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Students from
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face rising tuition costs

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closed suddenly, leaving
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T-Birds fall all the way.
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VOLUME 79 ISSUE 1

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1997

Coke may have become a crutch for the AMS. Is your student society hooked?

The president of China turns down Uvic's honorary degree.

A brief round up of what happened while you were away this summer.

To some activists, the new Alcan deal looks suspiciously like the old one.

Dinner on a budget? The Varsity Grill offers students an alternative.

At long last the funkiness of Matisse makes its way to Vancouver.

Chris Gatchalian revives the local theatre scene. Next, he takes the Chan centre.

The Fringe festival is about to hit the Drive again this year. Don't touch our moisturiser!

Some students are angry at Uvic's honorary degree pick.



ANDREA BANMANN was one of the lucky ones Saturday in the SUB auditorium—she got a room in residence. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

No rooms to get in

by Ron Nurwisah

Last Saturday at the annual residence roll call, the SUB saw more students than UBC has rooms for.

"Are there any men here with the numbers one through five...? Five through ten...?"

At number ten two guys sauntered onto the stage, looking more relaxed than the other students still waiting to make it off the waiting list and into campus residences.

"Ten through fifteen..."

At every set of numbers, hundreds of expectant students, many with their parents and siblings in tow, looked to the number in their hand; their place on a residence waiting list that was 2400 strong.

Students sat in their seats, 600 of them fidgeting and folding over the corners of housing documents. A few hundred more peered through the doorway, packed into aisles or rested against the walls, chatting aimlessly with one another until Bob Frampton, the assistant director of residence administration, called the next number.

There is a housing shortage at UBC and by Labour Day weekend there were

still hundreds of students searching for a place to live.

Frampton is responsible for placing students. He said after fifteen years, nothing's changed: there are too many students wanting too few places. The 4000 rooms Housing and Conferences manages are simply not enough to meet the demand of students looking to live on campus.

Every year, hundreds of students are turned away and forced to find a place to live off campus. They're foreign exchange students, first year students leaving home, grad students, transfer students from local colleges.

Unlike many urban campuses, the alternatives available to UBC students are some of the most expensive in Canada.

Zoe Stronge, who manages the AMS Rentsline, said off campus housing around UBC is usually expensive. Many of the students in the SUB auditorium on Saturday will join the thousands stuffed into illegal basement suites and Kitsilano fixer-uppers. But it will be hard to find even dismal housing after September 1.

The housing department is trying to do something about it. That department knows it needs housing for 25 per cent of the undergrad student population.

They're hoping to start construction on a new development for third and fourth year students this year. And there are plans to build additional housing around Acadia and Vanier residences.

But that is no comfort to this year's students left out in the cold, many of whom will need temporary shelter while they search for a home.

Kerri Thompson, a front desk clerk at the International Hostel at Jericho Beach, said at this time of the year there are always about 20 UBC students staying there while they look for housing.

"Each bed gets a locker, so we know when they're trying to get into UBC because they have extra baggage that doesn't fit in so then we have to store that for them and yeah, our storage is full right now," she said.

Just 120 of the students who waited in the SUB Saturday left with a housing assignment.

Eleni Rounis was one of the lucky ones. Her mother was in tears when she heard the news—her daughter had a home.

Dorit Jahn wasn't as fortunate. The fourth year Engineering student from Germany didn't get in. She said that she'll try to find a place off campus. "I'm very afraid but I hope I'll be able to find a room." ♦

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Parents face giant debt

by Chris Nuttall-Smith

A high-level recommendation that the federal government start a grant program for students with children is a good first step to reducing student debt levels. That's what student leaders, and students with children are saying about the recommendation, made by the premiers in New Brunswick last month.

The recommendation came after a public campaign to call attention to student debt. On average, Canadian post-secondary students graduating this year owe \$22,000; next year it will be \$25,000. Additionally, almost a quarter of student loan recipients have dependents.

Brad Lavigne, national chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), led the campaign to spin public discourse on student debt repayment into a campaign for debt reduction.

"We seized the premiers' conference opportunity by saying we wanted to build on our campaign to bring in a national system of grants and to have income contingency loans stopped as a policy option," said Lavigne. "Having the premiers make any statement to that end would be a furthering of our cause."

For Lorraine Irlam, a single mother and MA student at UBC, anything to cut her debt would help. It's \$63,000 and growing.

"I don't have a hope in hell of making the payments," Irlam says. "With my seven years of university education I'll have by the time I graduate, I understand that the going rate for jobs if you're lucky enough to get them is \$35,000."

Like many parents on student loans, Irlam has been able to borrow enough for her education, her living costs, and the cost of supporting Christi, who is 14. They live in a housing co-op in False Creek where, for now, the rent is \$150 per month. But since it's a co-op, the rent will climb to \$800 a month once Lorraine graduates. Depending on how much of her debt the BC government will pay through its loan remission program, Lorraine's monthly loan payments could be \$800 a month. That's her best case scenario, she says.

The provincial debt remission programs work well most of the time, according to Maura Parte,

the BC CFS chairperson. In BC, students can get part of their provincial debt forgiven if they meet criteria that show they were working or studying during the summer.

Unfortunately for Irlam, there are also plenty of ways to get disqualified from remission. She was hit by one of them.

In her first year studying psychology at Simon Fraser University, she took only a few courses so she could take care of Christi and work part time.

finish and would still be eligible for remission.

That means if Irlam is eligible, the province will pay all of her undergrad debt under the BC student loan program that's over \$18,500. For her Master's degree, they'll pay the BC portion over \$22,000.

But it's the federal portion that student leaders and the premiers are trying to change. When students get loans, about 60 per cent comes from the provinces, and 40 from the federal government. But when it comes time to pay, 75 per cent of the debt is to Ottawa.

A spokesperson for the federal ministry of Human Resources and Development, which manages the federal portion of student loans, said there was no decision yet whether Ottawa would follow the premiers' recommendation.

Sharon Nelson, an undergrad at UBC, would like to see a federal grant program for students with dependants. Sitting with her five year-old twins Katie and Jenet in the SUB cafeteria, she says it wasn't hard to decide whether to take student loans.

"I hated being poor. I wanted my education, I wanted my kids to get an education when they get older and I was tired of getting jobs that I wasn't earning very much money in. I somehow figured that if I got a degree that I would have more qualifications and I would be able to get a better job," she says.

Nelson wants to finish her BA in Women's Studies and do a Master's, then be a teacher. She's been single since Katie and Jenet were 16 months old; she been taking loans for three years. Without the UBC bursaries and provincial daycare subsidies she gets, she says she'd have a serious debt problem. Including the loan she picked up last week, she owes \$43,000.

"I literally don't think about how much I owe because it would be so depressing that I would not be able to do my school work. So I ignore it," she smiles. "Completely. And I figure I know I want to do this so when I get out I'll deal with that. And until then as long as they keep giving me money it's okay." ♦



FLAT BROKE Sharon Nelson with Katie and Jenet. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

"I had put myself almost through the first year of university going part time and working part time so I managed to avoid borrowing for my first year," she says.

But to qualify for remission you have to finish in five years or less. Irlam's part time studying

"I don't have a hope in hell of making the payments. I understand that the going rate for jobs, if you're lucky enough to get them, is \$35,000."

**—LORRAINE IRLAM
PSYCHOLOGY GRAD STUDENT**

meant she would take another four years to finish her degree, too long to get remission on the loans she started getting in second year.

Changes to the provincial remission guidelines a few weeks ago might re-qualify her. The ministry of Education announced August 7 that some single parents would get up to six years to

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by Chris Nuttall-Smith

Winnie Cheung is electric.

She's warming up a crowd of 200 students on opening day of international orientations at UBC, promising their time here will open doors for the rest of their lives. The International Student Services director is passionate, but dignified, her courage trembling lightly with every testament to education, international friends, and persistence's power to open doors.

"Almost all will open if you push hard enough...And sometimes even a credit card will do," she chuckles.

Ingo Essig, a short-shorn and respected undergrad from Karlsruhe, a govern-

The effort has been worthwhile, he says. Applications from international students to UBC undergrad programs were up five per cent this year, despite the new tuition fees. "All of us on the recruiting team were expecting to hear some comments back about the fee level and the response that we uniformly got...was people wanted to know what the fees were and then they kind of nodded their heads as though 'oh yeah, that's what the standard international rates are.'"

\$13,830 a year is higher than many Canadian schools though. A full course load at McGill costs international undergrads an average of \$8,500. The University of Toronto charges \$8,000. And across town, foreign undergrads pay just \$7,000

as possible," Piper says, deliberately, staccato for emphasis, "because increased knowledge and understanding of another country and society is the most important gift you can bring with you."

But where UBC's love of international students seems clear, its commitment to the poor is questionable.

In 1995 the university passed as policy a commitment to provide ten full scholarships to students from the neediest countries in the world. Another UBC policy says 30 per cent of every tuition increase will go to financial aid. There's also the sentence in Policy 72 (Tuition Fees) that says: "We will continue to honour the existing policy that no student otherwise qualified will be excluded for financial reasons alone."

These commitments, however, haven't materialised.

The ten full scholarships committed in the policy still don't exist two and a half years after it was written. Carol Gibson, UBC's director of Awards and Financial Aid explains they're on the way. "I think that this [the policy] was a statement of intent and it has not been put in place yet. In part I think it's because it has not been fully decided how money coming in from full paying international students will be used yet," she says.

The 30 per cent provision for financial aid didn't survive the tuition increase either. UBC put just 11 per cent of this year's increase—not the 30 per cent required by the university's policy—into financial aid.

Daniel Birch, UBC provost, vice president academic and one of the administrators who supported the undergrad fee increase, admits the 30 per cent requirement lost out to the undergrad tuition increase. "What you could say is that policy 72 was superseded by market-based tuition for international students adopted by the board in January of 1996," Birch says.

He adds the delay in developing the ten scholarships surprises him. "I'm glad you pointed it out and I'm going to raise the question with Maria [Klawe, vice president student and academic services] and Carol [Gibson] myself and see whether anybody requires any encouragement or stimulus or support or whether there's some other action that we need to take to make sure it's implemented."

But Birch, Gibson and McKellin all say they want to help all international undergrads come to UBC. And McKellin warns against assuming that all international students are rich. Many of them come from working families that make sacrifices for their children's education, she says.

They point to the financial aid available to international students. International development agencies sponsor students to study in Canada. The Alma Mater Society funds bursaries for two international refugees, and UBC awards those students \$10,000 each during their four years here. International students are eli-

gible for the university's Outstanding Student Initiative—also worth \$10,000 over four years. They can work on campus for up to twelve hours a week, and can often receive financial assistance from their home countries.

So far, those options haven't put Ingo at ease.

His high-school advisor said he wasn't eligible for scholarships and bursaries, so he didn't apply. And a part-time job isn't going to make up for the \$40,000 to \$50,000 the new fees will cost him in the next four years.

"We have some money, but not that much. And I really don't want to spend that much money for university; I mean, I don't know what's coming after and I really don't want to jeopardise that much," he says.

McKellin says she'll do everything she can to find a solution for Ingo. The registrar at UBC, Richard Spenser, said last week that if UBC erred by not informing Ingo of the new tuition, he'll probably get a break on his tuition.

But in a perfect world, UBC would live up to a key sentence in the policy that guides the university: "We will continue to honour the existing policy that no student otherwise qualified will be excluded for financial reasons alone."

Ingo says he'll hope for the best. Staring at the ground outside International House, he says his first week of university wasn't what he or his parents had hoped for.

"What they told me was I should look around for other universities maybe in Canada; a place here which is cheaper. Which is probably hard because it all starts in September." ♦

Quietly paying their dues

ment town in southwest Germany, is there stening.

A few days later he explains that it might be a short stay in town. Since he got to Vancouver two weeks ago he's discovered that tuition has more than doubled to around \$19,000. With the \$10,000 international students spend each year on living costs and travel home, it will cost him 120,000 for a four year degree at UBC.

Ingo got into UBC in 1996 when full-time tuition for foreign undergraduate students was around \$5,700. He planned on coming last year but was called into a mandatory ten month stint in the German Army. In the meantime UBC raised international undergraduate tuition to \$13,830. With the ten extra credits engineering students take, his tuition will be closer to \$19,000.

Winnie Cheung's credit card joke doesn't sit well with Ingo.

"I know my parents can't afford to let me stay here. I just spoke to them on the phone and I don't know what happens now—probably I'll look for another university or I might have to go back home to see if I can find a spot there," he says, slouched on a mildewed bench outside the International House.

UBC decided in 1996 to raise new foreign undergraduate students' tuition to full cost—the price of education without government subsidies. It takes effect this year, but even now, almost two years after the decision was made, hardly an eyebrow has been raised. The change didn't get any ink or airtime from Vancouver's press corps. *The Ubyssy* learned only weeks ago of the 142 per cent increase. Most student council executives asked last week about the increase were dumbfounded. The student council executives represent UBC students.

For 140 of them, tuition went up \$8000, and almost nobody seems to care.

In February, when the Board of Governors at UBC raised tuition for international graduate students, the reaction was a bit different. After that decision, which saw graduate tuition climb 210 per cent to \$7,087, a couple of protesters invaded the university president's office and refused to leave for six days. They got front page coverage in Vancouver's press. And some of those grad students launched a Supreme Court of Canada petition against the university's last month to overturn the increase—prompting another set of headlines around the city.

But while those press reports explained the legal battle, they didn't really explain the university's rationale for charging international students full fees.

UBC raised international tuition, says Karen McKellin, the international student coordinator at UBC, for two good reasons. First, international students don't really pay into the Canadian tax system that supports post-secondary education. Second, there's the demand. Enough students want to come to Canada, and to UBC, and they'll pay for the privilege. She says the university doesn't actually make money on internationals, but tries to school them at cost.

Dr. Donald Wehrung, who's in charge of selling UBC to international undergrads, says his office stepped up its recruiting efforts this year. After losing prospective students to the US, Australia and the UK—international undergrad admissions at UBC dropped 25 per cent this decade—Wehrung took UBC and team of recruiters on the road to education fairs around the Pacific Rim. There, he says, lies a huge demand for education and there aren't enough universities. And families on the Pacific Rim are willing to pay to send their children abroad.

International undergrad students

RICHARD LAM PHOTOS

will be the first at UBC to pay nearly \$14,000

per year on tuition. The fee hike was quietly passed two years ago. It's about to send at least one new student packing.

"We have some money, but not that much"

INGO ESSIG
INT. STUDENT



at Simon Fraser University.

According to Wehrung, students who were willing to pay \$5,700 to come to UBC aren't dissuaded by the tuition increase. "Many students just don't have the [financial] ability to go abroad to school and I don't think that the fee increase is going to significantly change that," he says.

Maura Parte, BC chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, has a problem with that. She says tuition for international students is so high that only the rich can come. "Since the 1980s when international fees have gotten higher and higher and higher, people have gotten to the point where they say 'What does another increase matter, students who can't afford it are no longer able to get in whether it's \$4000 or \$4500. It's out of the reach of anyone but wealthy students.'" Parte adds that international students should be more than a cash cow—they're individuals who bring a measure of diversity and a flood of new cultures, ideas, politics and philosophies to universities.

MARTHA PIPER, THE NEW PRESIDENT OF UBC, SPOKE AFTER Winnie Cheung at the orientation opening. Her analogy, borrowed from 1950s stage and screen star Danny Kaye, is of life as a canvas. You should throw as many different colours (experiences) at that canvas as possible, she says. And if the new students can see UBC as a giant canvas, she wants them to paint it as much as they can.

"You are knowledgeable about your country and we want you to share that knowledge with as many other UBC students



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Coke a crutch for the AMS

by Sarah Galashan

Questions have been raised about how the AMS is spending money it receives from the university's controversial beverage agreement.

Every year the AMS makes \$130,000 from the contract which gives Coca-Cola the exclusive right to sell their beverages in the Student Union Building.

The money was originally intended for special initiatives and deficit reduction. But according to the proposed 1997/98 budget that was released at council last week, \$80,000 of the cold beverage money will be used to cover lost AMS revenues and financial errors.

"I'm a bit shocked to be honest. I read the budget and I thought, well, you know, maybe they made a mistake," said David Borins, AMS representative to the university Board of Governors (BoG).

Borins told council he's worried the AMS might be growing dependent on the money, and he says the council might get stuck if the Coke deal isn't renewed in 2005.

"It looks like we're addicted to Coke now," Borins told council, at last Wednesday's AMS meeting.

Bernie Peets, AMS general manager, cautioned the funding could be limited. "I don't think we can

count on having this revenue ten years down the line," said Peets.

