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# 2016

## The year in stories.

## EVENTS

THURSDAY JANUARY 5

**OPEN MIC** 7 P.M. @ THE GALLERY 2.0

Show off or watch your friends kill it at the Gallery 2.0's open mic night — open to anyone!

FREE

SATURDAY JANUARY 7

**SLC** 5 P.M. @ CHAN CENTRE

Over 1,200 student delegates and hundreds of volunteers will come together to "Disrupt Ordinary."

$42 for UBC-affiliated, $63 for non-UBC-affiliated

SATURDAY JANUARY 7

**HOUSE PARTY** 9 P.M. @ KOERNER'S

The Calendar is launching their brand new website and throwing a party to celebrate (obviously).

$10 advance tix/$12 door

## ON THE COVER

**ART BY**
Kate Colenbrander

**2016**

Want to see your events listed here?
Email your event listings to
**printeditor@ubyssey.ca**

THE UBYSSEY

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The Ubyssey accepts opinion articles on any topic related to the University of British Columbia (UBC) and/or topics relevant to students attending UBC. Submissions must be written by UBC students, professors, alumni, or those in a suitable position (as determined by the opinions editor) to speak on UBC-related matters. Submissions must not contain racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, harassment or discrimination. Authors and/or submissions will not be precluded from publication based solely on association with particular ideologies or subject matter that some may find objectionable. Approval for publication is, however, dependent on the quality of the argument and The Ubyssey editorial board's judgment of appropriate content. Submissions may be sent by email to opinion@ubyssey.ca. Please include your student number or other proof of identification. Anonymous submissions will be accepted on extremely rare occasions. Requests for anonymity will be granted upon agreement from four fifths of the editorial board. Full opinions policy may be found at ubyssey.ca/submit-an-opinion

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## OUR CAMPUS

# The top Our Campus stories of 2016

PHOTOS JOSHUA MEDICOFF, KOSTA PRODANOVIC AND JACK HAUEN/THE UBYSSEY

Clockwise from top left: Ashley Bentley, Santa Ono, Ava Nasiri and Robert Rouse.

**Leo Soh**
Our Campus Coordinator

Sunrise, sunset. Swiftly the years fly. Now that 2017 has begun, I've compiled a list of the top six Our Campus stories of 2016. From a cello-loving president to the chef hitting the refresh button at UBC, here are some of last year's best-written, most-read and most undeniably beguiling articles.

### ROBERT ROUSE OPENS A GAME OF THRONES COURSE AT UBC

**By Arianna Leah Fischer**

The English department approved a Game of Thrones seminar for the 2015/16 academic year and *The Ubyssey* met with Robert Rouse, the professor leading the much anticipated course. We learned that the seminar focused on the texts rather than the HBO series, and that Rouse sees medieval literature as a reflection of its contemporary context. This year, the majors seminar was converted into a second-year course, which Rouse taught again in the first term. According to the English department's website, this rendition of the course did require students to watch all six seasons of the HBO series. They have yet to confirm if a similar course will be offered in the 2017/18 year, but fans of fantasy can still enroll in a second-term seminar which will focus on the works of J.R.R. Tolkien and Ursula Le Guin. The only prerequisite for the second-year seminar is six credits of first-year English.

### MEET AVA NASIRI, YOUR AMS PRESIDENT

**By Vassilena Sharlandjieva**

At the end of the annual AMS Elections media rush, our then-features editor Vassilena Sharlandjieva sat down with the newly elected AMS President Ava Nasiri. We learned that despite her success in student politics, she initially felt out of place at UBC, and found her niche by volunteering with the AUS, thereafter getting involved as a student politician. Nasiri herself led the discussion at the AMS AGM when she pitched the idea of buying a school bus for commuter students. If you have any questions about her or the AMS in general, feel free to ask Nasiri herself. "I would love for anyone who has any questions about the AMS to pop by and say, 'hey,'" she said.

### UBC ATHLETES PREPARE FOR THE OLYMPICS

**By Sophie Sutcliffe**

Last summer, a record number of UBC students went to compete at the Rio Summer Olympics, which has led to the athletics department starting to call UBC a "sports school." We learned that Olympic-level student-athletes lead a double life, and carry out training regimens so taxing that they may only attend "two weeks total of class" during an Olympic year. Despite the challenge, attending the Rio Olympics was the fulfillment of a lifelong dream for many UBC students and with Overholt earning a 4x200m freestyle relay bronze medal, UBC students now have an Olympic champion as their peer!

### PRESIDENT SANTA ONO ON STORMING THE WALL, CAMPUS SPIRIT AND TWITTER SELFIES

**By Olivia Law**

One of the biggest news stories of the year was the appointment of Santa Ono for the role of president at UBC. Our then-features editor Olivia Law found Ono to be "just as engaging and likeable as he appears on paper." He has not disappointed his Twitter followers, continuing his strong online presence at the handle @ubcprez. In the Our Campus piece, Ono said he "plans to be extremely visible throughout his time at UBC" and he has certainly lived up to that promise with lively cello performances at the Imagine Day pep rally and his inauguration. With Ono being officially installed on November 23, some questions remain. Most importantly, will he Storm the Wall? Only time will tell.

### ASHLEY BENTLEY IS WORKING TO MAKE UBC A SAFER PLACE

**By Leo Soh**

This past year, we've had to say goodbye to many public figures. On campus, this has been no exception, with SASC Manager Ashley Bentley leaving her role to work as the sexual assault intervention and prevention advisor for UBC. From 2013 to 2016, Bentley oversaw the SASC's rapid growth, and played a large role in making UBC a safer place. Despite her accomplishments at the SASC, Bentley said that sexual assault is an epidemic. With more and more people accessing its services, the newly hired SASC manager, Shilo St. Cyr, will have her work cut out for her. As Bentley put it, "In terms of creating that cultural change and making sure that survivors and people who have caused harm are getting the support they need — we do need more."

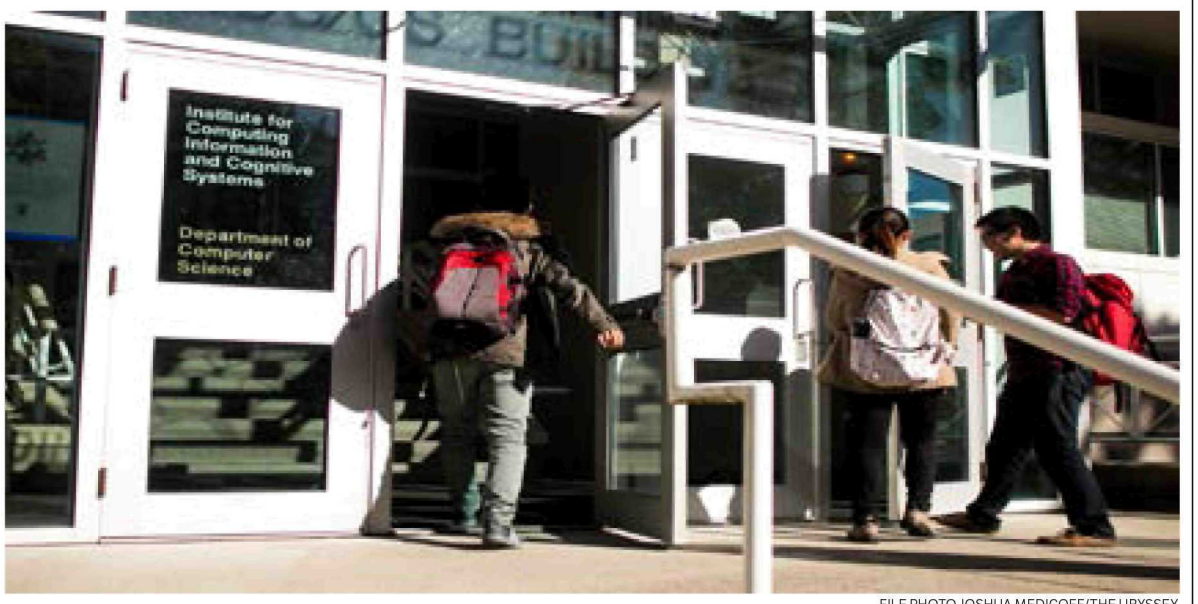
### STEVEN YZERMAN IS UBC'S "FOOD TRUCK TYCOON"

**By Leo Soh**

One of the goals of the Our Campus section is to offer exclusive insight into the lives of UBC's hidden stars. Without a doubt, chef Steven Yzerman fits that mould. He was hired at the beginning of September to update and manage the food trucks and catering divisions of Student Housing and Hospitality Services, and he's already changed what you'll be eating for lunch. With the exception of the Dog House and It's About Thai, which will update in January, the food trucks now boast reworked — and in our opinion, improved — menus.

COMPUTER SCIENCE //

# Investigation launched after complaints about CPSC 213 final exam




FILE PHOTO JOSHUA MEDICOFF/THE UBYSSEY

The CPSC 213 final exam reportedly had multiple corrections for every question.

**Alex Nguyen**
Staff Writer

On December 21, UBC's computer science (CPSC) department launched an investigation into the circumstances surrounding CPSC 213 final exam. This decision was made in response to a r/UBC thread called "Thoughts on CPSC 213 final?," where commenters describe an "unprofessional" exam.

The main problems were reportedly error-laden and poorly formatted questions. According to commenters on the thread, these issues hindered students' performance and the ability of the three teaching assistants' (TA) abilities to invigilate.

"There were only six questions in total, so I was shocked by how many corrections [and] clarifications the TAs had to make," said an anonymous CPSC 213 student in an email submitted to the department's information collecting initiative. Due to her position as a TA she was not comfortable being revealing her full name. "They first made oral announcements, then put clarifications on the blackboard, but finally projected a full screen of corrections.

"The TAs barely managed to walk around answering all the questions, not to mention washroom supervision or student card checking. It was appalling how easily people [could] cheat on our final and get away with it," said her email.

According to a broadcast email to CPSC 213 students, the investigation plans to address these issues by conducting two concurrent inquiries to address the issue of fairness and allegations of cheating.

The first inquiry involves "an [unspecified] senior [faculty member] who has extensive experience in CPSC 213 [working] with the course instructor, Dr. Ahmed Awad, to review the exam, the corrections that were made to questions by the invigilators and the marking process to ensure that results are [fair and consistent]."

The second inquiry is led by Ian Mitchell, the department's associate head for undergraduate affairs. He "will be interviewing the TAs who invigilated the exam and reaching out to any students who have already [submitted] concerns" to "investigate concerns related to other conduct."

Despite the focus on the exam, there have also been numerous complaints about the course section. Based on the Reddit thread and interviews conducted prior to the announcement of the investigation, the exam seems to be less of an anomaly and more the result of ongoing problems.

One issue was the course's disorganization.

"The most common thing I heard during my lab was that lectures were not well-prepared," said Liran Li, a TA for this course section. "Sometimes the lectures lacked a couple of slides, so we went on Piazza and asked for changes. [The instructor] eventually made them, but it took a while."

Course materials also sometimes contradicted each other.

"[Most of my time] was spent deciphering slides and trying to figure out whether to go with Awad's slides, [another instructor]'s old slides, the course companion, Piazza or a TA's answer, all of which contradicted in very real ways at times," said Reddit user "tuthurdeen" in the subthread. "I think I'm just going to sit in on CPSC 213 lectures next term to fill in the gaps."

This problem was similarly noted in the email submitted by the anonymous source. She further reports that there had been "various mistakes in the exercises and exams." In particular, there were typos or errors in both the midterms.

Another issue was the instructor's lack of communication.

For instance, some students were particularly concerned about the instructor's absence at the exam because they were not informed about his absence and the reason for it.

"[Likewise], the TAs who invigilated were a bit confused about the situation even the night before the final," said Li. "He sent out an email to each of us asking if we would like to volunteer for invigilation. Some of us replied, but he didn't reply back to say that 'we got this many and we'll be meeting at some time,' so I would not expect him to explain too much why he was not at the exam."

