly eclectic collection of celebrities—including Kato Kaelin, Verne Troyer (a.k.a. Mini-Me), J.C. from *NSYNC, and the ubiquitous Ron Jeremy—robotically singing along. In a fine example of life imitating art, crowd members at Moby's recent concert at the Plaza of Nations also seemed to have no correlating factor, other than their ability to mouth tunes together. While it was odd to see baby boomers and young children shaking arhythmically beside the most fashion-conscious of Vancouver's twenty-something Prada generation, even more startling was that no one appeared even mildly uncomfortable in the odd mix.

The concert-goers seemed tacitly self-conscious, however. The opening act, Dirty Vegas, performed a workmanlike set that sounded almost exactly like the band's previously released material. This was probably aided by the on-stage presence of most of the essential elements of a recording studio. The insecure crowd greeted the set with a mere smattering of applause, showing genuine appreciation only after a reassuringly simplistic Pink Floyd cover.

True response was saved for the appearance of Moby and his more familiar tunes. Moby was well backed by a large stage band that performed mainly live material, unmarred by sequencers. Special attention should be given to the exceptionally talented back-up vocalist Diane Charlemaine, and to the strangely dominant sounds of the three-member string section. In fact, the back-up band's acoustic instruments provided the most memorable part of the entire show: raw live music.

This is not to say that the show was unrecognisably fresh. Many of the numbers performed were nearly indistinguishable from their studio versions. Yet, even to these songs, the live performance still added an urgency and inescapable realness that is often unfortunately lacking in electronic-music performance. As if to complement this, the stage show was refreshingly free of overarching and distracting visual displays and effects. As the night grew reassuringly dark, the crowd became more and more animated, and inhibitions were lost in a raucous, pure pop-music frenzy.

While there were occasional moments of schmaltz—such as the frantic hand grabbing and teenage promises of eternal love during "Why Does My Heart Feel So Bad?"—for Moby fans the show was generally excellent. The well-known and loved melodies flowed, with just enough variation and presence to create a unique batch of memories. One heckler was angered by the lack of new material. However, the general crowd, myself included, showed its contentment with the familiar presentation by booing the malcontent. Moby probably has some new material hanging around that will perhaps make its way onto a future album or tour. But this time, it was nothing but the overplayed old favourites...and that was just fine with me. ❖



MOBY SINGS THE HITS: The guitar is purely decorative. ELIETHA BOCSKEI PHOTO

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