According to Vivian Hoffmann, AMS director of finance, the budget reflects a necessity for change in allocation of funds. Services of value to students should receive funding whether they are profitable or not, said Hoffmann. "That's what we're here for."

Hoffmann acknowledged the Coke money was not originally intended for established services, but she said the AMS needed to redirect the funding in order to maintain its current level of operations.

"I'm hoping that the businesses will increase their performances in the upcoming years," said Hoffmann. "We've got to get off Coke."

But hope is not enough for Borins, who suggested the AMS seek outside financial advice in order to wean them away from the beverage funding. Borins worries that if Coca-Cola discovers the AMS is dependent on the money, the corporation will not offer the same amount in the future.

Borins explained that when the contract was originally discussed the council felt it was important not to become dependent on the money. "We figured we'd slot [the money] into special projects so that we wouldn't be reliant on it, so that in ten years, if we wanted, we could say 'Go screw yourself, we didn't like this,'" said Borins. ♦

Great daycare, too bad about the wait

by Marina Antunes

UBC's administrator of child care services says four new campus daycares won't quell the demand for a good place where residents, staff and students can leave their children.

Darcelle Cottons says there are 400 families on waiting lists for 330 campus daycare spaces. And the 63 new spaces in a building that used to house UBC's Child Study Centre won't fill the demand.

The waiting lists are still long because the daycares at UBC hire one staff member for every three children, more than is required by law. According to Cottons, this means children in these centres get more attention than in most other daycares. "I could easily fill up another infant or toddler centre tomorrow but then my parent fees would have to go up and I can't justify making all the parents in the system pay to serve that."

About half the wait-listed children are under three years old. It's more expensive to care for them since they need more supervision and care than is required by law.

Cottons said that lack of child care for this age group is a province-wide problem. "It's actually a systemic shortage in the province because of the cost of providing care for children under the age of three."

She added most of the cost of daycare at UBC goes to wages for the trained staff. "The average hourly rate for a licensed child care staff [member] is \$15.50 an hour," said Cottons, "which is less than a lot of other less qualified people on campus." Even then, the infant centres lose a total of \$30,000 per year and toddler centres lose a total \$12,000 per year.

Student internships targeted for October

By Daniel Silverman

It may get easier for UBC students to get job experience starting this fall, as the Alma Mater Society has launched an internship program.

Ruta Fluxgold, AMS vice president, is charged with the initiative and hopes to see students placed as early as October.

"We've received over 100 responses so far. And we expect more. The registration forms are just starting to come in but the request for information was huge," said Fluxgold.

Blair Grabinsky, Career Services manager, is happy with the idea and said the program will be an alternative to co-op, allowing students a chance to get work experience.

"Internship programs don't have to have an academic compo-

nent, like co-op does," said Grabinsky.

Unlike a co-op program, the criteria for these internships will be set by the employer, rather than the employer having to meet the criteria of the co-op program.

Students won't get paid for the work, but according to Fluxgold the internships will not interfere with school. "It also provides students with an opportunity to get into fields that might not be specific to their degree."

"The internship provides a greater diversity for opportunities...[because] students, regardless of their faculty, regardless of their full-time or part-time status, regardless of whether they got straight A's or barely got through last year, wouldn't be disqualified."

Fluxgold insists that the AMS program should not take jobs from

paid employees. "Just by the nature of the hours that the students are allowed to commit to, it's very doubtful that that will replace anybody."

Students in the program will be able to volunteer ten hours a week, and intern terms will last a maximum of one year, after which time the student may be offered employment.

Fluxgold said students will be able to apply for internships through the AMS, which will post the opportunities on the SUB careers board and Joblink.

Grabinsky thinks that the growth of the program will be exponential, as companies learn about the opportunities to train potential employees at no cost.

"What we all want here is to get students experience," said Grabinsky. "That's the bottom line." ♦



ONE of the lucky ones who made it past the wait list at UBC daycare. RICH LAM/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO

Chinese president won't collect UVic award

by Richard Carlson
The Martlet

VICTORIA (CUP)—The University of Victoria's plan to award an honorary degree to the president of China, Jiang Zemin, was dashed last week when he declined the degree—but only after UVic's decision hailed a storm of controversy there.

Student members of UVic's senate, which approved the plan to award Jiang the degree, broke confidentiality rules and told student leaders of the decision. Anita Zaenker, UVic Students' Society academics director, went to the press.

"For our institution to acknowledge that Jiang suspended freedom of the press and yet honour him for promoting 'economic reform' is a disregard for the value universities place on the free exchange of ideas," said Zaenker.

Michael Conlon, president of UVic's Graduate Students' Society, spoke against the honorary degree. "It seems irrefutable Jiang is a human rights violator, whether or not he is an economic moderator or not is not really important," said Conlon. "People have disappeared and continue to disappear."

"This is really outrageous," said Emmanuel Sayo, spokesperson for the No! to APEC Coalition. Sayo said the award was economically driven and a way for UVic to capitalise on the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperaton conference that will bring hundreds of world leaders to Vancouver—and UBC—this fall.

"We are really upset that UVic wants to honour someone who violates human rights. This whole thing is just a farce. If you look at APEC, China is number one and Canada's best customer. And of course, we still have some CANDU reactors to sell," said Sayo.

"The customer is always right. They know of the human rights abuses, but business is business, and profits can be made and human rights can be thrown out the window."

But many at UVic supported the decision to honour Jiang. "I am pleased with the Senate's decision to issue these important invitations," said David Strong, the president of UVic, in a press release announcing the decision to award Jiang. "These invitations are also in line with our tradition of recognising world leaders who have promoted economic, social, environmental and other civil reforms in their countries."

"Jiang Zemin is widely perceived as a moderate," said Ralph Crozier, a UVic professor who specialises in the history of China and teaches a course on the Tiananmen Square massacre.

"Deng appointed Jiang after the Tiananmen Square massacre as he was not directly involved in it. He was not soft on the students nor was he implicated in using military force to quell the demonstrators," said Crozier.

Jiang is both president of the People's Republic of China and chair of the Communist Party of China. Since the death of Deng Xiaoping in February, he has become the most powerful person in his country. During the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989, he was the acting leader of Shanghai, although he was not directly involved in the uprising.

"The honorary degree is really a legitimisation of the present Chinese leadership," said Crozier. "The good thing is that encourages the moderates in Chinese leadership versus the hard-liners. The negative spin is that it legitimises the world's last surviving one-party communist regime."

Richard King, a professor in Pacific and Asian Studies, is one of the people who recommended giving the degree to Jiang. "I was in favour as it is important to recognise reform under Jiang," King said. "I think that if you look at China since Jiang has had power, there has been an acceptance of the rule of law and a certain level of civil society which is considerable progress when you look at China under Mao or Deng."

Despite the continued lack of human rights in China, King sees a certain amount of hope for the future. "There is no doubt that human rights is not nearly as good as I want it to be, yet I still think it is useful to recognise reform."

Besides the protest from students, human rights organisations are also speaking out against the honorary degree. "What we are seeing in China is not a change," said Bob Goodfellow, managing director of Amnesty International. Goodfellow points out that death sentences last year rose to 6,000 sentences and 3,500 executions, most of which were broadcast on Chinese television.

Amnesty also reports that thousands of dissidents, opponents of the government, and religious leaders continue to be detained, many of whom were sentenced by unfair trials or held under administrative detention.

Concerning Jiang, Amnesty cites the example of Wu Shishen, a one-time editor of New China News Agency, who after releasing Jiang's speech at the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of China in 1993 to news media in Hong Kong, was sentenced for ten years. Jiang personally intervened and had his sentence bumped up to life. ♦



UBC J-school not up but running

DONNA LOGAN surveys construction of Sing Tao school. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

By Daniel Silverman

The building that will house the Sing Tao School of Journalism has just opened and already the school has its hands full.

Donna Logan, the school's director and a former CBC executive, says everybody wants to know about the Master of Journalism program. "The phone never stops ringing," she said. "I have a file five inches thick of people who want to apply to the program, and a file four inches thick of people who want to teach there."

Of the hundreds of applications Logan says she's received, however, just 25 graduate students and two instructors will start next year.

The students must have specialised degrees in an undergraduate discipline, and the instructors will be accepted from the faculties of Science, Arts and Applied Science.

"I believe it's very important

for journalists to have education in as many fields as possible, and particularly in those that they are specialising in," Logan says. "A degree in just journalism courses *per se* is not sufficient, because really what they need to know is the things they're going to be writing about."

And she says she'll be looking for seasoned journalists who want to take the program. "It would be my hope that we can find people who have good experience in journalism already who are looking to enhance their skills or to specialise in some form of reporting."

The school, which opened last week, is the first graduate journalism school in western Canada. Logan says its location makes it ideal for studies in Pacific Rim issues.

Construction and startup costs were financed by a \$3 million donation from Sing Tao Holdings, a Hong Kong media conglomerate. ♦

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BC Tel may move into Res

by Sarah Galashan

Freedom to choose their telephone company is not an option for residents of Thunderbird, Ritsumeiken and St. Andrews.

And since he was denied, Brian Sieben has made it his mission to obtain access to other telephone services before he graduates this year.

Presently, the local service offered by UBC is cheaper than BC Tel's and ResTel works with ResNet to provide residents of Thunderbird and part of Place Vanier with high-speed data access service.

But while Sieben recognises the benefits and improvements made to the service since he first moved in two years ago, he argues that his telephone company should be his choice.

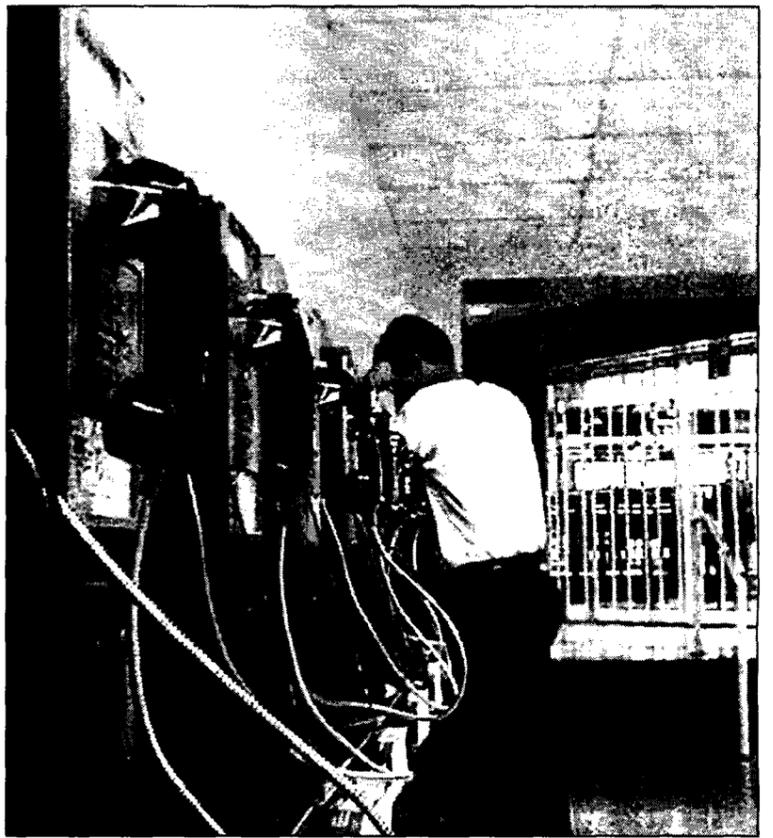
"My main concern is that for not just here but across the country there has to be some standards set up so that there's going to a common phone directory for everyone and an operator," said Sieben.

He is upset that ResTel customers cannot access 900 info lines, are not listed in the BC Tel directory and that there is not a 24-hour operator available.

"I just think that somebody should be regulating [ResTel]. I mean everybody who owns an apartment building can't be starting a phone company," said Sieben.

On March 5, 1996 the Canadian Radio television and Telecommunications Commission [CRTC] determined that "students living in a university are end-users of telecommunications services," and that they "should not be required to obtain their telecommunications services from the university."

Using this as a precedent, Sieben has sent his complaints to the CRTC, which has in turn asked



STRIPPED: which phone company will benefit from this student's call?
 RICHARD LAM PHOTO

ResTel to respond to the problem. However Dr Jim Tom, director of telecommunications at UBC, insists that reasonable access is not a problem but points out that reasonable does not mean free.

"We own and maintain our own wiring," said Tom. "As long as they pay our cost, [other phone companies] are welcome."

Tom acknowledged that Sieben's complaints were valid two years ago but said that now the operation of ResTel is greatly improved.

"I freely admit that we had teething problems. But we brought up a retail telephone service in six months," said Tom.

He added that BC Tel refused to wire Thunderbird Residences

at the time they were built, making ResTel a necessity.

Tom estimates the use of UBC's wiring would cost an outside company \$16 per user and said it probably would not be economical for BC Tel.

"We would have to review with the university about what kind of fees they have in mind," said Michele Gagne, a spokesperson for BC Tel.

Gagne added that presently BC Tel is looking into an overall marketing deal with UBC and that part of that deal includes the possibility of BC Tel providing service to the residences on campus.

Sieben is disappointed that the case is slow going but remains hopeful that he will soon be with BC Tel. ♦

Telecom deal is calling AMS

by Chris Nuttall-Smith

Details of an exclusive, ten-year telecommunications deal between UBC and BC Tel will be released this fall, and the AMS has the option of signing on.

A UBC administrator told the AMS president, Ryan Davies, that the student council is welcome to sign into the Telecom deal, which according to Davies will be released in a matter of weeks.

"The university has extended just recently that they would be willing to open the door if the AMS wanted to get involved in the BC Tel deal," he told council Wednesday.

UBC's Board of Governors approved the deal with BC Tel in August 1996. According to a statement released by the university, the deal will see BC Tel design and build a campus fibre-optic network

to link computers on campus with the Internet and to each other. In exchange, BC Tel wins the university's lucrative long-distance and telecommunications account.

According to Davies the deal will also give BC Tel exclusive right to market its products to

gets part of ACC's revenue from marketing in the SUB.

Davies said the AMS would honour that commitment. "ACC will continue to market long-distance services in the Student Union Building; the contract is for two years and we are in it for two years, we're not

"We would weigh the advantages to ACC and to BC Tel and to the university."

—Bernie Peets
 AMS General Manager

students everywhere on campus except the SUB.

Currently, the AMS has an agreement with ACC, a discount long-distance provider that gives that company the exclusive right to market long-distance services to students in the Student Union Building.

According to that arrangement, the AMS

looking to break it."

The ACC deal has one year left. Bernie Peets, the AMS general manager, said the student council might consider joining the BC Tel deal once the ACC contract is completed.

"We would weigh the advantages to ACC and BC Tel and to the university," Peets said.

UBC has refused to release details of the Telecom deal or of negotiations with the company. A copy of the memorandum of understanding provided to the *Ubyssy* under Freedom of Information legislation was completely censored.

With the exception of a title page and two signatures at the bottom of the document, all seven pages were blanked out.

The university cited sections of the Freedom of Information Act that exclude information that could harm university or private business interests.

Peets said BC Tel has called him to build a business relationship. "I got a phone call from BC Tel just to say 'Hi,' to touch base, sort of touchy-feely relationship building, but I just explained to them that we've got another year on the contract [with ACC]." ♦



MORE MONEY may be on the way for varsity athletes. RICHARD LAM/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO

CIAU may show athletes the money

by Wolf Depner

University athletes will get bigger scholarships and Canadian varsity programs will get a shot of corporate cash if the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) approves changes to its athletic scholarship policy.

The organisation's eligibility committee recommended in June that the CIAU raise the limit on how much students can win in athletic scholarships from \$1,500 to \$2,000 or the cost of tuition at CIAU member schools.

In addition, the same committee recommended the CIAU provide universities with a recruiting tool by legalising financial support for promising high school athletes entering university.

The proposals are intended to stem the tide of Canadian high school students going to American universities on recruiting scholarships. Unlike American schools, CIAU schools cannot offer financial support to first year students unless they meet or exceed an 80 per cent high school average.

But these changes also mean Canadian varsity athletics will be more open to private and corporate sponsorships.

According to UBC Athletics Director Bob Philip, UBC Athletics has already put aside \$400,000 for athletic scholarships and wants to raise another \$2.6 million in the next three years to be competitive in the expected bidding war for high school athletes.

"There is no question about it. When you have more money, you will have better teams," Philip said.

Philip insisted that corporate sponsors will not play a big role in funding athletic scholarships, saying he thought most money would come from individuals.