Communication issues were present throughout the term.

For students, a common criticism was about Ahmed's inactivity on Piazza. According to the email submitted to the department by the anonymous source, he only answered two questions and posted one note besides offering "zero office hours during final exam season."

For TAs, it was reportedly difficult and slow to contact the instructor via email. Furthermore, there wasn't any weekly meeting to keep them up-to-date with the lectures.

"For the first few weeks, he actually emailed us to make a schedule for TA-instructor meetings, but it turned out that we didn't have a good schedule," said Li. "It was hard to get everyone together, so he stopped doing that and we made our own meetings. Definitely after October, I hadn't interacted regularly with our instructor."

Similar communication problems were also noted by Jonathan Budiardjo, a TA for the summer section. When asked if there is an instructor evaluation for TAs to voice their complaints, both Budiardjo and Li recalled none.

It is currently unclear how the department will approach these complaints about the course section overall. The department has declined to comment further until the investigation is over.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION //

# Gender identity and expression added to discrimination and harassment policy

FILE PHOTO JOSHUA MEDICOFF/THE UBYSSEY

The change was approved in the December Board of Governors meeting.

**Sophie Sutcliffe**
Senior Staff Writer

On December 6, the Board of Governors approved an amendment to UBC's Policy 3 of "Discrimination and Harassment" to include gender identity and expression as explicitly protected grounds.

"The impetus to change [the policy] at this time, rather than waiting for the usual review process of Policy 3 ... came from [the Trans, Two-Spirit and Gender Diversity] working group," said Sara-Jane Finlay, UBC's associate vice-president of Equity and Inclusion. According to Finlay, the customary review process of the policy will start at the beginning of this term.

According to a UBC press release, Dr. Mary Bryson, chair of the working group, proposed the amendment during a meeting of the Vice-President Strategic Implementation Committee for Equity and Diversity in early October.

"I would say that was part of our agenda from the very beginning," said Evan Taylor, a member of the working group since it started in March 2016. "It came up at the very first meeting and it was something that we worked with the university on until it got put into place."

While the change to the policy names gender-diverse individuals as a protected group at UBC, these individuals were already covered under the policy due to changes in the BC Human Rights Code, which was changed in late July through Bill 27 to explicitly include gender identity and expression.

"There is a provision in the policy that says that it covers all of the grounds that are recognized by the BC Human Rights Code, so right away, even though it wasn't a named ground in the policy, it was covered," said Finlay.

"While gender identity and expression was earlier sort of read into those protections, I think that it's important that UBC is very explicit in the protection for folks, particularly so that all members of stakeholder groups are addressed and protected in the policy, [and] that people know that they are explicitly protected," said Taylor.

Finlay also noted that although these grounds were already legally covered — since gender-diverse individuals were included under the previous legislation due to interpretations of the already existing gender protections — it is important to have them explicitly named at the university level of policy.

"Politically recognizing gender identity and gender expression recognizes those people in our community who are trans or gender diverse, and it's time to do that," said Finlay. "We need to be asserting equal rights for all people and that their human rights are protected.

"I think an explicit statement around gender identity and gender expression is incredibly important."

CONTROVERSY //

# UBC apologizes to Furlong, won't reinstate him as banquet speaker

**Sruthi Tadepalli and Samantha McCabe**
News Editors

UBC has apologized for cancelling John Furlong's contract to speak in the wake of a letter of protest and community criticism of child abuse allegations made against Furlong.

"UBC made this decision in good faith, but without proper consideration of its potential impact on Mr. Furlong or his family," said UBC President Santa Ono in a written statement.

Furlong is known for his work as CEO of the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. In 2010, UBC granted him an honorary law degree for his work.

In 2012, he became the centre of controversy after an article published in the Georgia Straight accused Furlong of physical and verbal abuse of children, many of whom were First Nations, during his time teaching at a residential school in Burns Lake in 1969 and 1970.

When Furlong was announced as the keynote speaker at the 18th annual ZLC Millennium Scholarship Breakfast — set to take place in February — UBC received a letter of protest from Glynnis Kirchmeier, who has currently filed a human rights complaint against UBC, and criticism from members of the UBC community on Twitter. She and members of the community criticized UBC for choosing a speaker that had allegations of abuse against him despite the university's commitment to the truth and reconciliation of Indigenous peoples.

"How does standing next to a man who many First Nations people say struck, slapped, strapped, knocked down with basketballs, sexually assaulted and verbally degraded them advance the goals of Truth and Reconciliation?" reads Kirchmeir's letter of protest.

"Mr. Furlong has consistently stated that he is innocent of the alleged abuse and each allegation that has been subject to investigation by the RCMP or finding of the courts has been found to be unsubstantiated," said Claire Hunter, Furlong's lawyer in a written response to request for comment on allegations raised.

It was announced on December 23 that Furlong would no longer be the keynote speaker.

"While this decision was made without my knowledge or that of the UBC Board of Governors, I deeply regret this error and have apologized to Mr. Furlong on behalf of UBC. We do so again here," said Ono in the written statement. The university has confirmed that it was the UBC Athletics Department that made the decision, primarily to keep attention on the athletes that the banquet is supposed to honour.

Andrea Shaw, founder and managing partner of TTG Canada, the company that handles Furlong's speaking engagements, is asking UBC to reconsider their decision and reinstate Furlong as keynote of the event, according to the *Vancouver Sun*.

UBC's public affairs department, however, says that UBC will be standing firm in its decision.

"UBC will not be reconsidering its decision regarding this breakfast speaking engagement," said Susan Danard of UBC Public Affairs in a written statement to *The Ubyssey*. "Regarding the future, President Ono has said that decisions need to be made following a more robust deliberative process. If, following such a process, the university determined there might be a role for Mr. Furlong, there is no reason why he wouldn't be contacted."

UBC has received quite a bit of backlash for their decision to remove Furlong — in an interview with the *Vancouver Sun* Shaw noted that they had received over 75 letters of support from community members.

"While some take issue with Mr. Furlong, he also has a great number of supporters in the community, and there can be no question over his record of public service and his extraordinary contributions to amateur sport, to BC and to Canada," said Ono in the written statement.

Shortly after UBC's apology, Furlong released a statement through *The Province*.

"I accept UBC's apology and regret for this decision and while very disappointed, I want to continue to put the students first," he said in the written statement. "I ask that everyone ... continue to support the event as it is imperative that vital funds are raised to support and entice aspiring athletic stars to UBC."

Furlong also asked that the university still committ his full speaking fee to the athletics fundraising efforst, which UBC has since said they will be.

"We very much appreciate Mr. Furlong's statement and continued support of UBC Athletics," said Ono in a written statement.

**Got a juicy tip?**

We're all ears at news@ubyssey.ca

AMS //

# Nest refinancing to save students millions in interest payments

**Helen Zhou**
Staff Writer

The Nest's $66 million construction loan, once taken from UBC, will soon be financed by an external bank. This will reduce the interest rate from 5.75 per cent to 3.5 per cent and save students millions, said AMS President Ava Nasiri.

At the current rate of interest at 5.75 per cent, it costs $4,066 per day. The reduction in interest rate means that it will cost the AMS $2,475 per day instead, meaning that less of the Nest fee paid by students will go towards paying it off.

However, the Nest fee of $100 a year per student will not go down.

"What this means is that students won't have to pay it for as long as they would have," said Nasiri. "Whereas originally the fee would have been $100 per student per year until 2050, now we can stop paying the loan much sooner."

The refinancing will not affect other Nest or AMS services such as food venues or Speakeasy.

UBC, the original financier of the loan, supports the AMS refinancing the Nest.

"It makes sense for the student union, which is completely independent of the university, to try and find a lower rate of interest and it makes sense for the university to have the loan repaid," said Peter Smailes, UBC treasurer, in an emailed statement to *The Ubyssey*.

There is a remote possibility of the AMS defaulting or failing to repay the loan, which will mean that the bank financing the loan will take possession of the Nest. However, the possibility of this is slim, according to Nasiri, even given the new changes in the BC Societies Act.

"It would have to happen through a referendum to allow students to opt out of paying the mandatory Nest fee or some kind of major change in legislation," she said.

"There is confidence in the AMS's ability to maintain upstanding financial status, both from the university and the bank from which we end up financing the loan, because students, when faced with the decision to pay the fee or lose the Nest, I think they will want to maintain and keep the use of this building."

The AMS had begun discussing the possibility of refinancing the loan in the fall of 2014, and it has since been approved by a credit rating agency and most recently, the Board of Governors. It is now pending approval by the provincial government.

"While there is a provincial election going on, this is a matter of the financial well-being of students, not just today, but for the next 40 years," said Nasiri. "The sooner it's addressed and the sooner we can move forward on it, the better it is for the generations of UBC students to come."

WESTCOAST CONSORTIUM OF PRIVATE LAW SCHOOLS

INTERESTED IN LAW SCHOOL?

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ASK questions about Admissions and Financial Aid.

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10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

*Seattle University School of Law*
*12th Ave. and E. Columbia St.*
*Seattle, Washington*

Admission is *free*!

RSVP by January 27: law.seattleu.edu/wcc

NOT ACTUALLY WRITTEN ON A TYPEWRITER //

# Letter from the Editor: New year's resolutions for the culture section — finding the real student experience

FILE PHOTO KAI JACOBSON/THE UBYSSEY

Not all new year's resolutions have to do with finally using that expensive gym membership, though that would also be a good idea.

**Samuel Du Bois**
Culture Editor

It is easy to get complacent in this section. Enough stories come my way that I could easily stick to reviews, previews and interviews concerning campus goings-on and do a well-enough job at it to end the day satisfactorily.

But how many people really care about that sort of thing? The question is not rhetorical. I can go online and find all of the hard numbers from past articles to tell you that a good culture article is read by around 1,200 of you — maybe more, maybe less. It's a respectable number. But when you consider that UBC has a student population of undergraduates numbering 42,986 and graduate students numbering 9,735, the number starts to look less impressive.

So how do you reach the other roughly 51,500 students? The fact that you all live in Vancouver means that you must have some contact with and caring for culture. Surely there is some interest of yours or activity that you do which you would want to read more about.

The conundrum of reaching more people has been eating at the back of my brain since I took this job back in April. How do you appeal to the rest? My section is by students and for the students — if not many students are reading it, then there is obviously a change that needs to be made.

Figuring out what the culture section is for is tricky as hell. Culture, as a topic, is so general and hard to define that often times a section that is not focused or does not know what it is about can come across as sloppy, and will end up doing a lot of different things anywhere from poorly to adequately. There must be a consistent approach, a consistent voice and a consistent focus.

I'm sure there are plenty of you who go to the opera and theatre, who take in every Belkin exhibit and like going to MoA on weekends. But as most people will see when they go out on a Friday night, students are a migratory species. Campus is where our weeks are spent, but the nightlife and weekends belong elsewhere — the cafes that we hang out in, the stores we go to and the places that we get in trouble tend to be beyond the well-kept malls of UBC. Vancouver is as much, if not more, a part of the student experience as our campus is. So if that is where students are going to do whatever it is they do, that is — I assume — what they will want to read about.

I still want to cover campus events. The theatre, the opera, the Chan Centre and all the other fixtures of this place are important not only for the experiences that they offer students, but also for the important opportunities they give talented people in the arts to see their work realized. Their recognition is vital and a service which I feel is owed to them while also being thoroughly deserved.

But there is so much more out there. Student move throughout the city — their lives do not only take place in performance halls and art galleries. There are the restaurants, clubs, hangouts, outdoor activities, jobs, drinks, drugs and other aspects of our lives that exist in the far-reaching corners and alleyways of Vancouver. These are the parts of your lives — however obscure, stigmatized, controversial or strange they may be — that I feel obligated to explore with the culture section. Your lives are not the clean, well-curated and highly-sanitized existences that you see in UBC brochures and photographs of smiling students who are studying on the knoll while drinking Starbucks, and *The Ubyssey*'s coverage of student culture should reflect that.