UBC Development Office Manager Bryce Mathieson, a full time Athletics fund raiser, agreed but admitted that corporate sponsors could be more involved in the funding of athletic scholarships in the future.

Philip also hopes the scholarship changes, if passed officially, will send the right message to future sponsors.

"If we're trying to keep the kids in Canada, that sends a message out through the media to the general public that we're trying to make our product better," Philip said. "And that's what this is really all about." ❖

Budget cuts deep into Arts and Sciences

By Chris Nuttall-Smith and Sarah Galashan

Classes will get bigger, some will be canceled, and hiring will slow to a trickle at UBC this year because of an \$8.6 million budget cut.

But the cuts were unavoidable according to David Strangway, UBC's outgoing president. He blames a provincial freeze on tuition and university funding, and mandatory enrollment increases for the crunch.

Because of their sizes, the Arts and Science faculties will likely feel the impact of the cuts the hardest. Arts, the largest faculty at UBC, will see many small classes canceled, or offered only every two years.

Associate Dean of Arts Neil Guppy said many instructors will teach extra courses that aren't required of them. And the positions of 16 instructors who are anticipated to retire this year will not be filled.

In addition, some upper-level courses and courses with low enrollment will be cut, negatively affecting the faculty's diversity.

tively affecting the faculty's diversity.

The Faculty of Science expects to take an extra two to three per cent more students than they did last year.

Like arts, classes will get bigger and some will be canceled, said David Measday, associate dean of Science.

Paul Ramsey, minister of education, said classes are being affected because the university is inefficient, not because of provincial tuition, funding and enrollment policy.

"The question is whether we ask universities to get efficient and make some changes in how they deliver courses to increase the number of seats and keep access to university courses available to everyone, not just those who can afford to pay 20, 30, and 40 percent higher tuition," he said.

Ramsey added that the province has maintained stable funding for universities in the face of massive transfer cuts from the federal government. ❖

AMS opposes new Technical University

by Douglas Quan

The AMS has joined a chorus of opposition to the establishment of the Technical University of BC.

In an August 27 decision, UBC student society members said they could not support a university that does not provide for an academic senate.

They also worry that the \$100 million institution may be taking funds away from other public colleges and universities.

Earlier this month, the Confederation of University Faculty Associations (CUFA) of BC and the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) launched an international boycott of the Technical University.

According to CUFA's executive director, Robert Clift, the Technical University is "not a real university."

Clift says all academic decisions will be made by the Board of Governors. He worries that business—not academic inquiry—will dictate curriculum and the type of research done at the university.

"The people that are making the decisions about curriculum are people in industry directly. It's not industry working with academics," said Clift. "There will be no curiosity-based research at this institution."

The university's mandate is to forge partnerships with BC's growth industries and train students in advanced technologies.

The education minister, Paul Ramsey, dismissed the criticisms. He said the Technical University has a different mandate that requires a different decision making body.

"We are trying a different sort of university level institution with the Technical University that has a much more cooperative and integrated relationship with the industry that's providing advanced education for it. Therefore, we've changed the governance structure."

Ramsey added the changes don't sacrifice academic freedom.

And he said the Technical University would "absolutely not" be built at the expense of other universities. ❖

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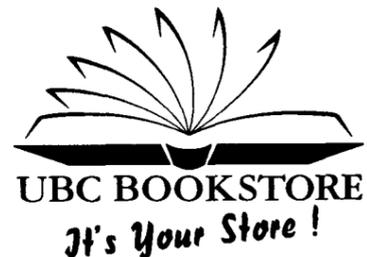
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Engineering programs threatened

by Sarah Galashan

Some engineering students may be graduating in un-accredited programs this year.

The Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) has announced that some

Campus development blueprint finally official

by Chris Nuttall-Smith and David Jobson

The plan for future housing, transportation and commercial development on the UBC campus became law July 25, four years after the university first proposed a controversial official community plan (OCP).

The OCP will see UBC's resident population double to 18,000 in the next twenty years, with commercial centres, new market housing south of 16th Avenue, and a subsidised transit plan to accommodate the development. UBC expects development of the plan will bring \$200 million in endowment funds in the next decade alone.

Ken Cameron, Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) manager of strategic planning, said the OCP will end unplanned commercial and market housing development on the endowment lands. "It's a milestone in the sense that it's the first time there's ever been a civic planning context for the University of British Columbia," he said.

The plan, now GVRD Bylaw 840, commits the university to a goal of selling or renting 50 per cent of new market housing to campus faculty, staff or students. Of future market housing built at UBC, 20 per cent will be rental housing, and

40 per cent will have private ground floor access.

Those UBC concessions, as well as the transportation plan, have quelled much of the controversy that has surrounded the OCP development process from the start. When the university produced a discussion paper on campus development in 1993, many critics including the then Minister of Education said the plan didn't include any consultation with students or endowment land residents.

The university's first formal OCP proposal suffered similar criticism when it was released last fall. Many students and community members said the proposal didn't address environmental, transportation, or student and staff housing needs. And despite public hearings, some critics said UBC didn't try hard enough to encourage public input.

"The original plan had no transit responsibility, it was a one-dimensional piece of work, a real-estate exercise," said Gordon Price, a Vancouver City councillor and member of the GVRD board of directors that passed the plan last month.

But Price said the revised OCP addresses concerns that the new development would swamp transit routes and price students and staff off campus.

"It really does move towards a concept of a community rather than an office park called a university, which is pretty much what it's been in the past," said Price.

Transit initiatives in the OCP include a discount bus pass system subsidised by higher campus parking fees, and using UBC purchasing power to buy bicycles and offer them at low rates to staff who will commute on them.

The transit management plan will take effect soon after UBC hires a transportation director. The university is a month late with that commitment.

Campus development will follow stages that could extend more than thirty years. In that time the endowment lands will be home to growing housing development south of 16th Avenue, a south campus village centre with a supermarket and community centre and school. A substantial south campus area is also set aside for the development of research facilities. And UBC will increase housing density around the current university village.

Development revenues will be targeted for UBC's \$500 million endowment fund. Interest from that fund supports capital construction, scholarships, endowed chairs and professorships. ♦

Banks banking on campus monopoly

by Chris Nuttall-Smith

The Royal Bank and Hong Kong Bank of Canada have won a joint tender that could give them a lock on all banking at UBC.

Pending UBC Board of Governors (BoG) approval in October, the two banks will be the only automated banking and banking service providers at UBC. They will also do all the university's banking.

"We're waiting for the Board of Governors' approval but, at this point in time, we have been selected and it's a joint bid with the Hong Kong Bank of Canada," said Betty Wood, senior account manager at the Royal Bank's Vancouver Business Banking Centre.

The long-term deal will have the Royal and Hong Kong banks move into the Bank of Montreal's Student Union Building location, and take over other banks' automatic banking locations at UBC, Wood said.

Neither Wood, nor a Hong Kong Bank representative would say

how much the university or the banks stand to make from the deal.

Ryan Davies, AMS president, said while the student union has no official position on the deal, he was not personally opposed. "There's a free market just 50 feet down the

road and a CIBC right on the corner," Davies said, referring to the university village.

But Davies said he knew little of the banking deal.

"I'm in a total vacuum here: the university's told us nothing about the details of the bank [deal] or just to what extent students will be limited. If it's true that there's only one kind of bank machine on campus, yeah, that's inconvenient for students for sure."

However, Wood said a banking monopoly would not inconvenience students or staff at UBC. "I think that the impact on students should be positive given the inno-



MONEY TALKS: exclusivity deal with big banks may limit student banking. RICHARD LAM/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO

vation that we're planning to bring to the campus, and as I say, students would have a choice, they would not be obliged to deal with Royal Bank; they would have a choice to deal with Royal Bank or Hong Kong bank if they chose to bank on campus," she said.

The AMS general manager, Bernie Peets, said he wasn't sure how the Royal and Hong Kong banks could replace the Bank of Montreal branch and the Toronto Dominion and VanCity automatic tellers in SUB, since the student union controls the commercial leases in that building.

"The Bank of Montreal is there

until 2003 at which point in time the space becomes the property of the AMS to renegotiate with the Bank of Montreal, another bank, or whatever," Peets said.

The banking agreement would be the third major exclusivity deal reached at UBC recently. In 1995 the university signed a deal for almost \$850,000 per year with Coca-Cola to give that company a monopoly on campus. Last year UBC reached an agreement with BC Telecom that will make the company UBC's principal telecommunications provider.

UBC has refused to release details of the agreements. ♦



Shop SUB

Back to School Show

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Students to sue UBC over fee hikes

by Stanley Tromp

The AMS will spend up to \$10,000 to support students in a court battle against UBC tuition and ancillary fee increases.

The student council decided unanimously last Wednesday to request intervenor status in the BC Supreme Court petition filed in August by four UBC students. Council will also give \$1,000 towards the students' legal fees.

The students hope to reverse tuition increases for international graduate students and students in professional programs. They will also challenge a 1.6 percent tuition increase for domestic students and some ancillary fees.

UBC law student Amir Attaran, who has prepared much of the petition against the university, said the fees violate NDP legislation that froze tuition and ancillary fees last year. He also said the fees were implemented without adequate student consultation, a violation of UBC's own policy.

UBC Policy 71 (Consultation With Students About Tuition Fees) states that UBC must meet with students on specific dates and publish the results in *UBC Reports*.

University administrators have been sending mixed signals about the case. David Strangway, whose term as UBC president ended in July, told *the Ubyssy* that students were adequately consulted about the fee increase.

"What happened was there was a quick move as a result of input from the deans who asked us to do this and what immediately followed in the next four months you couldn't have more consultation than we did on that issue," Strangway said.

But Dennis Pavlich, vice president of legal affairs, conceded that UBC did not follow the policy on consultation exactly. "Yes, it's true, they did not follow the requirement to meet at the start of the year. But they tried to live up to the spirit of the policy," said Pavlich.

He added UBC policies should be seen more as guidelines than as precise binding directives. ❖



PROTESTOR Victoria Scott (centre) struggles to speak while Vice President Maria Klawe (far right) and Parking Manager Tom McNeice attempt to stop her. RICHARD LAM/UBYSSEY FILE PHOTO

President Strangway receives not-so-fond farewell

by Sarah Galashan

Activism didn't take a summer holiday at UBC this year.

Protesting took the form of graffiti, chanting and a paper-mache penis, all intended to voice dissent over corporatisation on campus and the approach of APEC at UBC.

Late in the evening of July 24 a student scrawled their opinion on several university buildings including the new Koerner Library and the clock tower.

The student responsible, who spoke to *the Ubyssy* on condition of anonymity, defended the action, saying it was done to set an agenda for incoming president, Martha Piper.

But people on campus who saw the graffiti seemed more upset with the medium than the message.

"I think it's terrible. I think there is another way to express that," said Manjit Aitken, a visitor to UBC.

In a separate protest, a group of self-proclaimed activists and radicals barged into former UBC President David Strangway's farewell party.

With songs of protest the party crashers interrupted speakers Ted McWhinney, MP for Vancouver-Quadra, and Paul Ramsey, minister of Education, Skills and Training, as they attempted to pay tribute to Strangway.

The group brought an assortment of party favours including pamphlets, posters and one giant penis to symbolize their ongoing Corporate Dick Award campaign.

"We weren't going to let this party—this party for elitist, racist, wealthy, administration types and faculty members—go off undisturbed because we feel that as students we have a right to say how we feel," explained Natasha Gitanjali.

However Dennis Pavlich, associate vice-president for academic and legal affairs, described the protesters' actions as an abuse of free speech.

"We've asked them to leave and they really should leave," he said. "We have of course offered them the platform so that they can in fact disseminate the views that they wish to... but they've chosen not to because really what they want to do is disrupt." ❖

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The Ubyssy Publications Society is an incorporated not-for-profit society composed of all the students of UBC; it publishes *The Ubyssy*, the official student newspaper at UBC. The Membership Fee was approved by a student referendum in January 1995.



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VARSIY GRILL
West 10th & Discovery

by John Zaozirny

Now perhaps the Varsity Grill isn't a place "where everyone knows your name," nor is it an Earl's or Quattros or even the Cactus Club. There aren't any Monday Margarita nights here. But it's got some good food, at cheap prices, with nice clean linoleum tables and a tabletop with zig-zagging designs in it.

Upon being called to write about a local "greasy spoon," several choices came to mind. But time after time, I realised that they really didn't fit the title. They were too expensive or they were designed to be tacky and 'greasy' or they weren't even greasy enough. Or they weren't open anymore. So I narrowed it all down to the Varsity Grill, which isn't really a "greasy spoon," because it's actually quite clean and there aren't waitresses called Edna or Madge.

But it does have that feeling of the local diner, with regulars, potted plants and people getting-too-loud-too-close-to-

you. The Varsity does have your usual breakfast menu, meat sandwiches and a nice, cheap steak; it's also got a menu made mostly of Chinese food. Well, this is Vancouver. There are even combo meals for people, like me, who really can't decide. And with the sights and sounds of the kitchen drifting through, at least here you know where your food's coming from, unlike, say, McDonald's. And everybody is so friendly.

Now it is true that what I might call atmosphere some people might simply call annoying and overwhelming, but then again a lot of people pay a lot of money for that kind of thing (e.g., Earl's). And while we're on that subject, at least the Varsity Grill doesn't hire its employees based on their attractiveness. You're just not paying enough for that, I guess.

And finally, they're open till midnight. By eleven o'clock at night in this town, your fine dining options are few and far between, so the Varsity should suit most people just fine. And remember, nearly everything washes off a linoleum tabletop. ♦



Web Café now home to cobwebs, not clients

by Charlie Cho

After less than a year of operation, the Web Café is closed, apparently indefinitely. "Apparently," because the café management have been unreachable, even by scheduled event organisers such as The Edgewise Electrolit Centre, Robin Hood Records, and the Coastal Jazz & Blues Society.

Andrea Thompson of the Edgewise group, which organises the monthly Telepoetics events at the café, was left in a lurch Tuesday night with only a day's notice.

In early August, when David Baker (one of the café owners at the time) left, Thompson decided to sign a contract with The Web Café which assured free usage of the venue and technical support until January. "The reason that we got the con-

tract was because I was feeling really nervous about the show would be able to happen there month to month."

September's Telepoetics event has been cancelled. However, Edgewise is trying to hold a spoken word or Telepoetics event at the Virgin Megastore in October.

Robin Hood Records fortunately managed to relocate their Friday all-ages concert featuring Nerdy Girl three doors down at Crosstown Traffic.

The Coastal Jazz & Blues Society, which has four concerts booked at The Web Café for September, October, and November, first heard about the closure on Thursday when contacted by *the Ubyssy*. The society's artistic director has as yet been unable to contact anyone related to the café.

The silence from The Web Café and the affiliated Vancouver Film School, which

shares its site, has led others to speculate on the reasons for the café's sudden closure.

Jamie Troisi, a former Langara student currently enrolled at Brock University, worked for The Web Café from mid-December to the end of April. "All the waiters and waitresses kind of joked about [the café closing], saying, 'Well, if it's around next year, I might be back.'"

Troisi, who fondly recalls the Kissed film party and Delirium's CD release party at The Web Café, attributes the café's closure to two reasons: concept and location.

"They tried to take on something," says Troisi, "that in my opinion, I don't know if people were ready for: hearing live bands there at a restaurant, as opposed to a bar. ... I mean, that was all 1940s Bing Crosby days."

Acknowledging that The Web Café was

originally planned to serve as the Vancouver Film School cafeteria, Troisi believes that it would have been a more successful venture if the café set up shop on Robson. "Hastings Street is opening up," he says, "but a block away, you basically have a heroin corner."

Troisi, who had left in April to save money and pursue an education in Ontario, saw the beginning of the end early May when a friend told him that general manager Janet Mackay and the events coordinator had been laid off to cut costs. Referring to Mackay, he says, "She was an excellent manager...if anything, she could have brought the company back up."

Curiously, Troisi notes that, had the Vancouver location been successful, future branches were planned to open in Malaysia and Los Angeles. ♦

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Romantic art drove artist to grave

THEODORE GERICAULT
The Alien Body: Tradition in Chaos
until October 19 at the
Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery

by John Zaozirny

Theodore Gericault lived during the eighteenth century amidst the political chaos of Napoleonic and post-Napoleonic France and, both as a man and as an artist, succeeded in capturing the essence of the incredibly turbulent times that surrounded him. His works ranged from portraits of the insane to the glories of the military, from wild stallions to, as depicted in his most famous work, the starving, despair-ridden survivors of a shipwreck. *The Raft of the Medusa* stands as his masterpiece, a lurid portrayal of a true life story that has lost none of its power over the centuries.