So my new year's resolution for *The Ubyssey*'s culture section is to opening the doors to all of you. If you have suggestions for things that you'd like to see us cover, send me an email or come into the office and pitch them. If you have criticisms, ideas or just want to tell a cool story about something crazy that happened to you as a student, I am listening. Tell me about the campus and the Vancouver that is a part of your life, and I will do my best to turn my section's gaze towards that.

In return, I will do my best to ensure that our coverage is up to the highest standards possible, that it is objective, interesting, engaging, honest and most importantly, written in the interest of you — the students. We will not mince words. We will not censor. We will neither downplay nor sensationalize. We will endeavour to show you what the world around you is like with as much vivacity and integrity as we can muster.

Get in touch with culture@ubyssey.ca. Give an email with the subject heading "Suggestions" so that I know it is in response to this article. If you want to write for us, that is a great way to contribute as well. If you just want to pitch ideas, that is cool too.

**Have you formed opinions on different types of wine?**

Then you should write for culture! Sign up online at ubyssey.ca/volunteer

TO DO //

# Culture Briefing: January 3-10

**Samuel Du Bois**
Culture Editor

In case the freezing cold, the sidewalks so slippery that you take your life into your hands walking to get coffee and the general start of the semester have got you feeling a bit shitty, the AMS is bringing us Frost Fest 2017 to warm the ice-encrusted souls of the student population. Running between January 4 and 13, Frost Week offers a few activities to get you through the first days of classes in a slightly better mood. Here are what's coming in the next week:

### JAN 4: PIT NIGHT

This is pretty much like any other Pit Night, giving you and the rest of your fraternity the chance to satisfy your ravenous cravings for beer, dank beats and Pie R Squared between the hours of 6 p.m. and 2 a.m. Drink away your existential sorrows, brah!

### JAN 5: OPEN MIC

From 7 to 10 p.m., some brave souls will air on the side of utter madness, pull out their acoustic guitars and mount the stage at the Gallery 2.0 to serenade their audience with that sweet cover of "Stairway to Heaven" that they've been working on. Plus, the Gallery has a new speaker system installed, so if you fuck up, we will hear it with extra clarity.

### JAN 6: PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Follow the delicious smells to the bus loop to nab yourself a steaming plate of free pancakes liberally drenched with syrup-y goodness. The earlier that you show up, the more likely you are to get your hands on some of this deliciousness.

### JAN 6: ACRO-YOGA

Sure, it sounds like the type of yoga that will break you in half, but there are few better ways to end the day than a yoga session. This is all part of the UBC Yoga Club's week of drop-in classes. They only cost $2, without requiring you to buy a membership and run from January 3 to 15. There are an immense amount of classes to choose from, but the acro-yoga session in question will be taking place from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

### JAN 9: UBC IMPROV

The show is free if you have a Winter Classic Ticket and will run you $5 otherwise. Show up at 7 p.m. to the Nest Performance Theatre and enjoy a typically excellent comedy show from the UBC Improv team.

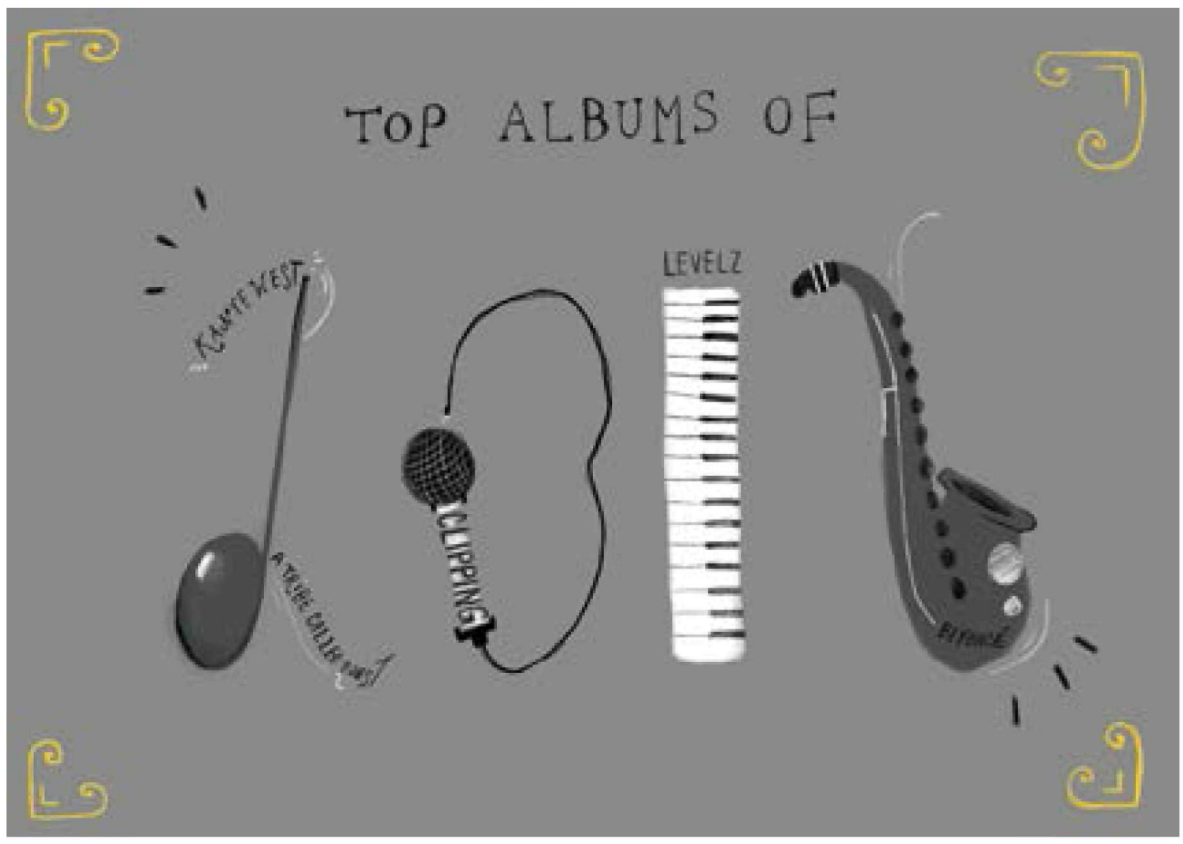
### JAN 4-12: COFFEE FOR COMMUTERS

For you bleary-eyed, daylight-loathing troglodytes suffering through your morning commute to class, a free dose of coffee will be awaiting your arrival at the bus loop between 8:30 and 11 a.m. Go get your fix of caffeine, you fiend!

DANK BEATS//

# Sean Harbottle's top five albums of 2016

**Sean Harbottle**
Writer Abroad




It's been a good year for music, but somehow we managed to narrow the list down to five.

ILLUSTRATION BY AIKEN LAO

### 5. LEVELZ — *LVL11*

**"I can count my friends on my hands and toes, and I'll never be overthrown." — LEVELZ, "Skittles"**

It's only right that I should start the list to get my "indie" pick out of the way, who happen to be a thoroughly British set of artists. One of the things that made 2016 not quite the most irredeemable year on record was the resurgence of British Grime. Skepta shutdown the charts with Konnichiwa and won the Mercury Music Prize for his efforts. Chip and Yungen's diss tracks provided a war narrative more engaging and more real than anything on *Game of Thrones*. Within its first two weeks — before the entire year went to shit — Manchester collective LEVELZ quietly dropped the best British Grime album of the year.

With nearly every track a posse cut, the real achievement of *LVL11* is introducing the personalities of each MC — Skittles, the maniac freestyling machine; Chimpo, the gentle giant comic relief; and Black Josh, the skittish upstart to name a few. This is a hard task considering the MC's lack of pop chops. But the gruff, shouty, sleazy hooks earworm their way into your ears, aided in no small part by the distinctive production that recalls two-step, reggae, g-funk, dubstep in its bitches brew. These are the gateway drugs for the real addiction — the mile-a-minute rate of bars, punchlines, subliminals dropped by each rapper. Singles "LVL07," "LVL09" and "Rowdy Badd" are bombastic showcases — the posse not so much murdering the beats as hanging, drawing, quartering, crucifying, resurrecting and killing again with aplomb, but the real treats are to be had in the deep cuts. The raucous party animals of the album are "Bow Wow," the drunken, wobbly, sloshy 4 a.m. vibes of "Worship," and the morning after confession of "Slow Down." Turn LEVELZ up — it's stuff that deserves to be played loud.

### 4. BEYONCÉ — *LEMONADE*

**"I am the dragon breathing fire. Beautiful mane, I'm the lion. Beautiful man, I know you're lying. I'm not broken, I'm not crying, I'm not crying." — Beyoncé, "Don't Hurt Yourself"**

When Beyoncé's self-titled 2013 album premiered, headlined by "Drunk In Love," she was dominating. Jay Z's lackluster verse on that song, as well as the ultimately forgettable Drake and Frank Ocean features (fight me) only served to distract from the main event. In this case of "Drunk In Love," it serves as a reminder of how outdated and plain bad Jay sounds next to his wife. Of course, back in 2013, we did not know just how bad Jay would turn out to be. Beyoncé's part-love letter, part-revenge fantasy, all explicit *LEMONADE* fully realized the audio-visual potential of Beyoncé, and also acted as a radical affirmation of blackness and femininity — and most importantly, womanism — in the face of demagogues and deplorables that worked to demonize both.

Although I could gush about *LEMONADE*'s visuals and poetry for the remainder of this write-up, it deserves a spot in the top five based on its musical content alone. The narrative — chronicling intuition, heartbreak, rage, jealousy, denial, acceptance and reunion within its runtime — might come across as overstuffed or cliche if it wasn't for Ms. Carter's voice at the centre. It is as raw and hollow on the opening, "Pray You Catch Me" as it is grieving and melancholic on "Sandcastles," as it is confident and proud on the closer, "Formation." "Formation," although released as a promotional single, acts almost as an encore on *LEMONADE* — the post-credits sequence or victory lap after "All Night." But the album finds its natural end earlier for me, on the track "Freedom" — she speaks to her own freedom, but also the disparity between her female freedom and the freedoms afforded (or, in the greater instance, not afforded) to the mothers of Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner and Michael Brown: Sybrina Fulton, Gwen Carr, Lesley McFadden. But through their agency, their racial identity and their acts of refusal — in her words — they are bulletproof, they are true and they are new.

### 3. CLIPPING. — *SPLENDOR & MISERY*

**"I can't go back home 'cause I want to be free. Someone tell the others what's become of me." — Paul Oakenfield, "Long Way Away"**

Look, I LOVED Hamilton. I loved it all! "Non-Stop?" "Guns & Ships?" Dope shit! But after the initial hype, looking at it in the context of the "Whitelash" that dominated 2016, I couldn't help but think more critically about what Lin-Manuel Miranda presented. It's a radical notion to depict a diverse cast of African-Americans, Latino-Americans and immigrants as the builders of American Freedom, but is it ever right to glorify the founding fathers, people who wept for freedom even as they held literally hundreds of humans as slaves? Hamilton shies away from that question, reducing the question of slavery to a punchline or two. It's hard to sing along to Thomas Jefferson's showstopper "What Did I Miss?" not simply because I'm tone-deaf — although that certainly is an issue — but because I know that Jefferson continuously raped his slave Sally Hemings over the course of her life.