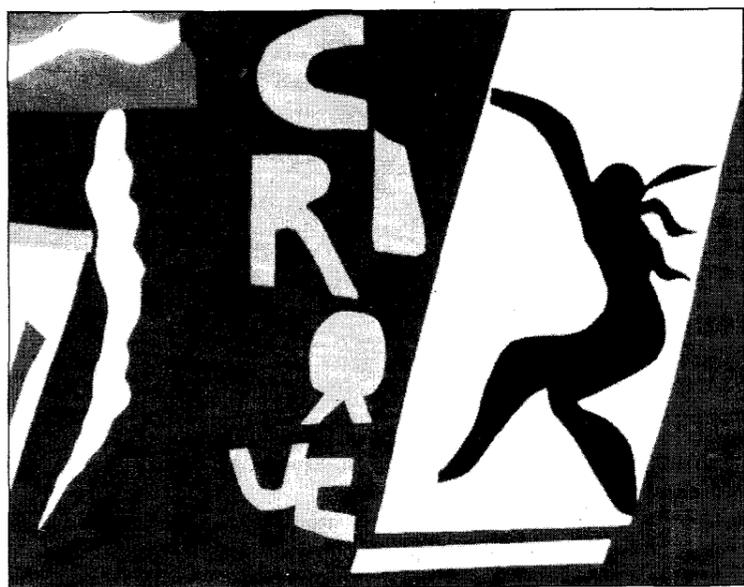
To many, Gericault was of the School of the Romantics, and his expertise was the translation of powerful reality onto the canvas. Unlike his contemporaries, such as David or Ingres, Gericault saw no boundaries in his art, and no need for refinement nor restraint. Gericault himself had no boundaries, often pushing himself to the limit and beyond. The great passion that drove his powerful art also drove him to his grave. He died at the youthful age of 33, of injuries received in a riding accident, having already helped push forward an artistic revolution.

It's because of the great passion that Gericault's painting has that the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery's exhibit seems at first glance fairly disappointing. Stuck in the velvet-curtained, ice-cool sterility of a gallery, Gericault's work seems to have had all the emotion drawn from it. Partly due to the fact that a number of the works are merely scrap-book pages and rough sketches, it feels as if, put under glass, they've lost their lustre and their life. But, put to closer observation, all the trademark Gericault signs are in place; his love of the shocking (on great display in his depiction of an allegorical rape in *The Embrace*), his admiration of the vitality and nobility of Napoleon and his Grande Armie (shown to especially strong effect in *Artillery*

Caisson), his honest and despairing portrayals of those who have slipped through the cracks of society (evident in his many pieces on the homeless and in *The Swiss Sentry at the Louvre*).

But for all the hidden and previously unavailable treasures on display here (a number of them on loan from the Louvre) there are also some pieces that might have been left alone, drawings that seems no different from any artist's sketchbook, and a whole lot of over-analysis (note to the curators: watch the Christ references).

The truth is though, many of the strongest pieces, mostly lithographs and watercolours, are on par with any of Gericault's paintings. And the pleasure of having this all in one place is magnified by the sensation that you get from seeing Gericault evolve his own style and hone his subject matter. Moving from one work to the next, you see that he's creating his own perfect niche in the cluttered art world of the Romantics, right in front of the viewer. It's the process of an artist finding his voice and his place. ❖



MATISSE'S LE CIRQUE from *Jazz*, 1947 (Ohara Museum of Art, Japan)
COURTESY OF THE VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

Matisse Illustrates a silhouette of emotion

MATISSE ILLUSTRATES
until October 19 at the
Vancouver Art Gallery

by Alex Rain

Light. Elegant. Brilliant. Bold. The exhibition *Matisse Illustrates* currently showing at the Vancouver Art Gallery awakens us to the infinite mirage of colour and line. The illustrations have a lightness and spontaneity to them that gives easy pleasure to the eye, colour that awakens the senses, and delicate lines that leave space for the imagination to fill.

Few people know that Matisse illustrated books, yet these illustrations include some of his most beautiful work. Matisse illustrated a total of thirteen books, beginning in 1932 with the poetry of Stephanie Malarme. His creations

range in technique from subtle, elegant line drawings placed with carefully set type, to dramatic, boldly-coloured works, to the frivolous calligraphy of Matisse's *Jazz* collection. The exhibition displays over 80 framed folio pages and editions of bound books of etchings, linocuts, lithography, engravings, aquatints, and for *Jazz*, a stencil technique, pouchoir.

Matisse was intimately involved with the whole look of each book he worked on. By illustrating books, Matisse was following a French tradition that had been important since the turn of the century. He joined Picasso, Marquet, Vuillard and others in producing images for the luxury book market. His books combined the best in paper, printing and design that was available at the time.

Book illustration is always a complex

art in that, to succeed, it must allow both the author and the artist to speak equally. Matisse compared his work as an illustrator to that of a juggler. "I can compare my two pages to two objects taken up by a juggler. His white ball and black ball are my two pages, one light (the illustrated page) and one dark (the text page); so different, yet face to face. In spite of the differences between the two objects, the art of the juggler makes a harmonious whole in the eyes of the spectator."

Matisse produced an enormous collection of work during his life. His illustrations are but a small portion of that output, yet their study is rich and rewarding. Most of all his illustrations reveal his skill as a draftsman, colourist and designer of extraordinary talent. Matisse leaves us with a silhouette of emotion. ❖

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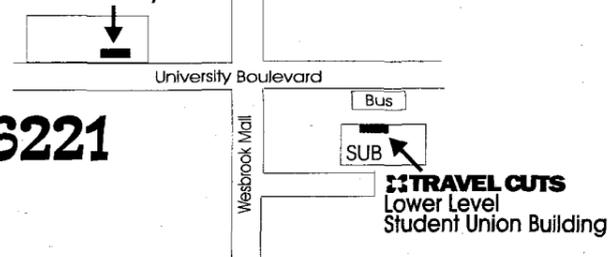
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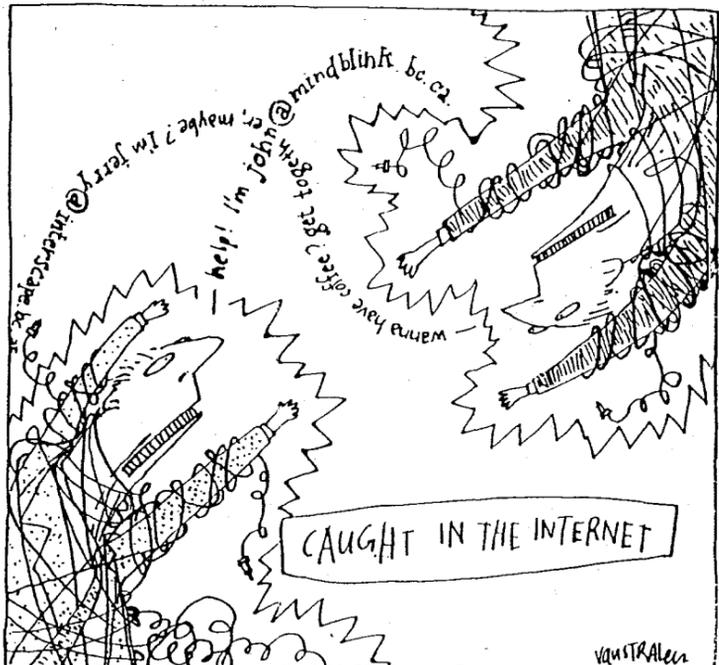


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by Jamie Woods

WHEN THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT CAME TO AN agreement with Alcan on August 5th, it looked as though the final chapter of the epic Kemanoo Completion Project [KCP] had finally been written. Premier Glen Clark announced that taxpayers would not be burdened with the expense of a lawsuit, electricity would be brought in from elsewhere, and fisheries and agriculture would not be affected.

But there's a quiet side to the new deal.

Questions are developing as to whether the agreement, which will give Alcan cut rate electricity to build a \$1.2 billion aluminum smelter in Kitimat, is much different from the much-maligned and highly controversial KCP.

"It was a behind closed doors negotiation and nobody was aware of the content until the day that the agreement was made public," says Reg Mueller, vice tribal chief of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council.

The Carrier Sekani occupy territory next to the Nechako River, downstream from where the new smelter will be located. Many of the spawning beds for Nechako River sockeye are nestled in the area.

For Mueller, being left out of negotiations was no

18,000 hectares of arable land that could be irrigated from the river. That would need ten cubic metres per second."

Romain and other farmers in the Nechako Valley are worried that licensing priorities could prevent irrigation water from getting through to them at all. In 1950, the BC government signed over all water rights for the Nechako River to Alcan. The arrangement has since changed—in 1987 the federal government insisted a certain amount of water stay in the river—but Alcan and the provincial government continue to hold allocation priority in the valley. Although farmers have a license, they only get water if it's not needed elsewhere.

"The province has a policy of last on, first off so every agricultural licence in this valley is dated later than Alcan's and the fishery. So [if] there's a low water year, [and] there's quite a few years on record [like that], and Kitimat's calling for all the water they can use and [the government] is saying we need all this for fisheries, people who lose the right to consume the water are the people in the valley."

Romain foresees other problems with the agreement, specifically the potential long term environmental effects. "We don't know what the river contributes to the aquifer, we don't know if losing this much of the river is going to end up slowly drying this valley out. We just don't know. And nobody knows the answer."

While not in favour of shutting the deal down, Romain wants to see changes before the new smelter is built. "None of this deal need be threatened by changing [Alcan's] water license to a more realistic figure.

Those two thousand jobs are not contingent on diverting any more of the Nechako than is currently being diverted."

That may not be the case. Alcan has yet to confirm whether they will proceed with plans to build the smelter, and details on the new smelter's hydro-electrical requirements have not been publicly released. The company's diversion tunnel holds a

capacity of 140 m³/s, but could be upgraded to a capacity of 170 m³/s.

"The NDP has a pretty good environmental name up here, and when they cancelled KCP for the reasons that they cancelled it we thought our work was done. And now it turns out we're in the same boat we were in in 1987. There's a new agreement, it was signed behind closed doors, it gave away ninety per cent of the Nechako. Same old thing," Romain says.

WHEN KCP WAS CANCELLED IN 1995, THE NORTHWEST Communities Coalition was formed to ensure that existing Alcan operations weren't jeopardised. As the biggest employer in Kitimat, Alcan was considered irreplaceable by most residents.

"We were shocked [when KCP was cancelled]. It had just been on the agenda for so many years... The new smelter would give us a real boost in our economy," says Sheila Reeves, spokesperson for the coalition.

With 2,000 jobs predicted to result from the smelter, Reeves is understandably elated. In a town of 11,000 people, the benefits will be innumerable.

She's not sure, however, how much the local environment will be affected by the smelter. "I'm not really up on the technical information."

Reeves says that farmers and fishers should have no concerns, and that water flow diversion will not change from current levels. Even if Alcan did expand their tunnel, she says, the generators wouldn't be using 170 m³/s that often. "That would be like running your car at 200 miles per hour. That would be a peak generating capacity that they would be able to do for flood control or whatever. But there's no way that they can operate at 170 m³/s, or the equivalent, full-out, on a regular basis."

Although the agreement is signed, Reeves expects a battle to keep the smelter plans on track. "If this agreement has to be defended, and obviously it does because there's a lot of controversy coming out about it, we're not going to see a duplication of the cancellation of KCP. We want to see Kitimat grow and prosper, not at the expense of any one else I might add...but we don't want to see what we have, lost." ❖

Tunnel vision

In 1995, the BC government cancelled the Kemanoo completion project due to environmental concerns. But activists say the new Alcan deal may be no better.

surprise. KCP was negotiated without Carrier Sekani participation. In the same manner, a recent deal between the provincial and federal governments off-loaded responsibility for the freshwater fisheries in BC from the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans [DFO] over to Victoria.

According to aboriginal leaders, both deals were signed despite a legal obligation to consult the tribal council.

Mueller however, was startled by the impact the deal will have on the local fishery. If KCP had gone through, Alcan would have diverted 83 per cent of the Nechako's flow of 190 cubic metres per second (m³/s). Under the new agreement, Alcan is entitled to divert 170 m³/s.

"When you're talking about giving away ninety percent of a river's flow, that's going to jeopardise the salmon stocks, on which we depend for our livelihood," Mueller says.

According to a report issued by the T Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation, research on rivers where flows have been diverted by more than thirty percent shows major damage to fish stocks. If Alcan diverts the amount of water it's entitled to under the new agreement, it will use almost three times that figure.

Despite a forthcoming environmental assessment and public review, Mueller isn't holding his breath that the agreement will change. "We're sitting here now after the fact. The agreement's been signed...and the government is not required to do independent assessments."

With only four weeks since details of the deal were released, the Carrier Sekani haven't had much time to determine what they're next move will be. While considering litigation, they're also building alliances with environmental groups such as A River Forever and the River Defence Coalition.

Those environmental groups often conflict with aboriginal people over land use issues. But they're of the same mind about the Alcan agreement. "There's a certain point in time where you have to set aside personal agendas and this is one of those times," Mueller said.

JANET ROMAIN HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL organisation, A River Forever, for seven years. But as a farmer, her main interest in the Alcan agreement lies in its agricultural implications.

"[The problem with the deal] is that there's no water [set aside] for agriculture in the valley. During the BC Utilities Commission hearing they identified

From music to script, a writer emerges

by Paolo Javier

At twenty-three playwright and Theatre/Creative Writing MFA candidate Chris Gatchalian has watched his star ascend just slightly higher into the literary stratosphere than most writers his age.

Not long after the short film adaptation of his one-act play *Motifs and Repetitions*, commissioned by the BRAVO! channel, successfully premiered at the Cinematheque last March, Gatchalian was quickly snapped up by a local talent agent; their union led to a deal with Mirror Productions, a new company in Vancouver intent on producing two of his plays next season.

Tonight, UBC's Theatre department will stage a reading of Gatchalian's latest work, *Crossing*, a two-act drama, at the Chan Centre. Despite this bang-start to his final year at university, the playwright feels "only encouraged" by his success. In an interview days before the reading, Gatchalian cast light on the "serious writer's experience."



"I try very hard not to get carried away [with the success]," Gatchalian admits "If anything, it's a marker that I have done the right thing in my life. It's proven to me that writing is something I can indeed do."

Few people who know or have worked with Gatchalian dispute his claim. Kate Braid, a renowned poet and essayist who took a class with Gatchalian a couple of years ago, describes his work as "stunning, beautiful, replete with dazzling imagery." Bryan Wade, head of the Creative Writing theatre program and long-time professor of Gatchalian's, has in the last two seasons chosen his plays for staged reading events on campus. Craig Holzschuh, the director of tonight's performance, says he and the actors "are very excited about the writing. [Gatchalian's] language is extremely poetic, and [his plays] definitely not your traditional scripts."

Crossing dramatizes the tempestuous relationship between Lucy, a young mother, and Kieren, her teenage son. Throughout the course of an evening, they engage in sadistic memory games, intent to push the other closer off the edge through peek-a-boo revelations of past horrible truths. Religious undertones are very strong in the play, particularly in its structure, which Gatchalian concedes to have based largely on the mass proper for Good Friday. He also wrestles with the Easter archetype, and the grand Christian themes of the death and resurrection of Christ. But it's the transcendent nature of language, and not the brutality of events in *Crossing* that should leave an impression on the audience. Gatchalian employs rich poetic strategies in the dialogue; Lucy and Kieren communicate primarily through imagery and metaphor.

"I'm not a big fan of kitchen-sink realism," Gatchalian explains, "in all writing there should definitely be a quality of otherness, and also a sense of magic, that is, a magical transformation of things that you may find in everyday life into a more rarefied form."

Chris Gatchalian's dramas weave together the Poetic and the Vile. A student in the UBC Theatre and Creative Writing Department, Gatchalian is proving that the dormant theatre scene in Canada can be revived.

pay painstaking attention to language, and strive for rhythm and economy."