But Daveed Diggs, the man who portrays the rapist in question, also quietly created with his fellow members of clipping. Jonathan Snipes and William Hudson — a counter-narrative to Hamilton's historical romanticization of slave-owners, putting the voice of a slave at the forefront. *Splendor & Misery*, which is only the outfit's second release of 2016 (following the excellent Wriggle EP) is set on an isolated, slave-commandeered spaceship in the not-too-distant future, amidst the aftermath of a violent slave rebellion in outer space. Typing that out, it sounds ridiculous — not even mentioning the relationship cultivated between the unnamed entity and the onboard computer unit — but I can promise you that listening to Digg's skittish flow dancing over the radio static of "True Believer" and around the slave spirituals of "Story 5," it's real and revolutionary. As the oft-repeated comment says on the YouTube stream, "Where were you when clipping. released the greatest sci-fi novel ever written?"

### 2. A TRIBE CALLED QUEST — *WE GOT IT FROM HERE... THANK YOU 4 YOUR SERVICE*

**"My n***a spirit be talkin' to me, let me explain, / Not through evil mediums, tarot cards, and Ouija games / But through mixing chords and boards / And even drum machines — he be saying: / N***a fuck awards, keep reppin' Queens" — Q Tip & Phife Dawg, "Black Spasmodic"**

Well, who'd have thought it? Following the election of a demagogue and the loss of one of its forming members that would've left a lesser group reeling on the ropes, A Tribe Called Quest came back swinging harder than ever. The black community is here in spades — Q-Tip's in-house studio holds guest to Busta Rhymes, Anderson .Paak, Talib Kweli and Consequence, coming out of the woodwork to craft something that stands both as a sign of the times and a tribute to moving forwards in the wake of unbearable tragedy, both personal and political.

From the first scatterbrain AK-47 flows of "The Space Program," it's clear the Tribe are gunning for blood. Whether their targets are mumble-rappers, politicians, or even abstract concepts like the Ego or the cruelty of death in "Lost Somebody," the Tribe hit 100 per cent of the shots they take.

None of the songs end easily — their natural flow is interrupted by an oddball sample, or cut-off by the solid wall of sound crashing into the next track. It makes the album sound unfinished or poorly edited. Here is my interpretation — when someone leaves your life, there is no fade away or resolved chord. It feels like they have been violently ripped from your life's narrative — that there wasn't enough time for them to fully explore their potential. Much has been written of the impact of Phife Dawg's death, but perhaps nothing expresses the effect that the tremendous loss of his life being cut short has had on hip-hop better than when the samples and songs on *We Got It From Here...* follow suit.

### 1. KANYE WEST/DORIAN YE —*THE LIFE OF PABLO/PAUL*

**"You can never go too far when you can't come back home again." — Kirk Franklin, "Ultralight Beam"**

I went to church for at least seven-ish years as a Catholic kid. I learnt the values of belief, love, devotion and above all truth. So please believe that I speak truly when I say that listening to "Ultralight Prayer" and "Ultralight Beam" in the first seven minutes of *The Life of Pablo* brought me back to those seven years of church. That sounds like an unholy hyperbole, but honestly, having this music during a period of my life when I was furthest from a sense of home or community was invaluable. And yes, that sounds ridiculous. To put *The Life of Pablo* in the same type of politically charged hip-hop as the 2016 releases of Beyoncé, clipping. and A Tribe Called Quest would do a disservice to all four of these artists. But *The Life of Pablo* doesn't have to be political to be real. The reverence of "Ultralight Beam" is real. The paranoia of "FML" is real. The cloud of doubt and hollow performance that overshadows *The Life of Pablo* is real — at least to me. All of this becomes more real with context of West's hospitalization, his mental illness, his waves of haters, his debt (?), his contact with his wife, and his children's birth and growth. *The Life of Pablo* is a confusing mix of honesty and frustration ("Real Friends," "Wolves") masked by massive displays of bravado and performative masculinity ("Famous," "Highlights") that hopefully marks a progression towards some kind of realness.

The edited version released by Dorian Ye on Reddit, *The Life of Paul*, only serves to compound these ideas and reveal the layers into Kanye's soul. Using elements of each fragmented release, live performances, leaked demos and original samples, *The Life of Paul* transforms an engaging look through the egotistical celebrity psyche into a work of art. Nothing is added that could not have come from West's original production, and so *The Life of Paul* stands as a fascinating "what if ?"

*The Life of Pablo* is not the most political, the most cohesive, nor the most tasteful album released in 2016. It is not the greatest artistic expression of 2016. But it is the most real album released in 2016. There is no dirty detail sanitized, no word left unsaid and through Dorian Ye's editing, no musical idea or sample left unfulfilled. *The Life of Pablo* is not outselling *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*, but poses as a cautionary tale of the college dropout who got too

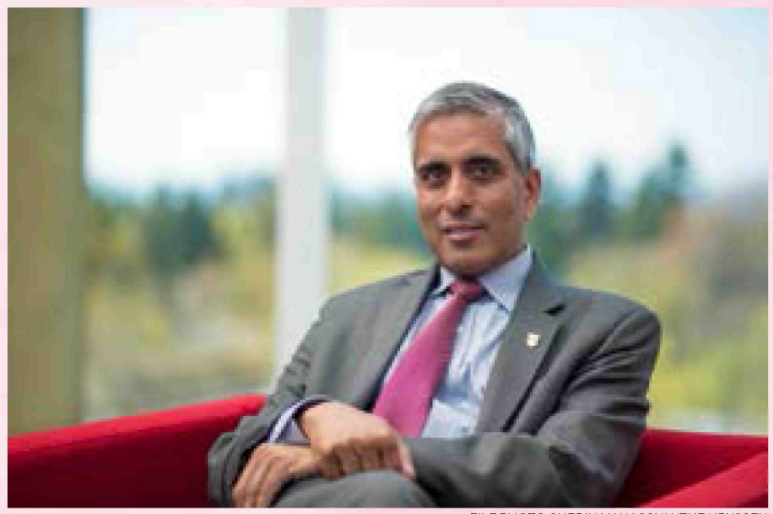
# The stories that defined 2016

**WORDS** JACK HAUEN **PHOTOS** VARIOUS

This year was a hectic one for the world and UBC was no exception. The university saw a quick end to a rookie president's tenure, followed by the election of a new one, bringing with him a cult of personality. The T-Birds were once again split between utter dominance of their categories and... underwhelming performance. Profs' research impacted the world, art exhibits made us reflect on it and student politicians never failed to bring the drama.

Without further ado, here are — in our opinion — the stories that made UBC in 2016.

**JAN**



FILE PHOTO CHERIHAN HASSUN/THE UBYSSEY

## Guptagate

Leaked documents told the full story of the leadership crisis steeped in animosity that led to Arvind Gupta's resignation after he unexpectedly left in August 2015.

**FEB**

FILE PHOTO JOSH CURRAN/THE UBYSSEY

## Flag burned

During OUTweek, the rainbow pride flag was burned down. An outpouring of support from the UBC and greater Vancouver community immediately followed. Brooklyn Marie Fink, a trans woman who said that "LGBT politics have ruined [her] life," eventually confessed to the crime. She was charged in April.

**MAR**

FILE PHOTO PHILIPPE ROBERGE/THE UBYSSEY

## AMS elections

Ava Nasiri (pictured) took the presidency, while Chris Scott, Samantha So, Kathleen Simpson and Louis Retief rounded out the rest of the newly-elected executives. Elections season is so much fun, we even made a podcast about it!

APR

PHOTO COURTESY WEST ANNEX NEWS/FLICKR

## Sexual assault bill

Bill 23 — which was passed in May — gives universities one year to establish a policy on sexual assault, something UBC has been working on since releasing its first draft in June and receiving feedback from the university community.

SUMMER

PHOTO COURTESY UBC ESPORTS

## eSports

The university's oft-overlooked powerhouse eSports team dominated the uLoL Campus series, taking home $180,000 in scholarship prize money.

SUMMER

FILE PHOTO JACK HAUEN/THE UBYSSEY

## Ono hired

UBC finally found the successor to Gupta that promised to unite a broken administration.

"I will work hard every day on behalf of this great university, the province and the country," said Ono. "Thank you for making it possible for this Vancouver boy to return home."

SUMMER

FILE PHOTO NANCY LEE/THE UBYSSEY

## Galloway fired

After spending almost eight months suspended with pay, Steven Galloway was finally let go. This kicked off a controversy which has not settled down since, including Canadian authors signing a letter demanding UBC follow "due process," and Galloway and the student who accused him of sexual assault each giving their own sides of the story.



SEP

GRAPHIC PETER SIEMENS/THE UBYSSEY

## The Guide

We put together an enormous guide containing everything you could possibly need to know about UBC. Check it out at ubyssey.ca/guide!

OCT

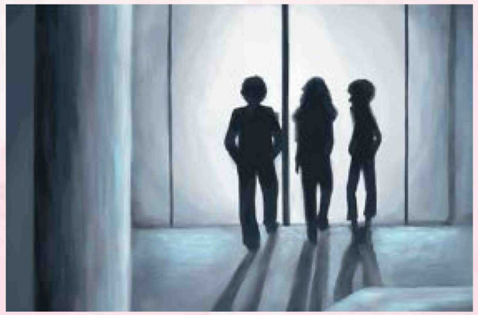


ILLUSTRATION AIKEN LAO/THE UBYSSEY

## The restructuring

The AMS already went through a restructuring last year after a rigorous review process. Last year's president says they got it done in one go, while this year's says that "phase two" is all part of the plan.

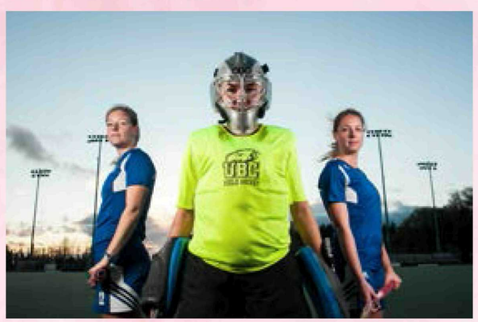
NOV

FILE PHOTO JOSH MEDICOFF/THE UBYSSEY

## Tip of the iceberg

We go deep into the best forms of contraception available to students.

DEC



FILE PHOTO KOSTA PRODANOVIC/THE UBYSSEY

## Field hockey

The T-Bird women's field hockey team now has 18 championship titles and is tied with the women's swim team for the most national championships out of all the Thunderbirds teams.

CLUBS //

# Letter: Free Speech Club shouldn't be taken seriously

**Patrick Gilin**
Fifth-year Spanish Major

The UBC Free Speech Club is certainly polemic in their defence of the right to say what they want. Whether or not it's effective is a different question entirely and one that I'd like to address in brief.

Given the current political climate, I don't think what they are doing as individuals or as an organization is at all surprising. The value of shocking statements in politics at all levels — from the mixed, small town/student government environment of campus, all the way to national (US) and international (Brexit) politics — is obvious. It's having a moment, and whether or not it will be a flash in the pan or a long-lasting current is difficult to say.

What's true is that these kinds of politics are inextricably linked to the idea that the voice of certain — and rather large — cohorts of the population isn't being heard. In this way, it's a brand of damaging identity politics, a sort of tribalism that takes part in the same behaviors that the supporters of both populist politics and men's rights (which is a difficult term) often charge other groups — feminists, activists for minority or immigrant rights, proponents of political correctness — with encouraging, towards divisive ends.

In either case, the AMS has shown itself to be apolitical in chartering the group behind the yearly anti-abortion demonstrations, so even a contentious club has a good chance of being chartered. This by itself undermines then-president of Free Speech Louis Jung's assertion that the club's charter was refused because it "isn't a feminist masculinities club."

The UBC Men's Rights Club was probably not rejected for wanting to work on issues such as biases in legal proceedings about child custody or towards presenting an additional perspective to the Sexual Assault Support Centre's Healthier Masculinities program. Here are the goals expressed by Phillip Johnson of CAFÉ with which the UBC Men's Rights club is associated.

They probably were not rejected for presenting an opinion that club members feel is contrary to some institutionally enshrined feminism. The protests organized by UBC Lifeline are very unpopular, and yet by following proper procedure and cooperating with the AMS, UBC and UBC Security to book time and space, their protests have been staged successfully for years.

Instead, it comes from the somewhat unpalatable reaction that the AMS's decision drew from supporters. To draw a parallel, I'd like to mention the actions of certain members of Hong Kong's Umbrella Movement when they were to be sworn in as members of the SAR's Executive Council. Their refusal to take the oath that all other members had taken, combined with a variety of antics including opening umbrellas in the chamber, led to a refusal to seat three members.

One doesn't have to look very hard to see a certain similarity between this and the AMS's unwillingness to deal with a group whose members go by handles like "DJdeportation" on Twitter and draws support from a club whose leader bluntly proclaimed the AMS's decision "bullshit."

Coupled then with proceeding to place a male symbol on the engineering cairn, just steps away from the site of commemorations for the Montréal Massacre, the overall picture they paint of themselves is that they are a volatile group, impulsive and more bent on expressing displeasure than following due process or cooperating with others to achieve their goals.

The real reason they aren't being taken seriously is perhaps because they aren't acting seriously. They could petition, could rewrite their club's proposal, could speak with the SASC program directors with the aim of forging an unlikely but perhaps productive alliance — a variety of ways forward were open. Through their actions, the club's organizers and supporters have loudly rejected all of them. The firebrands have burned their bridges and are now frustrated they can't cross the river that lies between fringe group and recognized clubs.

As I'm sure members of the Free Speech Club would agree, one has a right to say what they believe and they've certainly said it. However, there's no such right to being taken seriously. That they have to earn.

*Patrick Gillin is a fifth-year student majoring in Spanish.*

MENTAL HEALTH //

# Mind your mind: Countering mistaken beliefs with daily affirmations

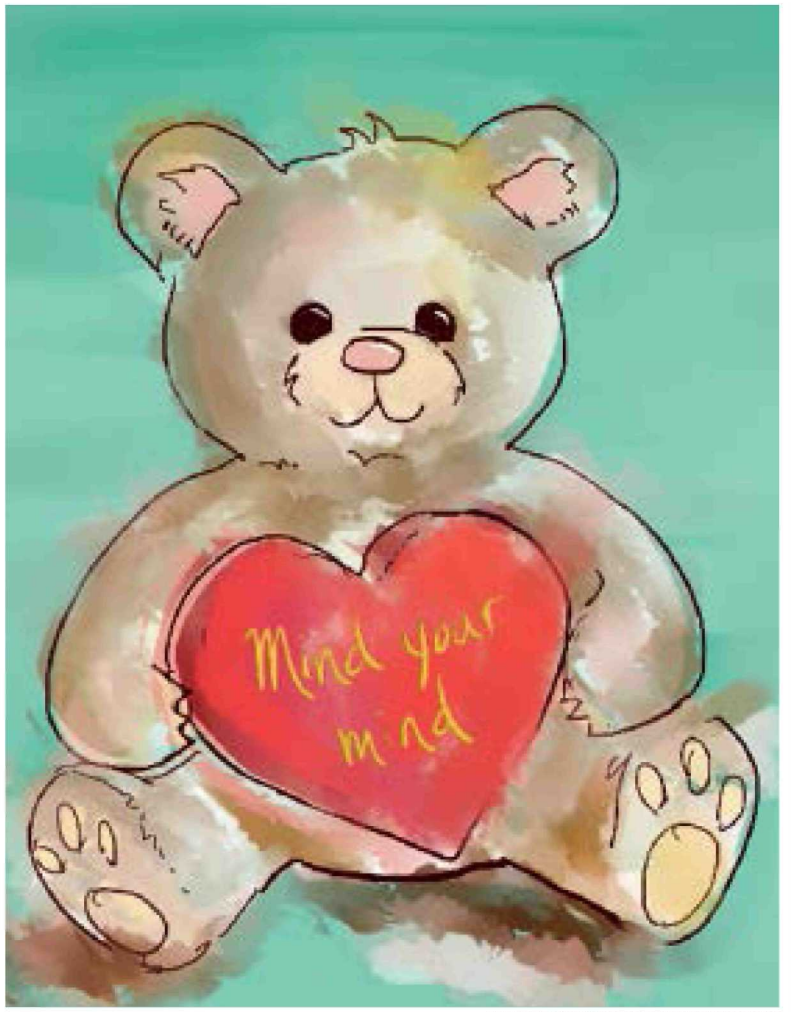



ILLUSTRATION STEPHANIE WU/THE UBYSSEY

Take a step back — you might not be looking at the bigger picture.

**Daphnée Lévesque**
Contributor

As human beings, we've all indulged in some form of negative self-talk in the past. In most cases, these types of unhealthy thinking patterns usually stem from mistaken beliefs — core beliefs we learned while growing up and were taught to us by authority figures such as parents and teachers. They refer to our "life outlook" or "attitudes," and are unfortunately at the root of much of our anxiety.

One way to challenge our basic false assumptions about the world and ourselves is to work with daily positive affirmations. Since many of our core beliefs affect our level of self-worth and self-esteem, I would strongly encourage you to give daily affirmations a try — as tacky as they sound.

When practiced daily, positive statements can make you feel empowered and in control of your life. On top of that, these kinds of compact statements have been proven to reinforce chemical pathways in our brains.

So how do we construct our own daily affirmations?

The first step is to notice when we say something negative about ourselves. We all have mistaken beliefs, inaccurate views and current ways of thinking that don't always serve us well. Some examples of this include "I feel powerless," "I'm not good enough" and "People won't like me if they see who I really am."

The second step is to question the validity of our statements. To do so, we can use four different questions.

- What is the evidence for this?
- Is this always true for me?
- Does this belief look at the whole picture?
- Does this belief promote my well-being/peace of mind?

For instance, if we think, "My accomplishments at school are supremely important," we can challenge this assumption and come up with several conclusions such as "Other areas of my life are equally important," and "If my accomplishments at school were supremely important, my health and family would not be a priority — thus, such an attitude would lead to an unbalanced lifestyle."

The third step is to counter our mistaken beliefs by coming up with a short statement. Remember — a daily affirmation should be a short, simple, direct statement written in present tense that avoids negatives since your unconscious mind is actually incapable of telling the difference between a positive or negative sentence. For the example above, a good counter-statement would be something like "My accomplishments are important and so are other things in my life" or "I am learning how to balance work and play in my life."

Finally, the last thing to do is to practice and repeat the statement until we've fully absorbed and processed it. Ways to do so include writing your affirmation in giant letters on a piece of paper and hang it somewhere in your room, or record a series of affirmation to listen to before going to bed.

Countering mistaken beliefs may take a lot of time, energy and hard work, but remember that they will increase your level of self-esteem as you learn to respect and believe in yourself. But mostly, they'll reduce unnecessary pain and suffering.

*This article was written using the examples stated in* The Anxiety & Phobia Workbook *by Edmund J. Bourner, PhD.*

INTERNATIONAL //

# Their Campus: Missing UBC in Bordeaux

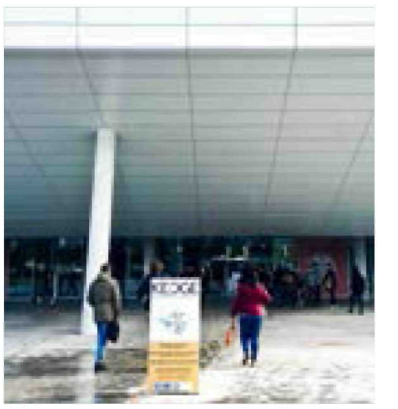


PHOTO ALEX DYE/THE UBYSSEY

Say what you want about UBC, at least they respond to emails promptly.

**Alex Dye**
Contributor

One of the things that I have learned on exchange is how many things I took for granted and now miss about UBC.

At UBC, everything is so beautifully organized — I mean, you get a registration time, you register and know your courses months in advance so you can plan your life. At my exchange school, you choose your top two options, but don't know until a week or so before classes start if you received one of your options or something else altogether!

Another thing is how responsive UBC is to emails. I can email my professor, ESP or undergraduate office, and I'm guaranteed a reply usually within 24 hours. But at the school in France, while professors reply immediately, not even one of the email questions I sent to the admin office were ever replied to.

On another administrative level, at UBC, you know why you receive the grade you did. However, at the school in France, it's very ambiguous. Two of my friends took a class which was project-based and they worked together on everything. One received an A, the other a C-, and the professor was unable to justify why. They eventually gave up trying to ask for justification. Speaking of grades, I miss how at UBC, you receive your grades a couple weeks after finishing the course. At the French school, I still haven't received my grades for a course I finished two months ago and have no idea when I will get them.

On a different level, I miss how at UBC, most professors try to encourage and create a safe and respectful learning environment. In France, the professor openly mocked Asian accents and mental illness in one of my classes.

Finally, I miss how absolutely gorgeous the UBC campus is. Being in a city campus where the views consist of cars and buses has made me incredibly thankful for UBC, where I am able to see ocean, mountains and trees on the daily!

Don't get me wrong — my exchange experience in Bordeaux has been incredible. I have met incredible professors and students, and have learned a lot. I will cherish these experiences, but it has also reminded me how lucky I am to attend UBC.

VERVE //

# Their Campus: Ending my time in Edinburgh

PHOTO COURTESY HANNAH SCOTT

**Hannah Scott**
Contributor

As I wrap up three and a half months in Edinburgh, I'm having mixed feelings about returning to Vancouver. I miss my family, friends and UBC program. I'm familiar and comfortable with UBC's course structure, while here I've been constantly lost, trying to figure things out as I go.

The English honours department in Edinburgh is much bigger and studying literature in general is considered more "scholarly" in the UK. However, at UBC, I know most of the students in my program — as well as many professors — by name, and I've missed the smaller classes, student participation and grading structure.

In Vancouver, I left behind not only my family and friends, but also two steady jobs and a long history of volunteering with Girl Guides. The Brownie unit I've been working with here made me feel immediately welcome, but my unit back home has been a place of solace since I was 14 and I look forward to being called "Brown Owl" again.

Despite my homesickness, it's going to be really hard to leave my flatmates, my a cappella group and my free weekends filled with travel and sleep — not to mention the city of Edinburgh itself.

Last week was our a cappella end-of-semester showcase and when I finally got emotional thinking about leaving them, they told me, "It's not goodbye, it's see you later." That really resonated with me since I've always struggled with the finality of change. Nothing has to be final and the power to choose my next destination after I graduate still rests in my hands. If all goes to plan, I'll be back here.

I've lived in Vancouver my entire life. I always knew that I wanted to go to UBC and I have no regrets about the choices I've made. The lifestyle in Vancouver — yoga, kale, fancy coffee, Lululemon — is one I feel I fit into, but I've surprised myself by feeling like I fit in here too.

I'll miss Edinburgh an unspeakable amount, but although there will undoubtedly be tears, returning to Vancouver will always feel like coming home.

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DISABILITY //

FILE PHOTO JOSHUA MEDICOFF/THE UBYSSEY

Oveisi and Perry are concerned for the well-being of disabled students at UBC.

# Letter: Too many students aren't satisfied with Access and Diversity

**Niki Oveisi and Frances Perry**
UBC Students

December 3 was the United Nations' International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This year's theme is "Achieving 17 Goals for the Future We Want" and can be summed up in four words: "Leave no one behind."

Approximately 2,500 or four per cent of UBC students are currently registered as individuals with disabilities in the Access and Diversity (A&D) office. This letter was written to examine UBC's support networks — are campus supports adequately fulfilling these students' needs? Or are these students being "left behind" in our highly competitive and fast-paced university lifestyle?

The conditions of these persons with disabilities range from mental health conditions, visual and/or hearing impairments, learning disabilities, chronic health issues and more. The A&D office uses a tactic called the intersectional approach, where advisors consider personal factors — including race, gender, language, socioeconomic status, culture and more — in order to provide optimal assistance.