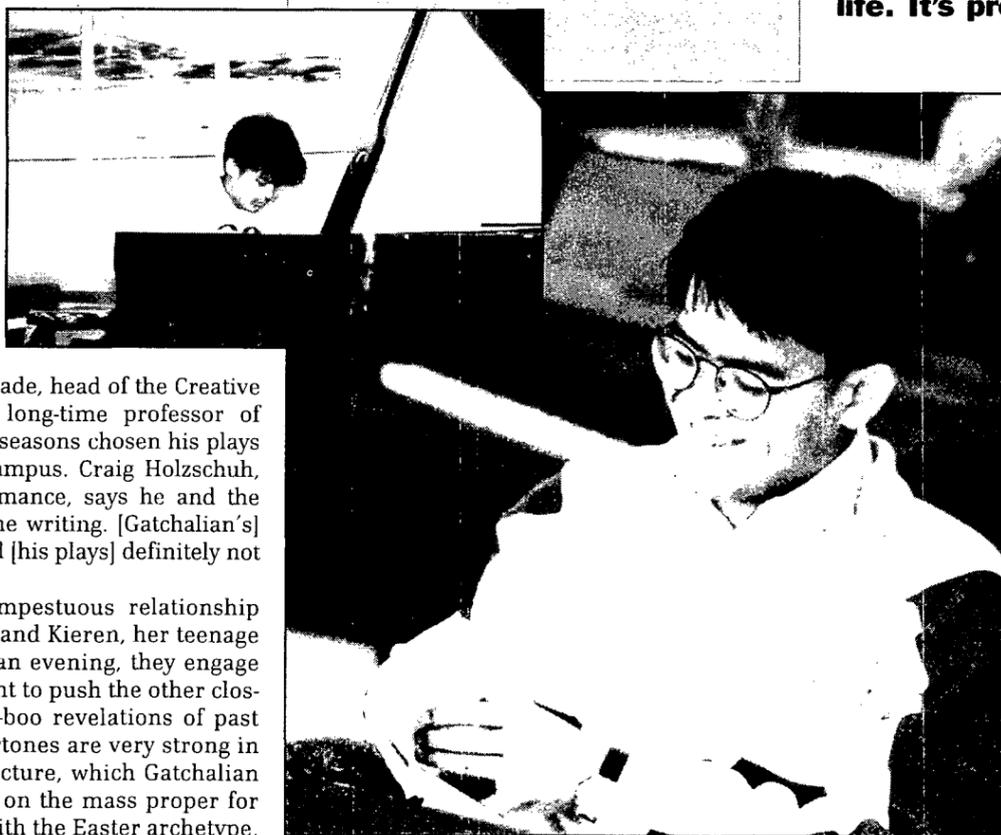
They are principles shaped by his years of involvement in music. An accomplished pianist, Gatchalian began his career at UBC as a music major on full-scholarship. Though he began taking lessons at the relatively late age of 7, he'd learned to play by ear three years before. Soon after, he entered a host of musical competitions. He made it to the finals of the Nationals twice in '86 and '87. His biggest achievement came in '92, when, at seventeen he took the Royal Conservatory exams and earned the highest mark in the country, winning the gold medal and substantial prize money.

Ironically, by that time Gatchalian had lost his passion for music.

"My heart just wasn't in it," he says, "I'd become more and more drawn to writing. I didn't want to spend the next four years in the music department for something I was no

"I try very hard not to get carried away [with the success]... If anything, it's a marker that I have done the right thing in my life. It's proven to me that writing is something I can indeed do."

—CHRIS GATCHALIAN



ONCE A MUSICAL PROTAGÉ NOW A WRITER Chris Gatchalian shows what imagination and hard work can do. RICHELLE RAE PHOTO



Gatchalian labours over his work, and usually producing a single draft in longhand. It's an arduous process, but one that allows Gatchalian to be, and feel, "in complete control of the writing." While it may not pay heed to any specific meter in poetry, metronomic values do guide its flow.

"Each time I write, I want to do three things: make music,

longer interested in pursuing."

Not that becoming a writer was an overnight decision on his part. Around the same time he started taking piano lessons, Gatchalian penned his first stories and poems. In his early teens he watched a performance of Tennessee Williams' play *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Watching the play confirmed to Gatchalian that writing was not meant for him as an endeavour on the side, but a craft he *had* to pursue.

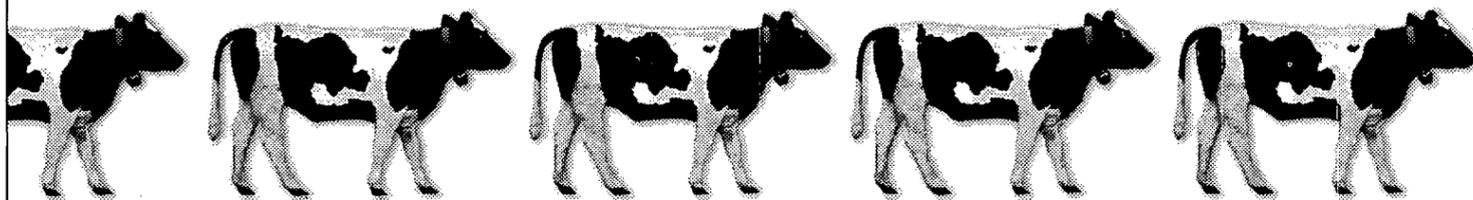
"I was completely blown away by that work. The theme of sexuality in that play, the way there is this battle, this conflict between flesh and spirit...it consumed me," he recalls.



Before his sophomore year at UBC, Gatchalian dropped out of the music department, and in his junior year, became a creative writing major. The plays he's written since then have all been greeted with nothing less than critical acclaim. *Motifs and Repetitions*, the earliest of his works in the program, got published in a national anthology, and is currently in rotation on the BRAVO! network. *Hands*, a longer one-act, placed Gatchalian in the finals of the Pacific-Northwest Writer's Conference contest in 1996. That and another play, *Clair*, will be produced next season by Mirror Productions. In January, a short monologue, *Star*, is scheduled to be filmed by the same director as *Motifs*.

Gatchalian hopes to begin work on a new play soon. In the meantime, everyone is invited to the staged reading of *Crossing*, at 7 pm tonight on a pay-what-you-can basis at the Chan Centre. Should you miss the event, there'll be other readings later in the week. Phone at 822-3880 or 822-2712 for times.❖

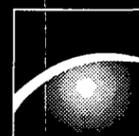
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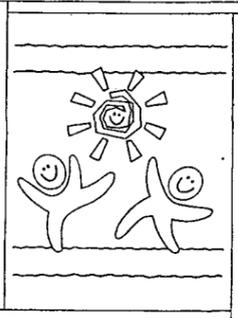
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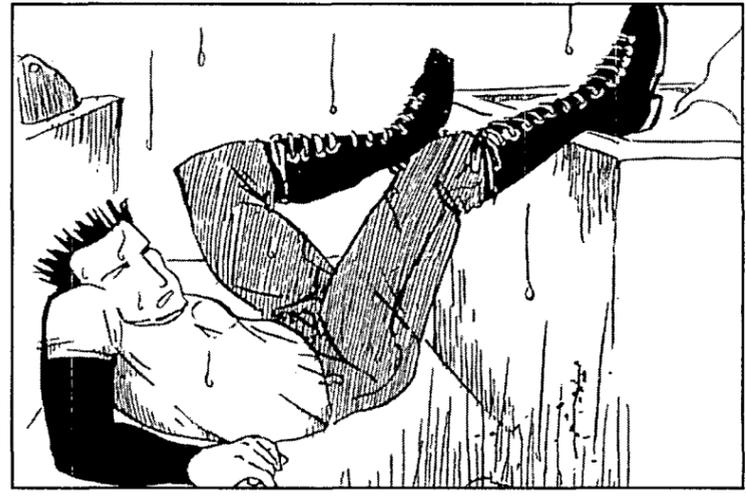
A promising voice calls out from the stacks of new local mini-comics. Demonstrating that less is more in the zines and chapbooks of sequential art, Jason Turner tells short stories with clean pen strokes and well-scripted narratives. He shifts perspectives and arranges images with such skill and confidence, it shows that he knows what he's doing and isn't afraid to challenge himself, even when he makes it look so damn easy.

ZZLE one has a simple enough premise: a guy that needs to take a piss. No, it's not crude; in fact, it's poetic in a minimal sense. The search for an appropriate urination location is merely a mundane motive for the narrator to go for a quick stroll into downtown Vancouver. Picture this: second page, five panels. "Drizzle," a box of

text reads. To its left, you see the edge of a curved Chinese roof behind barbed wire. Below, in the tall, second panel, "In Vancouver Sky [sic] earth and sea meet." The guy strolls quickly away from you along a sidewalk that curves to the left into the distance, singing, "It ain't gonna rain any more." The squarish bottom left panel shows a silhouette of the city about the arc of an umbrella. "Can I wait till downtown?" he asks himself. Then the eye drifts up to the top right corner of the page. The small fourth

panel frames a window with two elderly women inside. Just an unrelated image, glanced along the way. The text steps up across the fifth panel (same size as the second). "A hedge maze?" it reads over a break in the bushes. "With a discreet corner?" it says over a stout woman at a bus stop. "But what of that woman?" Your eyes dance across the pages, stepping along paths of overlapping boxes of text and graphics.

ZZLE two alters the focus from layout to dialogue. This time, in "Hell's Dark Acre,"



Jason and his friend Stu go out for a walk during a blackout. Here's a sample of its witty banter. Jason: "Looks like everyone got bored in their houses. So I guess the modern dweller's attention span is...what...seven minutes without electricity?" Stu: "Wouldn't it be great if people did this voluntarily?" Jason: "It's a government plan to pull communities together."

ZZLE three isn't a story; it's the fun "Fall Fashion Issue," in which Turner contemplates his clothing. Though this is a topic

ripe for navel-meditation or snarky social commentary, Turner avoids both with an unassuming catalogue of his current state of dress. From his hair to his socks, our lovable author recounts the humble, hand-me-down origins of his cool and uncool apparel.

For *Two Feet Gone*, Turner breaks out the brush and puts on his walking boots for a stab at a larger work. As in *ZZLE one*, the first half of this 26-page issue (titled "Wash Out") samples snippets of scenes from the lives of the people we

pass by each day. But you just know a bigger story is afoot when Turner adds a kooky Little Nemo in Slumberland dream sequence and a car ride with two other guys and a bottle of tequila. This, writes Turner, "is my fourth attempt at this story which has been kicking around in my head for ten odd years. Somehow it wedged itself in the middle of a Trilogy this time."

Here's to a long and prosperous journey for this compelling new cartoonist.

—Charlie Cho

Beggar's tale not so Sharpe

Robin Sharpe —Life on the Corner: The Moon Eyed Beggar's Tale
 [Kalayaan Publications]

Pedophilia, prostitution, and physical violence: this is the reality of Jun's existence, the central character in *The Moon Eyed Beggar's Tale*, a novella by Robin Sharpe. Deformed and impoverished, Jun survives life on the streets in Manila by resorting to fantastic daydreams and substance abuse. Sharpe has created a story that is as confused as it is beautifully subtle, as it attempts to address how political decisions have had an impact on the street kids of the Philippines.

The background to the main character's life is multifarious. Jun's father is killed for his communist affiliations and, when his mother and sisters succumb to disease and hunger, Jun is abandoned by his relatives in Manila. While Jun's childhood innocence prevents him from understanding the nature of the conflicts surrounding him, he is aware of how they affect his existence. For instance, the presence of "Save the Children" and world attention means a chance to be in the movies, but also the possibility of being rounded up and disappearing in the night. The poignant simplicity of the story comes through in Jun's naive perception of the world, where predatory "foreigners" are seen as benevolent saviours, and his deformed, moon-shaped eye has the power to ward off evil and protect him from pain.

While Jun's character is written to be both pitiable and lovable, something about him remains unreal. It is

clear that sniffing solvents numbs his fears, letting him forget his deformity and transforms the polluted waters and dirty streets of Manila into a childish paradise. What is less cut and dry, however, is his view of the prostitution that surrounds him. Initially, Jun is confused about the details of his friends' "encounters" with foreigners. For Jun, this translates to baths, Nintendo, and a chance to escape the streets: Yet Jun is on the brink of puberty and is beginning to become more curious about sex, and sex with foreigners in particular.

Something in Jun's story doesn't sit right. Sharpe has created a Manila in which the majority of boys don't seem to mind being solicited and exploited by foreign men. In many cases, they even appear to look forward to it. While their need for money to survive and the risks of rape and beatings are lightly touched upon, most of the boys in *The Moon Eyed Beggar's Tale* seem to be preoccupied with the comforts foreign men may offer. Jun in particular seems fascinated by the mysterious glamour of the "foreigner's hotel room." Since his deformities exclude him from prostitution, Jun's naivety about sex is understandable. The continued washing over of the cruelties of child exploitation are not.

While Sharpe succeeds in creating a character the reader aches to save, he fails at building the steps from Jun's innocent sexual explorations to his sexual arousal at the advances of a foreign "john." Sharpe has made a grave miscalculation in his writing. He forgot that even the greatest work of fiction cannot make a child molester a hero.

—Penny Cholmondeley

Get this into your head

MIKE MCCORMACK
Getting It in the Head
[Vintage UK]

Most people have never seriously considered bludgeoning their brother to death. In a healthy society, that's considered normal. But Mike McCormack will have you believing that you're a little unusual if you haven't given the idea some thought.

In his debut book, a collection of short stories titled *Getting It in the Head*, McCormack displays an infatuation with murder and the inducement of terror. Fortunately, the Irish writer's preoccupation with the macabre is tempered by a spry sense of humour and the result is a bleak but cathartically funny collection of stories.

The opener, "The Gospel of Knives," is a shot in the arm for door-to-door salespeople who have written their jobs off as meaningless and futile. The story revolves around a knife-seller and an unemployed labourer. When the saleswoman appears at the door dressed to the nines, the beer-totting bricklayer gets the idea that this could prove an opportunity for long-needed sexual gratification. And so the sell begins, with the knife-seller putting an unusual

twist on traditional door-to-door sales tactics and ultimately getting what she wants. The story, like most that follow, turns social protocol on its head.

Among McCormack's favourite themes is the effect America can have on a young traveling Irishman. Three of the stories revolve around the theme, with McCormack showing that "the luck of the Irish" is a phrase more applicable to the Kennedy's than to cereal box leprechauns.

In "Angel of Ruin," rather than wheeling around the country on ten bucks and a bit of charm, a sullen boy from Bray sets to work alongside his cousin to upgrade a factory belonging to the most notorious producer of toxic waste in New England. Problems arise when "the kid" assumes a vigour not normally associated with constant exposure to toxin. In McCormack's stories, if it's not a poisoned psyche that does someone in, it's a poisoned workplace.

In the face of oppressive conditions, be it a small-town institution or filial acrimony, McCormack's

characters are consistently resolute. They're also misdirected, close-to-home and highly intelligent. From prison, Gerard Quirke of "A is for Axe" writes his story not as a narrative, but as thoughts elaborated upon under each of the letters of the alphabet. He does this to ensure that self-pity and righteousness, which Gerard feels result from the superfluities of a narrative, do not creep into his documentation of what led to his crime.

It's not the characters that you'll want this book on your shelf for. It's the prose. From beginning to end, McCormack's writing is so inspired that you'll want to leave it at home to save yourself from rolling around on the floor of the bus. The final story, after which the book is named, is, despite its excessive violence, a brilliant exploration of the intense competitiveness of childhood. Forget all the fluff about pre-teen years being fabulously free, McCormack will quickly have you convinced that if you weren't a mercenary or power monger, then you most likely wanted to be one.

McCormack has successfully carved himself a niche in the literary world. Which is just as well considering what he might have been carving up if he hadn't been such a talented writer. ♦

—Jamie Woods

Kafkaesque murder mystery

GRAHAM SWIFT
Shuttlecock
[Vintage International]

If Franz Kafka had ghostwritten for Agatha Christie, the result would have been similar to Graham Swift's new novel, *Shuttlecock*. It is the story of a man trying to come to terms with his father. We glimpse into his childhood and adolescence through reminiscences; in the story's present, we see him deal with a crisis that forces him to make peace with his past. The plot, a complex one, is developed somewhat along the lines of a murder-mystery.

The setting is reminiscent of Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Prentis, the protagonist and narrator of the novel, works for the London Police Department, sifting through the facts of crimes the Department no longer intends to pursue, usually because the accused is dead. These are "dead crimes." At home, his life is less than ideal: his wife is distant and impassive, and he fears his sons despise him as weak.

Prentis grew up with a father no son could have considered weak: a successful engineer, a WWII hero who specialized in espionage, a man idolized by his colleagues and the author of a popular book—titled *Shuttlecock* (Prentis Sr's former code name)—about his wartime exploits. Now Prentis Sr resides in a psychiatric hospital, having suffered a mental breakdown a year after the death of his wife. Since that time, he has not spoken a word. He is effectively dead to his son, who spends evenings poring over *Shuttlecock* as another son might rummage through a storehouse of memories, searching for the man behind the words.