The support networks they offer include academic accommodations, exam accommodations, financial support and assistance, academic concession, priority access to housing, transportation and access. However, A&D has only seven active counsellors to carry out all these services.

The UBC Equity Ambassadors highlights the experiences of four students with disabilities who sought assistance from A&D at UBC. We discovered a wide range in experiences that are both positive and negative. This heterogeneity seemed to largely depend on which advisor the student was assigned to at A&D.

Kimberly Wogan, a recent UBC BA alumna, has a mental health condition called dysthymia and concurrent severe anxiety disorder, social anxiety and obsessive compulsive depression, said, "My first experience with Access and Diversity was very positive! I felt like I was heard and validated."

She was offered options for accommodations and said her advisor "felt like [her] biggest fan." She recalls her advisor calling each of her professors to discuss her conditions and ensure her class accommodations. To students trying to navigate the UBC experience with a disability, she advises, "Stop being hard on yourself. Your illness is real. Your struggles are valid. You are not being paranoid."

Celina Ruhland, a 2016 UBC alumna with a bachelor's degree in geography, describes her disability as "an autonomic dysfunction disorder called Cerebral Syncope." This is an episodic and invisible disability that causes her to faint and/or have seizures along with migraines and dizziness. She was initially optimistic after her first meeting with an A&D advisor. However, when she sought her advisor's direction on how to approach her professors when reporting her condition, she "never received a response."

In general, her advisor was "never in the office and only replied to [her] inquiries weeks to months later." One of the accommodations she received was for exams.

"The invigilators only check on students in private rooms every 15 minutes, which makes sense during a busy exam period, but in my case, I could have a seizure and injure myself in that time without anyone knowing." Although her experiences were generally positive, she believes the A&D still has "a long way to go."

This wide range of satisfaction achieved leaves us uncomfortable and concerned for the well-being of students with disabilities on campus. Although many students are satisfied with the supports UBC provides, far too many students aren't. With our growing student population, we believe we must strive for greater inclusion and ensure to "leave no one behind." To achieve this future we want, we believe change must begin at the administrative level.

*Niki Oveisi is a second-year biology major.*

*Frances Perry is a fifth-year microbiology major.*

*Both authors are members of the Equity Ambassadors, a UBC Peer Program.*

**See something you (don't) like?**

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VERVE //

# Under the microscope: Science isn't about grand agendas

**Nivretta Thatra**
Senior Staff Writer

I am weary and wary of grand scientific agendas. Promises of curing neurodegenerative diseases, abating international poverty or engineering a completely disaster-proof building make me squirm with skepticism. Thankfully, I am not alone. Most established scientists I meet are similarly skeptical.

That begs the question: does science leave room for idealists?

Definitely. Good science is often about revolution — it requires idealists, diverse thinkers and optimistic fresh minds that prevent us from getting stuck inside existing thought loops. The same can be said about any institution. But to set science apart from other exploratory human endeavours, fellow scientists demand that the excitement and verve engendered by grand agendas be redistributed to daily, actionable discoveries.

I can only speak for myself when I state the cognitive biases I have observed in those who only have excitement for their grand agendas. These people identify strongly with their role as ethically good world-changers, and lack the critical awareness to see all the possible consequences of their research aims. A neuroscientist operating under the bias of a grand agenda, for example, could desire to cure diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, but fail to consider that it could lead to anything other than a positive end. In fact, a cure to neurodegenerative diseases could lead to a negative outcome if we do not first plan to provide both physical and emotional support for a population that lives longer and longer.

Rather than being swept away by the excitement we feel for grand agendas, scientific skepticism asks us to bring the same excitement to critically examining what piqued our interest in the first place. We should ask about the logistics of reaching a lofty goal. Where will the funding come from? Who will bring expertise to the project? What is our projected timeline? What are proactive measures against inevitable hurdles?

Most importantly, we should bring genuine excitement for the smallest creative moments that help us answer these questions. Day-to-day victories are less shiny and are not usually validated by external reinforcement. Still, this is what the curiosity and fascination of an idealistic scientist looks like in real time — smiling to oneself after finding a typo in code, chuckling internally after discovering the PCR machine was not plugged or giddily sharing a trippy dream about a novel molecular structure.

Personally, I find a daily fascination is also more compassionate than a grand agenda. Fascination forces me to pay attention to others when they speak, instead of thinking of some nebulous goal I'm working towards. Fascination is a reminder that grand agendas are hard expectations and are often dreams that only the most privileged of us get to dream. Fascination also makes it easier to change my mind and adapt when grand agendas that I've committed to start to seem untenable or outright unethical.

Maybe grand agendas ultimately do more good than I claim. Maybe I lack the temperament to think about one scientific dream and commit all my resources to it. Maybe my words about daily fascination seem a little too granola for you. Regardless, I am primarily dedicated to a pragmatic fascination with the ins-and-outs of rational thought. My doubt of grand agendas is here to stay.

*Nivretta Thatra is a master of science candidate at UBC and a senior staff writer for* The Ubyssey.

**Future Bill Nye?**

Send our science editor an email at science@ubyssey.ca or sign up at ubyssey.ca/volunteer to write for us.

EDITOR'S NOTE //

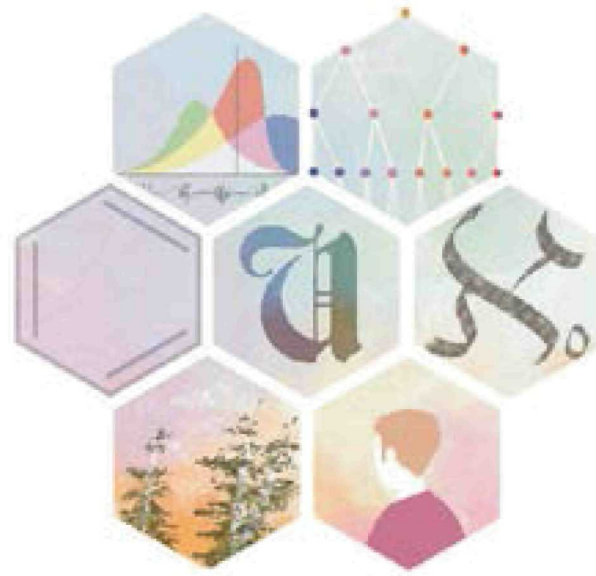


ILLUSTRATION JERRY YIN/THE UBYSSEY

We need to talk about science better.

# Science, reach out or die

**Koby Michaels**
Science Editor

2016 was a great year for science.

Gravity waves were detected for the first time, NASA's Juno spacecraft reached Jupiter, a possible new ninth planet was observed and Earth's closest neighbouring star — Proxima Centauri — was found to have a possibly habitable planet orbiting it.

A new Ebola vaccine was shown to be effective and a bird flew through lasers with goggles. Experiments on astronaut twins Mark and Scott Kelly could help scientists and engineers plan for a trip to Mars or beyond.

A new prime number was discovered and SpaceX landed a rocket on a boat. Cybernetic implants helped a paralyzed man move his fingers. Earth's second moon was discovered. Four new names were officially added to the periodic table of elements.

The discoveries, inventions and ideas from the past year hold the promise to continue to improve lives around the world, create a more just and equitable future, and grow humanity's collective knowledge about the world around us.

The discoveries of science in 2016 are truly incredible and hold unimaginable promise.

But 2016 was a very, very bad, no good, terrible year for science too.

The US elected a president who denies basic scientific knowledge, instead claiming climate change is a Chinese hoax (it's not), that vaccines are associated with autism (there is no, nor has there ever been, evidence for this) and believes you can't really know what's "going on" in the age of computers.

The US House Committee on Science, Space and Technology — the committee that oversees NASA, the Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency — tweeted an article by Breitbart that unscientifically denied climate change.

Think it's only a US problem? You're wrong. Whooping cough, a vaccine-preventable disease, broke out across Canada due (at least partially) to low vaccination rates. Just last month, we covered a story about low vaccination rates in Vancouver.

Each of the first six months of 2016 set a record as the warmest respective month in the modern temperature record. When all the numbers are in, 2016 is likely to be the hottest year every recorded. Even that won't make the front page of newspapers.

It's been just over a year since Canada had a prime minister who muzzled scientists for political purposes. Thirty-nine per cent of Canadians don't believe the scientific truth that climate change is caused by humans. The same 2015 study showed 40 per cent of Canadians don't believe the science is clear on vaccines. Canadians aged 18–35 have the highest rates of believing vaccines have a real risk of serious side effects and the lowest rates of believing they are effective against disease.

Science needs to learn to communicate.

Since about World War II, scientists have relied almost exclusively on government grants to fund their research. The only people they needed to convince of the value of their work was the government bureaucracy that fed them (taxpayer) dollars to buy equipment, pay salaries and conduct research. Generations of scientists have forgotten how to present their work to the public, the very people who have been indirectly funding their work and the very people scientists' work is supposed to help.

More than anything else in 2016, science learned it had to communicate. The question is, have scientists?

Scientists must learn to communicate effectively to the public if we hope to feed the world's population, protect it from emerging and existing diseases, stop the dramatic climb in opioid addiction, educate tomorrow's leaders and thinkers, slow global climate change and have a healthy, livable planet.

Sounds a bit overdramatic, right? Just look at 2016 — people are rejecting science, expertise and "elitism" left and right. And science is to blame. It has hidden in its shell for far too long and must now poke its head back into the big, scary, "post-truth" world we appear to be moving towards, and fight for its existence and importance.

The good news is the fight is far from over, and science can still ensure the public supports and understands science and its value to society and democracy. Universities can foster a culture of scientific outreach and public engagement. Governments can require scientists to be civically engaged in order to receive research grants. Research institutes can hire and pay science communicators and advocates. Schools can teach science communication and its importance.

UBC has flirted with the idea of incorporating communication into its research infrastructure. Professors like Dr. David Ng and Dr. Jennifer Gardy (full disclosure: she's my degree mentor) spend a fair bit of their time and energy doing communication and outreach. UBC research groups like RES'EAU WaterNET do public consultations as an integral part of their business model. The faculty of science even has a course on science communication.

UBC needs to do more than flirt with communication. UBC, you need to encourage all research professors to engage with the public, teach all science and engineering undergrads to communicate with the public and advocate for science and hire communicators and outreach workers to bring science to Vancouver, BC and beyond.

If UBC truly wants to be a world leader in research, it must be an innovator in disseminating its research to the public.

The science of 2016 holds unimaginable potential for improving our world. Without an engaged public, it could all amount to absolutely nothing.

Science needs to learn how to communicate science. UBC can help teach it.

OUTDOORS //

# Places to Be: Snowshoeing on Grouse Mountain

**Kelsea Franzke**
Contributor

As soon as December hits, I wish for snow — softly piled upon windowsills, icicles sprouting from chimneys and pillowy heaps perched upon evergreen branches threatening to fall as you walk under. Unfortunately for me (and other snow lovers), winter in Vancouver is often drearily socked in with rain and fog, and thoughts of snow are somewhere far off in the distance.

This year was different though. My winter wishes came true and the entire city was blanketed with snow that seemed to calmly silence the world.

However, the beautiful blanket of snow has now transformed into dirty piles on sidewalks, melted sludge in drain sewers and a sheet of ice on the roads. This reality is not what I hope for when I wish for snow. This is the sad truth when it comes to snow in the city, especially one which is not equipped for a "real Canadian winter."

Because I was unable to fulfill my wish for the perfect snow day in the city, I gathered a couple of friends to go snowshoeing in the hopes of finding my perfect tree-topped, snow-falling, pristine image of winter.

Off we went up the gondola, all bundled up in our snow gear and squished-in like a can of sardines, to the top of Grouse Mountain. After the short trip up, we strapped on our snowshoes and took off into the foggy winter wonderland spread out in front of us. The rocky summer terrain had turned into a snowy village with falling snow and icicles hanging from every raised surface.