Strange things begin to happen at Prentis's job. Missing

files. Assignments that make no sense. His boss Quinn seems to be sounding Prentis out, watching him on the sly. Or is this only what Quinn calls Prentis's "lurid imagination"?

Neurotic guilt prevents Prentis from addressing his concerns head on, and he begins to lose his perspective. He seems about to suffer a nervous breakdown, agonizing about guilts long past and entertaining anxious, suspicious thoughts about the people around him. Are Prentis's suspicions only encroaching paranoia, or is he really being observed? Is

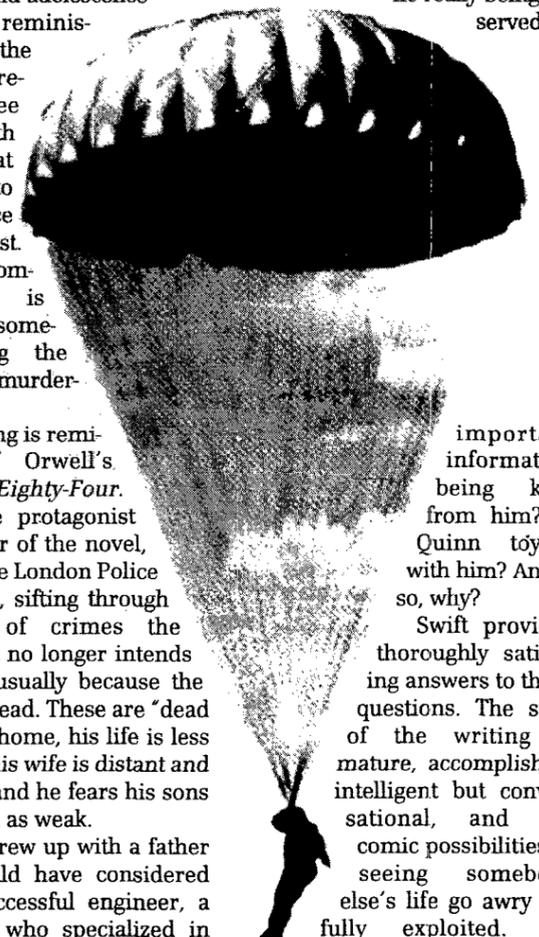
important information being kept from him? Is Quinn toying with him? And if so, why?

Swift provides thoroughly satisfying answers to these questions. The style of the writing is mature, accomplished, intelligent but conversational, and the comic possibilities in seeing somebody else's life go awry are fully exploited. Occasionally some connections are made more explicitly than an alert reader requires, but this barely detracts from an otherwise enjoyable story.

Prentis is an altogether believable character; even his occasional cruelty to his family does not prevent the reader from sympathizing with him, as Swift is particularly adept at taking us inside his thought processes. And the book's message—one of reconciliation and acceptance—is delivered with wit and insight.

All things considered, *Shuttlecock* is a wonderful book. ♦

—Sean MacIlroy



Lieutenant Bezukhov a worthwhile small press gem

Michael Hoffman — *Lieutenant Bezukhov*
[The Plowman]
Box 414, Whitby, Ontario L1N 5S4

In a PR-driven industry where profits mean more than literary quality, small press literature has a difficult time making itself known and appreciated in the mainstream. Undoubtedly, there exists some gems floating in the cluttered smog of small press that deserve some recognition. Michael Hoffman's 56-page novella *Lieutenant Bezukhov* is unquestionably one of them.

Hoffman's story takes place in 1990 in Montreal, when the issue of Quebec separatism is at a high, and the lead character Adam Kirsch's married life is at a low. *Lieutenant Bezukhov* is about thirtysomething dentist Adam Kirsch and his wife Sharon, who shared a perfect relationship that suddenly sours due to Sharon's recent unexplained moodiness. Hoffman interjects a smattering of other topics into the story: a visit from Adam's parents from Japan, the background of Adam and Sharon's family, Adam's commitment and confusion with his Jewish faith, and the Kirsch's 8-year old son Jacob.

While *Lieutenant Bezukhov* may seem like just a humdrum story about some guy and his family

problems, Hoffman's compelling style makes this novella a worthwhile read. His talent and skill with words and sentence construction give the plot a true sense of depth while, at the same time, manage to avoid technical blandness. The story is told primarily through dialogue; this technique works well to effectively develop the characters without the use of superfluous descriptive paragraphs that so many authors rely on to relay information about their characters. Though Hoffman's writing is engrossing at points, perhaps due to the short length of the story and the author trying to fit everything in, the story can be a bit convoluted at times.

Hoffman follows the golden rule of writing: "Write what you know." He grew up in Montreal and has been living in Japan for the last fifteen years. Perhaps the events in the novella are also somewhat autobiographical. This would certainly explain the realism of the story.

The only part that ruined this story for me was the conclusion, but my faith in the author leads me to believe that I'm obviously missing some kind of deep symbolism. I chide myself for my blatant ignorance, but praise Michael Hoffman for the effort he took to create *Lieutenant Bezukhov*. ♦

—Alison Cole

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1997 Speech-Essay Contest
UBC ONE
"Respecting Diversity"

One of the United Nations principles states:
"Young people shall be brought up in the knowledge of the dignity and equality of all people, without distinction as to race, color, ethnic origins or beliefs and in respect for fundamental human rights..."

Writing Topic: Write about personal experiences that illustrate respect or disrespect for diversity. Relate how these experiences have affected you and what insights you have gained.

RULES:

- Must be Canadian Citizen, or Landed Immigrant
- Must be between the ages of 18 and 25 as of January 1st, 1997 (Senior Division)
- Must be submitted in typewritten, single-sided and double-spaced format
- Must write an essay roughly 800 words in length (no more than 5 minutes when presented verbally)
- Finalists not attending the speech portion (in Vancouver, November 25, 1997) will be disqualified

Grand Prize - Trip to Los Angeles
2nd Place - \$500.00 4th Place - \$200.00
3rd Place - \$300.00 5th Place - \$100.00

Entry deadline is October 15, 1997
Need more info., or a registration form?
Call/Write us:
RCC International Canadian Office
8833 Selkirk Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6P 4L8
tel: 263-8551 fax: 263-0933
E-mail: reijucnd@globalserve.net
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Vancouver Barrow Lions Club

STUDENTS 2 FOR 1 WITH THIS AD
DAY OF PERFORMANCE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

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THE WINTER'S TALE
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AMS Update

brought to you by your student union



Your Future Starts Here

An education is the first commitment to ensure a successful future, but have you thought about job experience? It is critical in today's market and everyone dreads the fateful line. "We were really impressed with your credentials, but have decided to hire a candidate with more experience." In frustration, one asks, how do I get experience? **The ANSWER.** With the Alma Mater Society's Internship Program.

The **AMS Internship Program** is designed to provide an opportunity for students to gain valuable educational experience in a workplace environment. Students will be placed in positions where they are expected to augment their skills and knowledge through direct experience with an established company. The positions available are with well established companies, ranging from non-profit agencies to government agencies across the lower mainland. As well the program is open to students from all faculties, from any year, as long as you have the basic background and general interest in the position.

The positions will be posted in various locations throughout the University. In the SUB, they will be posted on the main concourse across from the Gallery. You will also be able to find postings on the **What's on at UBC?** boards located inside most main buildings as well as key outside locations. To apply for an intern position, you can drop off your resumé at **AMS Volunteer Services**, SUB room 100B (on the main concourse), with an attached cover letter.

The best reason to apply for an intern position, is the opportunity to find out what is entailed in specific career paths. The experience will be invaluable, and you will have that extra edge when you decide to apply for your dream job. As well you will also increase your networking circle in the Vancouver community, which will hopefully open new doors of opportunity.

For more information, please contact **Ruta Fluxgold, Vice President of the AMS @ 822-3092** or VicePres@ams.ubc.ca

WANT TO BE SEEN?
WANT TO BE SOLD?

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE YOUR WORKS OF ART SEEN BY ALL? THE GALLERY LOUNGE IS NOW ACCEPTING ART WORK TO GRACE THEIR WALLS. YOU DECIDE HOW YOU WANT YOUR WORK TO BE SEEN. ALL WE DO IS GIVE YOU A WALL (OR TWO).

For more information please contact Michelle O'Neill, Communications Coordinator @ 822-1961 or comco@ubc.ca.

The AMS Update is published weekly by the Alma Mater Society, your student union. Should you have any questions regarding usage of this space, please contact Michelle O'Neill, AMS Coordinator at 822-1961, or drop by SUB 264, or email @ comco@ams.ubc.ca.

Welcome back!

On behalf of the Executive of the AMS, your student society, I want to wish everyone all the best for the year ahead.

Over the summer, the Executive have been coordinating over a hundred student staff and volunteers on projects and services designed to make the coming months more exciting and filled with opportunity than ever before. Their work and dedication have prepared the **AMS** in its many areas: from the administration of the over 200 clubs and 20 constituencies to our Student Government initiatives and the provision of our **Student Services** such as *SafeWalk*, *JobLink*, or *Volunteer Services*.

Busy too have been the student staff and management of the AMS Business Operations. Check out the newly renovated *Pendulum*, visit the *Pit*, or grab your morning coffee from *Blue Chip Cookies*. Our outlets offer some of the best food on campus, and our student staff consistently deliver friendly service.

This year we are excited to welcome our 11th university president, Dr. Martha Piper. She brings a level of energy and excitement which will add up to make this, in her own words, a great time to be at UBC. **We believe her!**

As always, it is *student input that makes it all happen*. Tens of thousands of students prove each year that campus activity is an important part of their life. If there is any way that any of the Executive, **Ruta Fluxgold, Shirin Foroutan, Vivian Hoffman, Jennie Chen**, or myself, can be of assistance in making your student experience a bit better, please contact us. We would be pleased to help.

Once again, all the best for the year ahead,
Ryan Davies
AMS President

AMS Art Gallery

All students and student groups are invited to apply for exhibitions held in the AMS Art Gallery during the 1997-98 school year.

Shows will be one week in length, Monday to Friday 10am-4pm. Applicants must submit 5-10 slides of their current work, a small explanation of their pieces, and a fifty dollar deposit along with their application.

Application forms are available in SUB room 238 and must be completed and returned by Friday, September 26, 1997 by 4:00pm. UBC students are given priority, however all applications will be considered.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS.

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Safewalk is a volunteer program designed to assist in contributing to the creation of a safe learning environment for students and community members of UBC. The *Safewalk* program offers **walk home services** on campus after dark, **drop-by services**, and a **foot patrol**. Students concerned about campus safety are encouraged to apply for *Safewalk* volunteer positions, we offer walker and dispatcher positions. Pick up an application form from the *Safewalk* desk in the SUB and return it to SUB 238 ASAP.

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Joblink is currently searching for committed individuals who are looking to gain valuable work experience in the field of human resources and employment advising. TALK TO US ...if you want valuable experience in some of the following areas

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SUB Concourse Room 100A
Phone:UBC-JOBS (822-5627)



AMS VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Does helping others, serving the community and enriching your university experience sound like something you would like to do instead of reading your textbook for the sixth time?

Then come, and explore some of the hundreds of career options and volunteer opportunities by making an appointment with us, the *AMS Volunteer Services*. Our office is located in the SUB Concourse, and our office hours are M-F from 9-4pm, you can drop by, call us at 822-9268 or check us out on the web at www.ams.ubc.ca

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION, AND HELPING YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS?

The *AMS Ombudsoffice* informs and advises students about University policy and procedures. If you have 3 hours a week to spare and are interested in the above concepts, drop by our office, SUB room 100D, and pick up an application form.

822-4846

assist@ams.ubc.ca



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SUB Room 249D

Ph: 822-9855

STUDENT DISCOUNTS is an AMS Student Service which acts as a liaison between UBC student groups and clothing wholesalers. Since we work with such large volume, AMS Student Discounts is your cheapest source of quality custom made T-Shirts, caps, sweat-shirts/pants or anything your club or team may desire.

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HANDS OFF MY HANDCREAM
at W.I.S.E. Hall
September 6, 7, 9, 11, & 13

by Afshin Mehta

Passing through the local Shoppers Drug Mart you do a little browsing but find nothing worth buying. You leave the store to catch the bus, but just as you make your way out the double glass doors you're grabbed from behind. You turn around and there is a security guard looking you straight in the eye. With a stern frown and an extremely tight grip he accuses you of thievery. The next thing you know you're being frisked. All your accuser comes up with is a half used bottle of handcream that's been in your coat for weeks. He insists that you stole it. You are completely dumbfounded. You are David Goodman. The writer and producer of Vancouver Fringe Festival production, *Hands off my Handcream*, remembers the incident vividly:

"It was that idea of how it made me feel, that inspired me to write the scene and what it said to me about this guy who was so hungry for power that he would be harassing me for this hand cream that was in my coat that was clearly used," Goodman recalls.

Hands off my Handcream is a play about the daily abductions of the human mind and soul by big corporations, and a society obsessed with materialism. Or as Goodman describes it, the play is about, "the deconditioning of the human soul, or actually the conditioning of the human soul, or the desensitisation to this idea, and the struggles against us."

Within the play, everyday situations are pushed to their extreme. Scenes begin with a guy ordering food from a fast food joint and end with him singing the "chicken blues" to the Queen on the twenty dollar bill.

The foundation for this absurd comedy is provided by a talented and committed duo: Jeremy Dingle, and Sheryl McNamara, who is a graduate of UBC's Fine Arts Program. The twosome are a vibrant pair who are well suited for Goodman's dynamic scenes. Sheryl McNamara says she found this play very easy to relate to.

"I was a student [at UBC] and frustrated with the red tape and I (now) have just been working with the

English department... and I'm on the other end of the phone and I'm spewing out the party line and I'm realizing, my God, whenever you are in a job situation and you deal with people on the phone you are representing the corporation."

The actors juggle the difficult task of taking on several different characters throughout the show. At one moment McNamara is playing a fast food chicken vendor who is passionate about her chicken and then switches to playing a heartless bank teller the next. The characters are either victims or villains, demonstrating how in real life people can be either one at any given time.

Get creamed at the Fringe



The play is composed of several vignettes which are looped together by the recurring threat of the slaying of the human spirit by big business and the red tape jungle that makes up everyday life. The play constantly blurs the line between reality and absurdism, calling into question what shapes the reality of everyday existence. Goodman says that "the absurdity of the moment makes the situation more absurd."

Additionally *Hands off my Handcream* is a physical comedy. In one scene a character named Barbara, played by McNamara, is literally sucked into a "Berry Crocker" brownie box. The action

is not isolated to the stage alone. Costume changes occur on stage, and the actors are always eager to converse with the crowd during the play. There is a tight, interactive feel to this play which will be amplified by the cabaret like atmosphere of the play's venue, W.I.S.E. Hall.

The set is improvised using the same props and set pieces to create different moods and environments. It changes from a fast food chicken restaurant to a cell phone dealership with some skillful acting and a bit of imagination.

The original vocals and soundscape, provided by Jeremy Dingle, coincide with the scene breaks. They are a spicy mix of an obnoxious voice-over combined with a vocal imitation of a trumpet. Seem wacky? Definitely. But absurdity and craziness are the trademarks of many Fringe success stories.

Goodman's ultimate message is, "Let me be human. Don't go into my body. Keep this stuff outside." *Hands Off My Handcream* is a play that shows us that no one owns the exclusive right to happiness. ♦

Bad boys the talk of Hollywood

IN THE COMPANY OF MEN
at the Fifth Avenue Cinema

by Peter T. Chattaway

Dilbert does *Dangerous Liaisons* in Neil LaBute's first film, *In the Company of Men*. Chad (Aaron Eckhart) and Howard (Matt Malloy) are two white-collar workers who resent their bosses and their ex-girlfriends with equal bitterness. Sent on a six-week business trip, they decide to get revenge on the one nemesis they think they can handle.

At Chad's request, they find a young woman — a deaf typist named Christine (Stacy Edwards) — and each of them tries to win her affections. The catch? At the end of their trip, both will dump her abruptly. "Trust me," says Chad, the brain behind the scheme. "She'll be reaching for the sleeping pills in a week. And we'll be laughing about this 'til we are very old men."

And so begins the latest film to plug into the political correctness fray. Thanks to its cruel premise, *In the Company of Men* has attracted a great deal of controversy since playing the Sundance festival some months back, and it's likely to be one of the most discussed films of the year.

How people respond to the film may depend on which of the two men they find more intriguing. Some have been outraged by Eckhart's enthusiastic, and unapologetic, portrayal of the malicious Chad. But for my part, Chad was far too obviously a rat even, if not especially, when he poured out the bogus charm. And since the scheme at the heart of the film is basically all Chad's doing, this is an almost fatal flaw in the film. I do wonder whether this is the fault of the character or the actor.

As a character, Chad delights so

much in humiliating, embarrassing, and putting down his colleagues that it's a wonder anyone bothers to confide in him. But at the same time, his overtures to Christine — lines like "I just want to nurture it and see us blossom" — reek of a syrupy, saccharine insincerity that would be tough for any actor to pull off. And Eckhart doesn't pull it off. He is neither adoring enough to make us wince at the imminent betrayal, nor charismatic enough to be convincingly romantic — apart, of course, from the fact that Christine is supposedly desperate enough to fall for anything.

Indeed, Christine is a sadly underdeveloped character. She's pretty, she's deaf, and she's vulnerable — exactly what Chad prescribes for his scheme with Howard — but she's not much else. The film may not be misogynist, as some have claimed, but it does see its only female character of note through a very narrow, and male-defined, screen.

There is, however, at least one great, and truly shocking, performance in the film, and that is Malloy's as Howard. Chad may be an out-and-out jerk, but with Howard, you do get the impression that he has been shat on in his life, and he does elicit your sympathies — at first. But as Malloy peels back the layers of Howard's psyche, and as Howard proves increasingly unable to deal with his own festering malevolence, sympathy turns to pity, and pity, ultimately, turns to revulsion.

Howard can be actually nice, and not merely pretend to be nice, while playing along with Chad's scheme, and there is a menace of sorts in that. But the true shock of the film is that, when Howard finally wants to do the right thing, he knows no better way to express himself than sheer rage. Truth, in the end, proves to be the most abusive thing of all. ♦

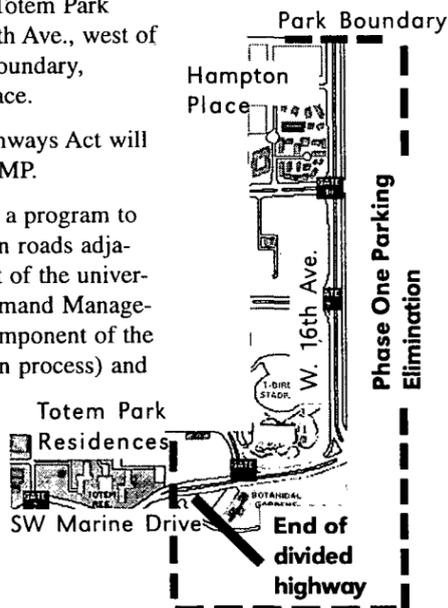
Notice of Change to Parking at UBC

As of July 2, 1997, parking has no longer been permitted on the divided highway sections of SW Marine Drive, south of Totem Park Residences or, on W. 16th Ave., west of the Pacific Spirit Park boundary, adjacent to Hampton Place.

Enforcement of the Highways Act will be conducted by the RCMP.

This is the first phase of a program to eliminate free parking on roads adjacent to UBC in support of the university's Transportation Demand Management program (a key component of the Official Community Plan process) and the Highways Act.

Alternative parking is currently available in the B Lots.



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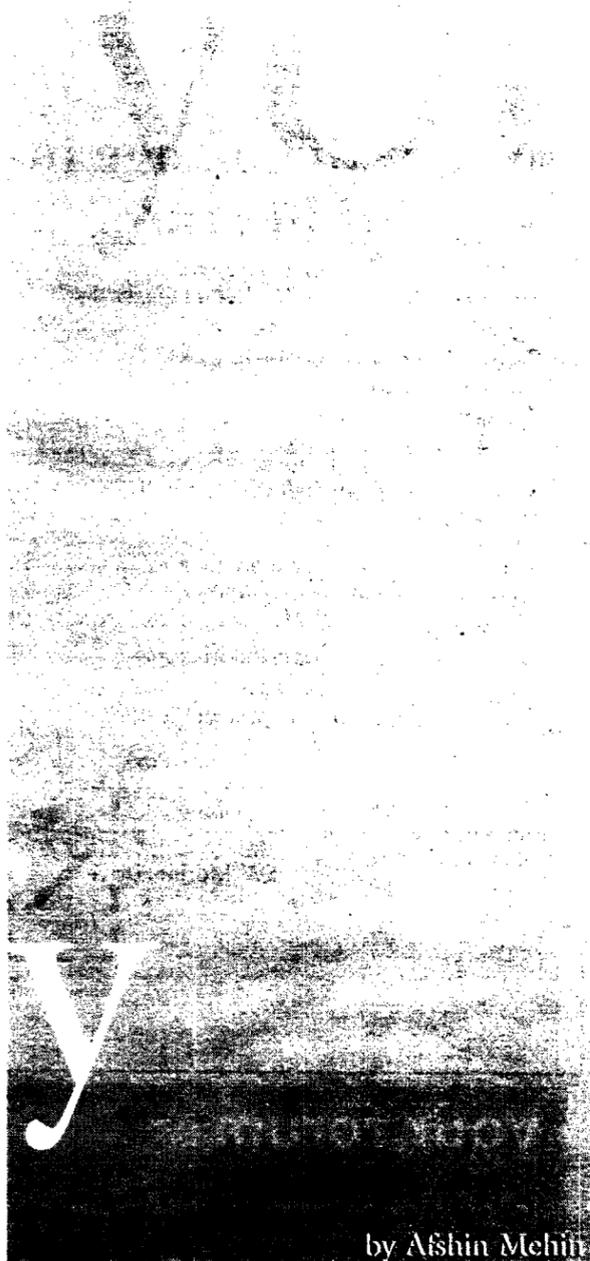
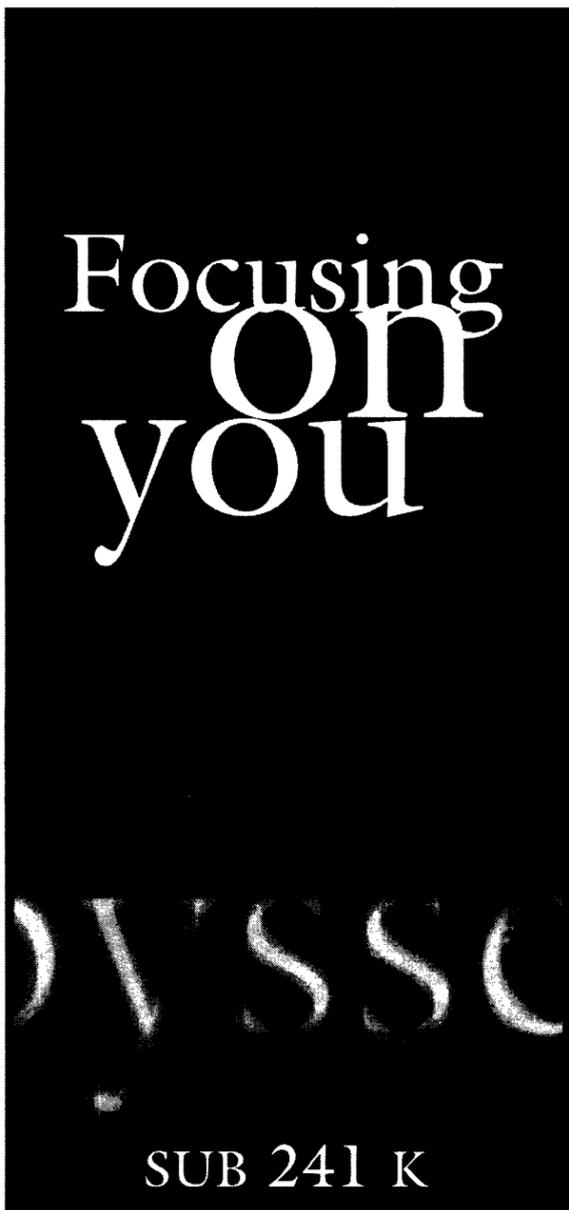
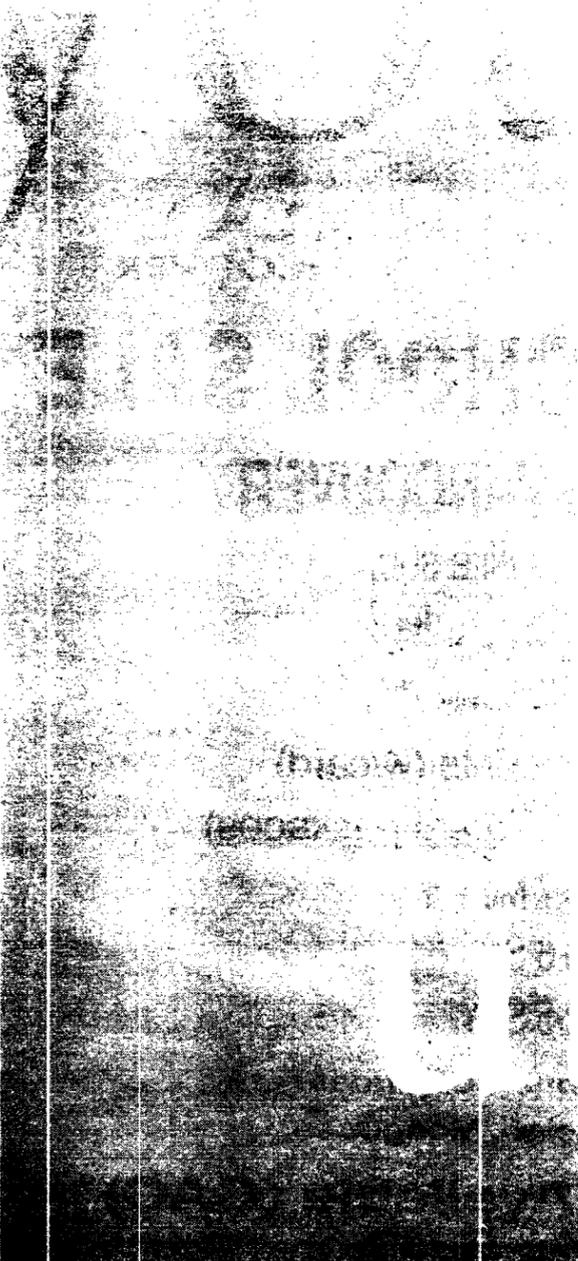
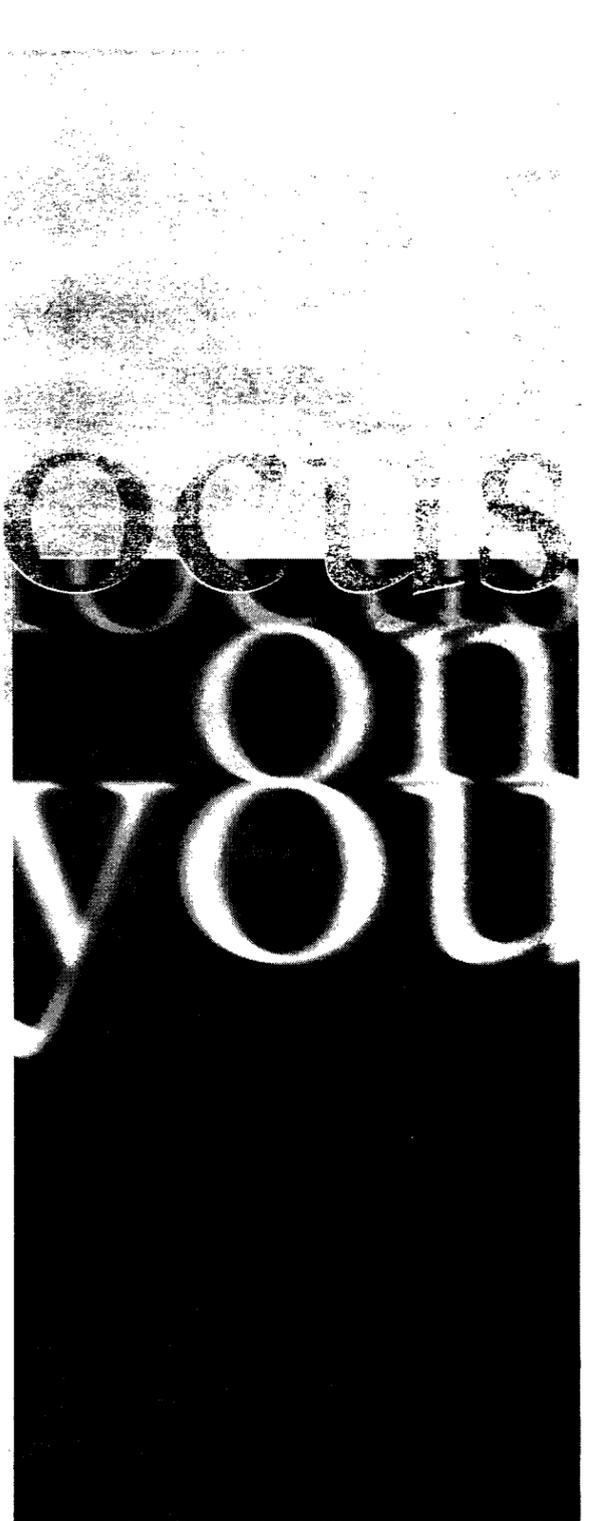
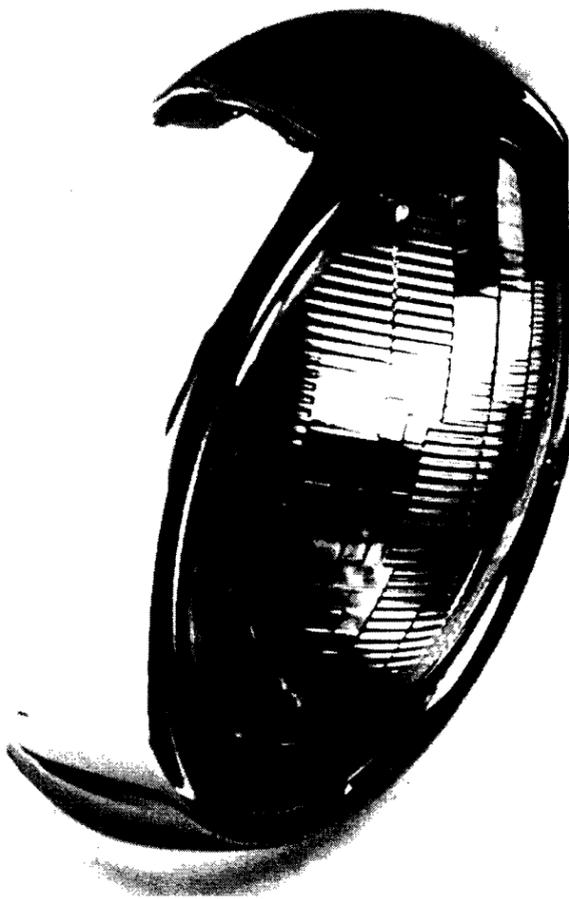
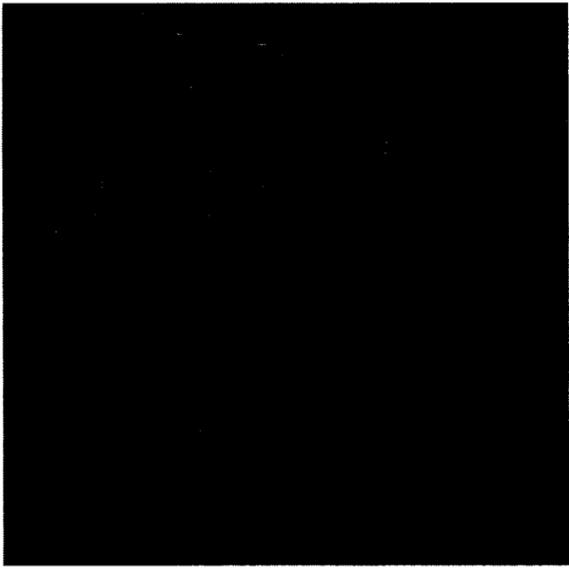
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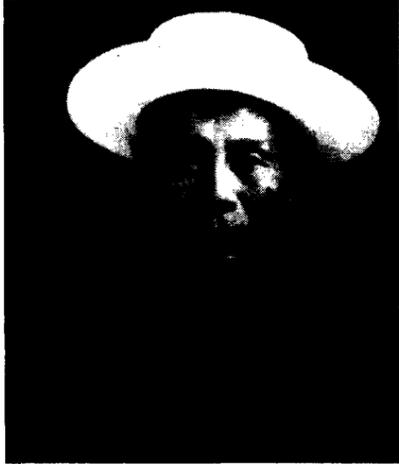


Hoy documents another BC

First Son: Select Photographs from the C.D. Hoy Collection at the Chinese Cultural Centre until September 7

by Charlie Cho

The pressure of a repressed historic memory is swelling and ready to erupt, waiting to be witnessed. The twenty-one photos in *First Son: Select Photographs from the C.D. Hoy Collection*, represent only the initial flow of a volcano with over 1800 negatives waiting to be print-



UNKNOWN: CD Hoy's dramatic portraits of 1910's BC interior.

ed. During the period of 1909-1920, Chinese immigrant Chow Dong Hoy captured the images of Chinese and Native Canadians who lived alongside him in the B.C. Interior. As fresh and enchanting as if they were taken today, the photographs are physical evidence of the dignity and importance of Native and Chinese people in the legacy of this province.