Grouse had transformed one of the hiking routes into a "Light Walk," with thousands of twinkling white lights spread overhead. It had created the illusion of warmth and coziness despite being surrounded by a vast space of snow and trees. Couples stood under the lights, taking the perfect romantic Instagram photos while we trudged past, still searching for my perfect image of winter.

It wasn't until we had completed the Light Walk loop that we turned off onto a trail which appeared to be untouched. The ground was glistening and not yet downtrodden, and the billows of snow on the evergreen branches were delicately perched and undisturbed — the slightest breeze would send it all tumbling down in an avalanche. The fog clung to the top of the trees and provided a clear, pocketed walkway beneath, with long icicles hanging from the lowest branches. We had found my perfect image of winter.

The quiet winter setting was soon disrupted by our laughter, as staying upright on our feet became quite the task in the deep snow. Every few steps, our feet would sink and get stuck in a hidden snowbank, which would be followed by the roar of laughter in our attempts to free ourselves from the wintery hold.

The hills proved to be difficult to trek upon, particularly going down, and more than once, we found ourselves sliding down the hills like figure skaters — without the accompanying poise and grace. We explored the winter wonderland for a couple of hours before our noses and fingers began to freeze, and then decided to head back when the conversation turned to hot chocolate and marshmallows.

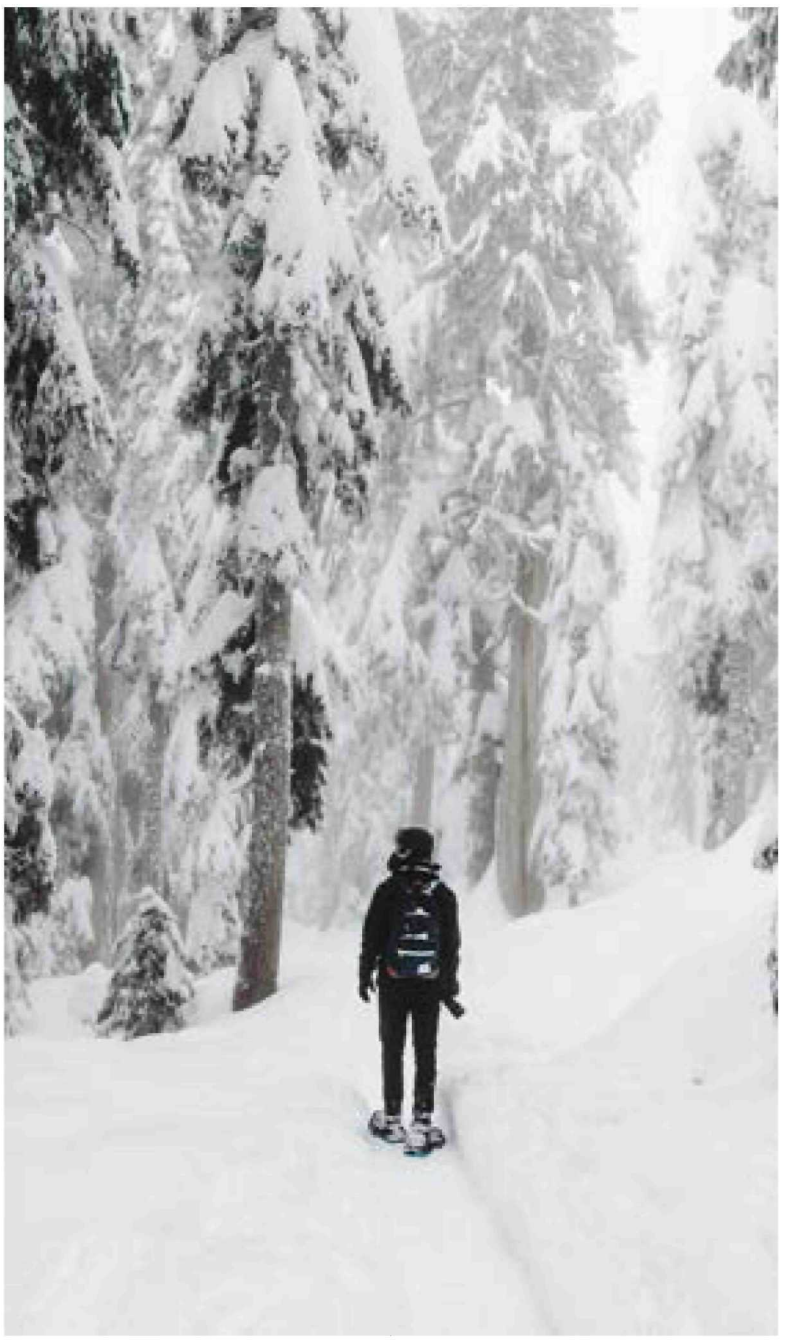
The trudge back to the main trail proved slightly more difficult than anticipated. Thinking back, I'm not sure whether that was because our route was uphill, or if we were simply tired and cold from all the falling.

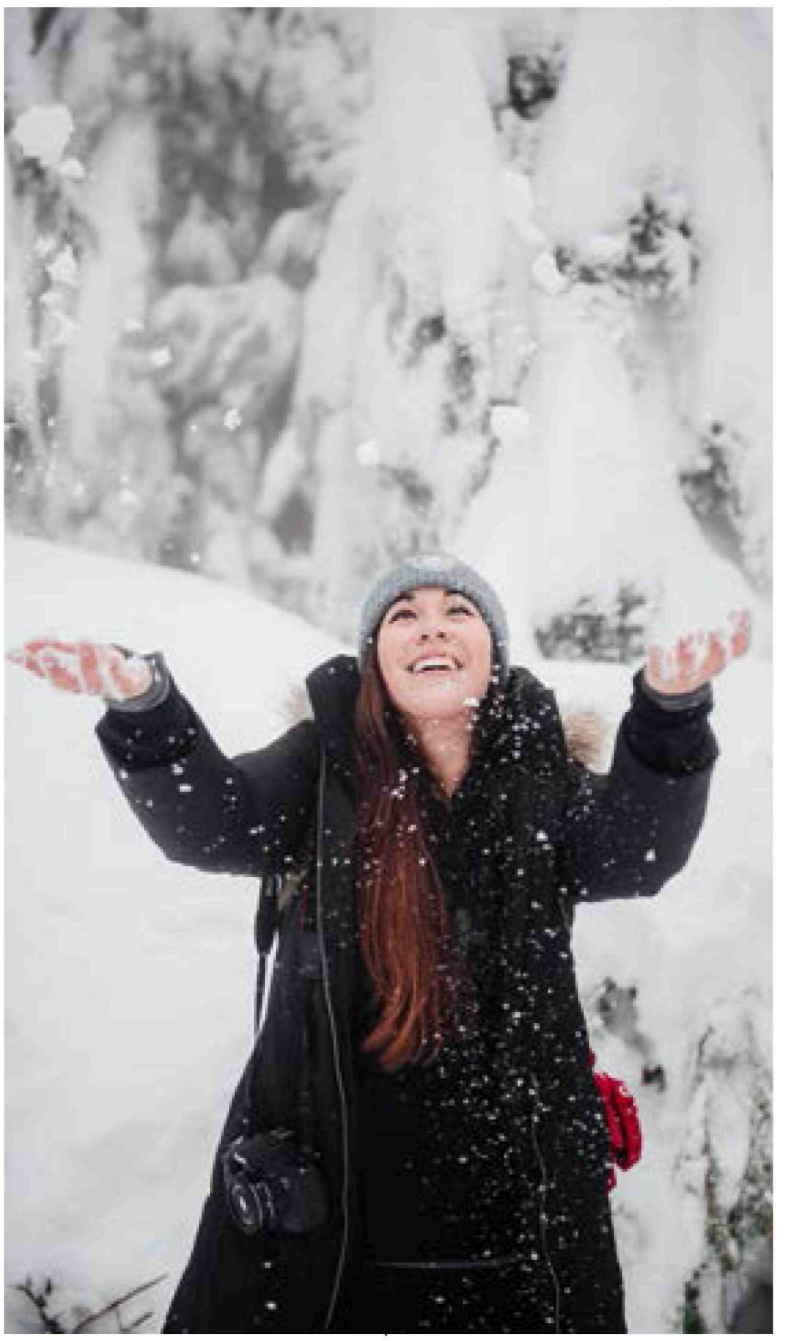
We finally made it back to the lodge where we shook the loose snow from our hair and thawed our frozen fingers before we said goodbye to the mountain and headed back to the gondola. The gondola down was filled with red noses and rosy cheeks, and through the foggy windows, we watched the snow-topped trees pass below us. The icicles outside bumped and swayed, but managed to hang on for the whole trip down.

We stepped off and just like that, we were back with the dirty snow and icy sidewalks, but I could not have been happier. I had just experienced my perfect snow day surrounded by my best friends and that memory will never fade.

It isn't impossible to find the perfect snowy wonderland in this dreary winter city. All you have to do is explore.

**PHOTOS** KELSEA FRANZKE AND BRAD YUEN





THUNDERBIRDS //

# T-BIRDS 5-ON-5

## DYNAMIC DEFENDERS

by Isabelle Commerford

| | VOLLEYBALL | CROSS COUNTRY | RUGBY | HOCKEY | TRACK AND FIELD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Alessandra Gentile | Alison Pouw | Mackenzie Lee | Mikayla Ogrodniczuk | Sarah Korpach |
| 1. What makes you feel confident? | Standing proudly with my T-Bird jersey, on the end-line with my team, staring down the opponent before a game starts — that's when I feel confident. | Running makes me feel free which makes me feel confident! Individual success as well as team success in a sport can also contribute to feeling confident. | Nailing all the parts of "Bohemian Rhapsody," a good night's sleep, men's deodorant and freshly shaved legs! | Bacon and eggs. | I find my confidence through knowing that I put the work in and that I deserve to be there ... Feeling prepared gives me the confidence to run to the best of my ability. |
| 2. If you were initiated into the Spice Girls, which "spice" would you be? | I just took a test online to find out which Spice Girl I am. I got Baby Spice three times. What are the chances? | Being that I am always considered the baby among my friends and teammates due to my "petite" frame ... I would have to say that I most closely resemble Baby Spice! | Probably "Grandma Spice" because I'm kind of a 21-year-old grandma and "mom" in my friend groups. | If I were initiated into the Spice Girls, I would for sure be a Hot Chilli Pepper. | Sporty Spice, of course. |
| 3. Which of your teammates inspires you? | Katie Crawford. One night at Bims [The Bimini Public House] after a few drinks, I shouted at the top of my lungs at her, "I WILL ALWAYS LOOK UP TO YOU!" | Nicola Symonds inspires me to be a better athlete and a better person. She is so kind and caring, and marches to her own [drumbeat]. | Mackenzie Carson is a first year on the team who got thrown into a huge leadership position right away and has handled it amazingly! ... It's such a comforting feeling knowing she's there. | Former teammate Danielle Dube. She is the true definition of a super woman! | Katherine Tourigny. This girl has been there for me from my first day at UBC to now, and I've always looked up to her since she's basically "Superwoman." |
| 4. What's your #GirlPower anthem before you hit the ice/field/court/track? | "Run the World (Girls)" by Beyoncé. Actually, anything Beyoncé — she is a strong feminista! | One hundred per cent Justin Bieber. But I would have to say if I were to choose just one, I would go with the classic "One Time"... It gets me every time! | "Wreak Havoc" by Skylar Grey or "Gasoline" by Halsey. They are usually the last things I'll listen to before a game. | The song I always listen to before I hit the ice would have to be "Remember the Name" by Eminem. | "Hooked on a Feeling" by Blue Swede. |
| 5. If you could draft someone from history on to your team, who would your first-round pick be? | Giba [Gilberto Amauri de Godoy Filho] hands down. He is the best. I want him on my team. | Julie Bowen — not only a great actress and generous individual — is also an avid runner, which is why I would recruit her to the team. | Beyoncé because she can do anything really or Ronda Rousey. I think Rousey would probably destroy in a rugby game. | Nellie McClung of the "Famous Five" — she stood up for women, justice and equality. | Melissa Bishop. She's my track and field idol, not to mention she's Canada's fastest 800m runner and the Canadian record-holder for that event. |

SWIMMING//

# Thunderbirds represent at FINA Short Course World Championships

FILE PHOTO JOSH CURRAN/THE UBYSSEY

Overall, the meet was a huge success for Canadian swimmers.

**Salomon Micko Benrimoh**
Senior Staff Writer

The 2016 FINA Short Course World Championships in swimming ended in December and the Canadian National team finished the meet with an impressive total medal count of eight, including two gold in relay events.

The event took place on Canadian soil in Windsor, Ontario, in a specially-converted Windsor Family Credit Union Centre (WFCU) — an ice hockey arena normally home to the Windsor Spitfires of the junior Ontario Hockey League.

The Canadian roster consisted of stars like 16-year-olds Taylor Ruck and Penny Oleksiak, as well as Quebec butterfly swimmer Katherine Savard, who have become household names due to their roles in Canada's multi-medal effort at this past summer's Rio Olympic Games.

It is important to note that the Olympics are held in a 50-metre pool, and the short-course world championships are held in 25-metre pool.

The competition didn't start out in Canada's favour when a medal relay performance in the women's 4x100m freestyle was met with disqualification. It was discovered that the swimmers had swam in a different order than presented on the sheet handed in to FINA officials.

However, the tides quickly turned when Oleksiak delivered a bronze-medal performance in the 100m freestyle, the event at which she captured the gold medal at Rio. Ruck also put forward a solid effort in the 200m freestyle event, winning a bronze medal.

Windsor's own Kylie Masse, fresh off her bronze-medal effort in Rio, won a silver medal in front of her hometown crowd in the 100m backstroke. University of Manitoba's Kelsey Wog — an 18-year-old breaststroke swimmer who initially joined the team as an alternate — won Canada's most surprising medal when she placed second in the 200m breaststroke ahead of reigning 100m Olympic champion Lily King of the United States.

"I had such a great time racing in front of a home crowd," said Wog in regards to the competition. "It was really cool having everyone cheering for Team Canada. I had an amazing race and it was so surprising finishing as well as I did."

The 'Birds were well-represented at the championships, with sprinters Markus Thormeyer and Yuri Kisil present. The duo swam together in the preliminaries for the 100m freestyle. Kisil placed second overall with a strong time of 46.79. He just missed out on the final, finishing 11th overall.

Kisil also swam in the 50m event, finishing one spot out of the semi-finals at 17th with a time of 21.72. Thormeyer swam the 200m and finished in 22nd place overall with a time of 1:45.36.

But both Kisil and Thormeyer left with a bronze medal, having won it in the 4x50m freestyle mixed relay, together with Michelle Williams and Sandrine Mainville. Their final time of 1:29.83 put them just 0.01 of a second behind the second place Dutch team that included Olympic champion Ranomi Kromowidjojo.

Overall, the meet was a huge success for Canadian swimmers, who will now rest seeing as Windsor was the final major international competition for 2016. But there's plenty of competition to look forward to in 2017, including the 2017 FINA long-course World Championships in Budapest and the 2017 U Sport Championships in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

**END OF YEAR //**

# 2016

## And the sports moments that defined it.

**DESIGN** OLAMIDE OLANIYAN

2016 received a lot of flak for totally obvious and valid reasons — it was a wild year. But like any wild year, we can find several memorable moments that really jump out at us.. We decided to put together a totally objective, scientific, not-at-all-subjective list of the big sport moments that made us okay with that dumpster fire of a year. Here, in no particular order, are UBC's defining sports moments of 2016.

## Sixth in the 6ix

Okay, so at what point does the mercy rule come into effect?

The women's field hockey team kept with tradition and took their sixth-straight national championship. The only other team that is as synonymous with constant winning and being the best is DJ Khaled and the We The Best Music Group. #BlessUp.

The team did not lose a single game throughout their entire season and has now won 18 national championships, tied with the women's swim team for the the most national titles out of all Thunderbirds teams.

## Winning Streak

Rain drop. Drop top. Hoping that their winning streak won't stop stop.

The only thing that makes me happier than using a "Bad and Boojee" reference in an article is the joy I get from following the trail of the women's hockey team and seeing the destruction in their wake.

The 'Birds have won 14 straight games and have lost only one game. Let's hope they take the U Sport national championships in 2017.

## School Spirit

U Sport Final 8 and Winter Classic.

These were incredible, and moments that I am sure the UBC community will always remember.

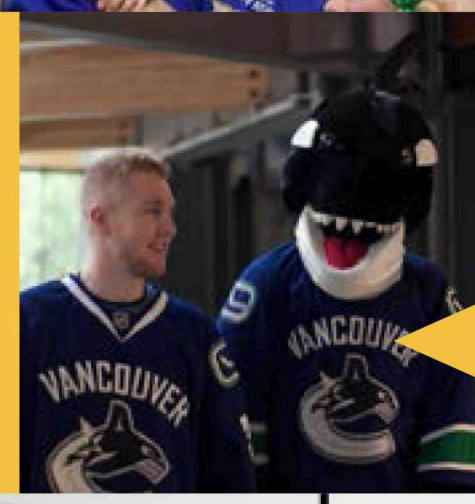
They showed that no matter what naysayers say, or how much haters hate, there is a living breathing sports scene here at UBC.

## Olympics

President Santa Ono sent off a record number of athletes to Rio and they did pretty well.

Some won medals, many placed highly in their respective competitions.

All in all, it was a great summer for the Thunderbirds.



## Matt Hewitt and the Canucks

Matt Hewitt — goaltender for the UBC men's hockey team — was called up as an emergency back-up in a one-day contract with the Canucks.

For a day, he was Vancouver and UBC's golden child.He did an AMA a week later and some of the responses are gold.

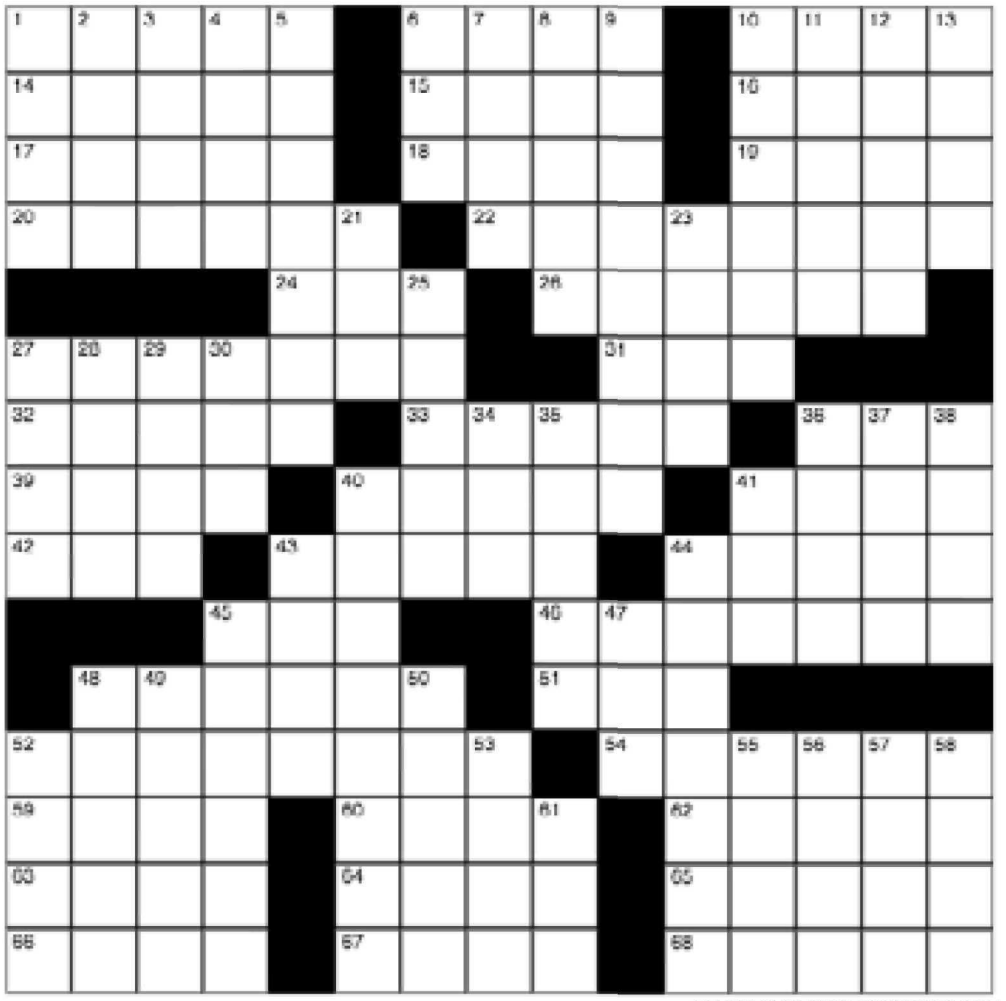
## UBC teams really showed up this year

Let's be real — 2016 was a shitty year for sports and the Thunderbirds were lamentable most of the time.

I mean, that statement is totally true if you ignore all the great things that the 'Birds have done from January to December.

Several players from the football and baseball team were drafted into professional leagues. Many of the teams won their respective leagues, while others contended.

Bottom line — the 'Birds are putting out such a solid reputation that I trust them with my life. U



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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### ACROSS

1- Teases;
6- Former Fords;
10- Periods of history;
14- Pianist Claudio;
15- Biblical birthright seller;
16- ___ Dogg;
17- Skin of the upper part of the head;
18- Without;
19- Air-filled rubber hoop, become fatigued;
20- Belonging to them;
22- Newsman;
24- Make a mistake;
26- Composed;
27- "Cow Cow Boogie" singer Morse;
31- Doze;
32- Way to go;
33- Boisterous;
36- Untrained;
39- "Cheers" regular;
40- Interlace;
41- Shakespearean villain;
42- Ending for legal or Japan;
43- Take care of;
44- Doorkeeper;
45- Legume;
46- Gave a new title;
48- 1998 Masters winner Mark;
51- Monetary unit of Japan;
52- Preserve;
54- Children of a ___ God;
59- Org.;
60- Bric-a-___;
62- Thick-skinned charger;
63- You've Made ___ Very Happy;
64- Riga resident;
65- Home movie medium;
66- Strong ___ ox;
67- Greek god of love;
68- Tennis champ Chris;

### DOWN

1- Strong woody fiber;
2- St. Louis landmark;
3- Dies ___;
4- Anklebones;
5- Paramount;
6- ___ Misérables;
7- Former Russian ruler;
8- Borge's countrymen;
9- State of mental uncertainty;
10- Snare;
11- Singer Bonnie;
12- Up ___ (trapped);
13- Prophet;
21- Lady of Sp.;
23- Jazz singer Anita;
25- Actress Taylor;
27- Sea eagle;
28- "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" author;
29- Decoy;
30- PIN requester;
34- Muesli bit;
35- Creamy white;
36- Chicago mayor Emanuel;
37- "A Death in the Family" author;
38- Unit of language;
40- Suitable for wearing;
41- This ___ test;
43- Chair;
44- Rattle;
45- Tapered flag;
47- Sniggler's catch;
48- Desert havens;
49- Beethoven's "___ Solemnis";
50- Broadcaster;
52- Baby's cry;
53- Defense grp. since 1949;
55- Switchblade;
56- Pro or con;
57- Cabinet dept.;
58- Carrot or turnip;
61- Short change?;

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