Visitors to the exhibit tended to

spend little time along the exhibition corridor. Reflected in their eyes are the pictures of regular people, many against a canvas backdrop, from a few generations ago. Despite over two years of research and interviews around the lower mainland and the interior by curator Faith Moosang, nothing is known of most of the subjects; the daunting label "Unknown" rests under many photos.

From the few captions, the impression given is that the Chinese residents were both ridiculed and revered. Under the grim grin of a hardened man with rough hands and a creased jacket reads the caption: "Because of his dark colouring, Won Kee Ken was nicknamed Negro Jim. He operated an early placer claim in the Beaver Valley pass, deep in the Cariboo, on a stream later called Kee Ken Creek."

Above all, I highly recommend, no, insist that all patrons (admission's free) purchase the accompanying exhibit catalogue. Though the photos are striking in themselves, the book adds context by describing Hoy's eventful journey from China and his struggles to survive in Canada and support his extended family in China. Also, the proceeds from the sale of the catalogues and posters go directly to the publication of a slicker photographic book and the creation of a larger nation-wide exhibit. Hoy's grandson, Tim, is also planning a web site.

Vancouver Cultural Alliance board member Jim Wong-Chu has called this a "kick ass historical photo exhibit," "a rare find and a must see." Though "kick ass" (particularly from a forty-something) may be overstating it, you may want to kick yourself in the ass if you miss it. ♦



Show is Becktacular!

BECK cruised back into Vancouver Sunday night after 15 months on the road. Striking poses like there was no tomorrow (which there really isn't for him) and dancing like a man who'd forgotten to take his pills, young Beck opened with "Devil's Haircut", and veered wildly through the musical spectrum as if it were his first show of the tour. Beck slithered and soft-shoed from the expected *Odelay* and *Mellow Gold* hits to lovely country ballads to an ear-bleeding heavy metal finale, complete with costumes fit for a Spinal Tap reunion. The star of the show, he exhorted a suprisingly sluggish crowd with his high energy level and shameless showmanship. Opening act The Sneaker Pimps played a dark, moody, bass-laden set that kept the audience's attention, but were more affected by the muddy Pacific Coliseum sound mix than was the manic Beckster. The most effective and interesting parts of the show were actually the country numbers—perhaps an indication of where Beck is heading next. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

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Ubysssey

August 12, 1997 • volume 14 issue 3

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Letters to the editor must be under 300 words. Please include your phone number, student number and signature (not for publication) as well as your year and faculty with all submissions. ID will be checked when submissions are dropped off at the editorial office of The Ubysssey, otherwise verification will be done by phone. "Perspectives" are opinion pieces over 300 words but under 750 words and are run according to space.

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

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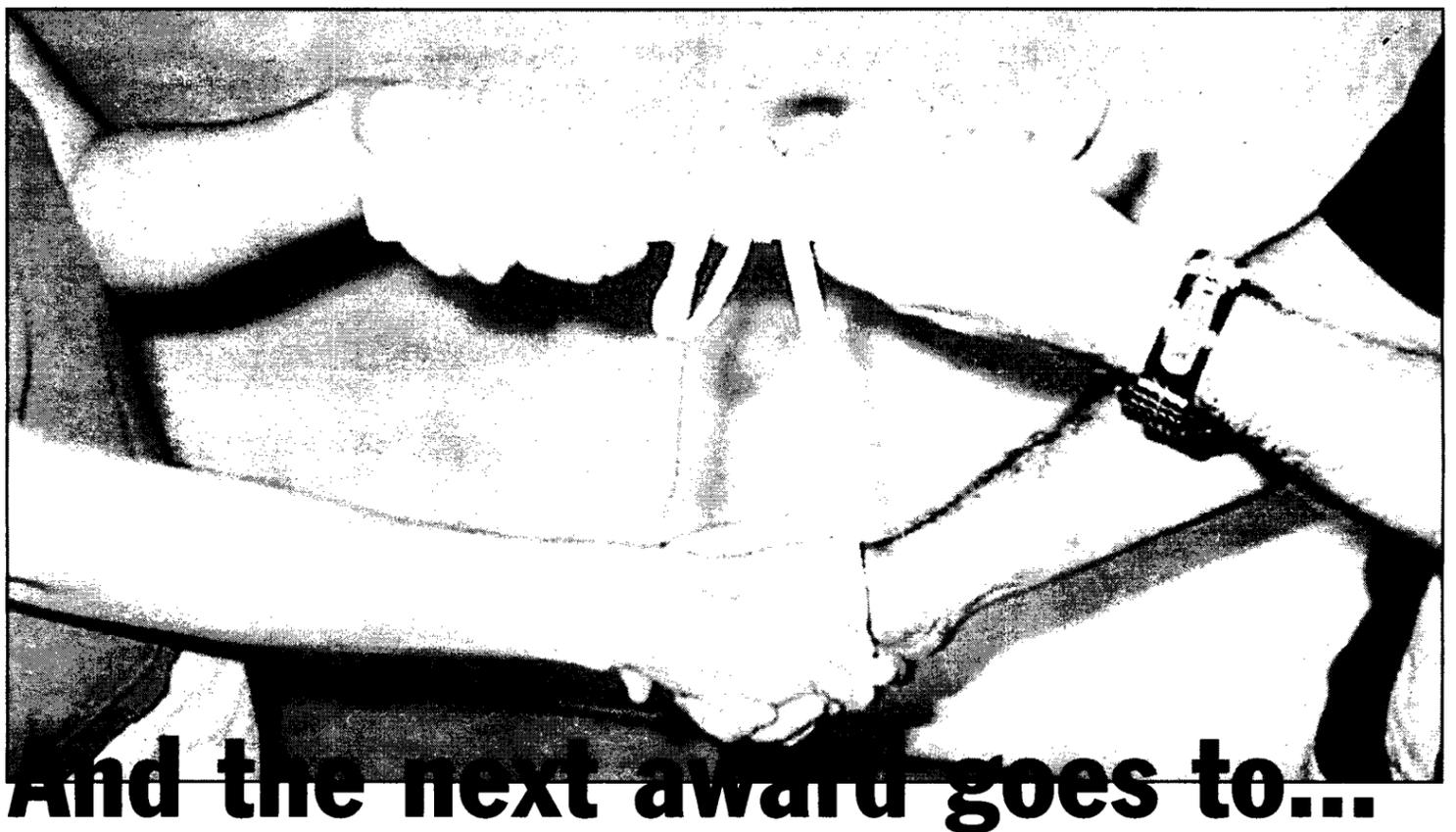
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It was decided, well Sarah Galashan decided, that the Ubysssey would have a show and tell day. Chris Nuttall Smith brought his inflatable Daniel Silverman doll (which really looked more like Jamie Woods) in an attempt to show the crew that he really did have a friend. Ron Nurwasah decided that he would take his pet dog, but Wolf Depner was busy and couldn't make it. Bruce Arthur invited a small riot when his tow M 16 went off killing Douglas Quan, Ashim Mehin, Craig Reynolds and Peter Chaitawac. Charlie Cho did not involve himself in such petty matters so decided to spend the day chasing Sean Metrow with a hilly club. Joe Clark still trying to find himself enrolled in handwriting school before shaving Todd Silver's hair before a very receptive audience. Penny Cholmondeley was so distraught at the sight that she left the office along with Alexandra Thomas, Federico Barahona, Marina Antunes and Paolo Javier so that they could start an all possible TV station. Emily Mak and Alison Cole loved the station idea, but thought that pigs should also be included in any dog program. Richard Lam was still in bed watching all of the dirty Boaris and Butthead episodes with climatic glee. Richelle Rae came in late, so no one could see her prized copy of the first ever Campus Times. John Zoureny brought in his girlfriend, who had sadly deflated since last the Ubysssey crew saw her.



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The University of Victoria took a brave step forward when it decided to award Jiang Zemin an honorary degree in Law. This humanitarianism for the fight for better for foreign investment in China. He has opened doors for foreign investment, loosened the grip of the Communist Government on the economy and helped create more seats in an overcrowded Chinese university system. It seems those at UVic share in Jiang's views, so don't be surprised if the tanks roll into Victoria if enrollment goes up again.

UBC should join the growing movement of universities offering degrees to world leaders. It would only encourage others to follow in Zemin's footsteps, creating a more harmonious world order. Here are some ideas.

Pol Pot: Honorary Doctorate in Political Science. His rise to power, and the way in which he maintained it, could very well be a blueprint in an age of fiscal responsibility.

The cost of holding elections is always high, so every effort should be made to avoid them. So the Pot method—"when in doubt rub 'em out"—could well be the wave of the future.

Margaret Thatcher: Honorary Master's of Economics. Through the total dismantling of the British welfare system she managed to increase corporate profits while at the same time turning the United Kingdom into a Third World country. Strengthening an already firm caste system was not an easy task given the nation's relatively long history of democracy and a previously strong economy. Few could match her accomplishments.

Wilf Hanni, newly elected BC Reform Party leader: His fight for normalcy, which began with his condemnation of his party's previous support for the NDP's same sex marriage benefit legislation, is one fraught with courage and valour. At minimum, he

deserves a Master's in Social Work.

Ronald Reagan: Honorary Doctorate in International Relations. His leadership was pivotal in ending the Cold War. His "nuke 'em till they glow" strategy was brilliant, ending the West's all too cozy relationship with the Evil Soviet Empire. There is nothing like bringing the world that much closer to nuclear holocaust to win political points at home.

Finally, Indonesian President Suharto could earn himself a Doctorate in Spatial Geography. His battle against the overpopulation problem in Southern Asia, has gone largely ignored. Mass genocide, arbitrary arrests and enforced birth control in East Timor—or "people pruning" as it is called in official circles—lessens the great stresses placed on the world's natural resources. Awarding him, and all those like him, honorary degrees will go a long way in making this planet a better place to live. ❖

End the silence

At 7 pm on September 27, 1997 at the Vancouver Art Gallery, the traditional "Take Back the Nite" will be taking place for women of all ages, colour and class to unite and show their support against the sexist violence conducted against women.

Unfortunately, each time I ask one of my female friends, relatives, co-workers or acquaintances to join me in this event with the presence of men nearby, I astonishingly and disgustingly receive similar reaction from the men: stary eyes and silence. I am so dismayed by this reaction because I feel that this behaviour is a lucid microcosmic representation of the larger cold and callous macro-level of our society toward issues that affect the everyday lives of women.

Rape, battering, abuse, sexual harassment, I could go on and on, occur each and every day; women cannot take a holiday or a 30-minute break from the sexist, violent behaviour conducted against them by the privileged individuals of our patriarchal society.

The reality must be made clear: "Some woman is raped every 17

minutes in Canada." (CASAC 1981). Furthermore, I sincerely believe that each and every individual in our society knows of a woman in his or her life who has been raped before.

I hope that those who read this letter will learn and behave differently next time: please do not stare at me in silence...join me in speaking out!

Agnes Cheung

Tell us what you think

You may recognise this space as where we usually run letters.

Unfortunately we have run out of letters that we can run. So we thought we would take this opportunity to remind you about acceptable letters for publication.

If you send a letter but neglect to sign it or give us a phone number where we can reach you, we can't run it.

We also like to get letters under 300 words. If your letter is between 301 and 750 words, we'll still run it space permitting.

the Ubysssey staff

Beam into the Ubysssey
staff meeting

Wednesday @ 12:30 in

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AGENDA:

- tours

- T-Shirts

- comic

- treasurer

- post mortem

A question of honour

by Anita Zaenker

Is an honorary degree to Jiang Zemin UVic's equivalent of UBC's Goddess of Democracy, the statue outside the SUB erected in memory of pro-democracy demonstrators killed at Tiananmen Square? The recent decision of the UVic Senate to award an honorary degree to the President of China upon his visit to British Columbia for the APEC Leaders' Summit had more than just students questioning the intent of such a gesture. How could a university which values intellectual freedom even consider awarding the man whose regime is responsible for some of the worst violations on person, property and intellect in the contemporary world?

A rhetorical question, and yet as academics, UVic's administration chose to answer it. According to university president David Strong, the honorary degree would be to praise Jiang's economic reforms and his position as a populist moderate. The original nomination that went to members of UVic's Senate—who voted 26 to 9 in favour of honouring Jiang—also said something about "celebrating the long-standing ties of friendship between UVic, Canada and China." This doesn't seem consistent with the criteria for which traditionally and categorically have been awarded to people for their outstanding contributions to the arts and sciences, academic research, and public service.

Unless universities are giving out honorary degrees for different reasons in these cash-strapped days of public funding cut-backs. Had the list of criteria included "to develop economic relationships with the world's most attractive markets", inviting Jiang to UVic would still have angered people of conscience like the students, faculty, and human rights activists who spoke out against this degree. President Strong said he had "secretly hoped that this would have been a special opportunity for [Jiang] to raise the level of civil reforms in China to a new level. How could he not, being on a stage like that, speaking to students." What gives Strong the idea that a group of specially selected, fresh-faced Victoria students would inspire the second most powerful man in Asia to reverse

the policy and practice of tyranny against workers, intellectuals, artists, and human rights advocates? Delusions of grandeur are preventing our president from facing the reality that the report from Amnesty International (in the papers on the same day as Senate made its decision) indicates that the Jiang regime set a record for death sentences in 1996. The crackdown on pro-democracy student demonstrators in Tiananmen still continues long after 'moderate' Jiang succeeded as president. Chances are, Strong's real 'secret hope' in this plot is that the leaders of APEC economies will look favourably upon the Island's university and give generously.

Foreign Affairs confirmed that Jiang would be unable to attend



Perspective

the special convocation ceremony due to 'other commitments.' While President Strong insists that the invitation to Jiang still stands, he admits relief that there won't be any student protests. Strong should hold off on that sigh of relief, however. With universities embracing the APEC agenda, with its negative impact on the lives of organised and non-organised workers, students, women, and the environment, students are becoming more aware, critical, and vocal.

There are a lot of questions students should be asking their administrations as the unbridled race towards 'internationalisation' of our universities accelerates. To start, how much is an honorary degree worth? A new library and a school of journalism? Or the lives of thousands who demonstrated for democracy and dignity in the face of persecution? A valuable use of academia's most prestigious honour would be to award posthumous degrees to all students and dissidents who died under the Chinese and other totalitarian regimes. Or, better yet, a degree to the person who finds the cure for moral amnesia.

—Anita Zaenker is the director of academics of UVic Students' Society.

Nothing but flowers



if you don't pick 'em

WILD FLOWERS BLOOMING: don't pick 'em, if you didn't plant 'em reads the sign. RICHARD LAM PHOTO.

By Richelle Rae

their own homes.

Stop and smell the flowers; DON'T PICK 'EM! The flowers growing on the vacant lot at 4th and Alma didn't get there by accident. But many people thought they did. Instead of enjoying a random act of kindness — they decided to loot the lot.

The urban angel that was silent until the flowers started disappearing. In reaction to the looting, a sign has been hammered into the ground as a not-so-subtle reminder on how to enjoy a public garden.

These days Greenspace is often sold to the highest bidder — this usually means putting the construction of trendy condos and high rise apartments ahead of preserving and cultivating the few inches of Greenspace we've been allotted.

FREESTYLE

Someone has decided to create their own Greenspace. They took the time to find a spot, plant the seeds, and brighten up an otherwise grey corner. It took time for the wild flowers to grow, but many passersby picked them, hoping to bring a bit of colour and beauty into

Summer is ending and the flowers will soon be gone; before they are, remember to respect and enjoy them. It isn't often that someone does something nice for everyone else for nothing.

—Richelle Rae is a fourth year Arts student and the Culture Editor of the Ubyssy in her spare time



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