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NOT A CAIRN IN THE WORLD

ALAN EHRENHOLZ IS YOUR NEW AMS PRESIDENT

EVENTS



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ON THE COVER

COVER BY
Jack Hauen



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OUR CAMPUS

President-elect Alan Ehrenholz reflects on “very weird” campaign



PHOTOS BY JACK HAUEN

Ehrenholz ran as The Engineer's Cairn and won the AMS presidency.

Jack Hauen
Coordinating Editor

The absurdity of this year's AMS Elections is not lost on the first-ever joke candidate to win the presidency.

“Kind of weird’ is probably an understatement. It was very weird,” said Alan Ehrenholz, whose name on the ballot was “The Engineer's Cairn.”

In February, Ehrenholz was approached by a group of friends in the EUS. They planned to run a campaign for the Cairn, but they needed a meat puppet to translate its thoughts.

“I said, ‘Yeah, I can make people laugh, I can have a good time and it'll be fun,’” he said.

But the plan began to unravel as Ehrenholz emerged as a legitimate front-runner. When voting week started, he decided to commit.

“On the first day of voting, there were so many people on social media saying, ‘Oh my god, I just voted for a hunk of concrete.’ I felt, you know what, if these people are putting their faith in me, I think I need to give them something to grab onto,” he said.

Ehrenholz also said it wasn't all his call.

“I had a couple friends who were very supportive and kind of pushed me to do it,” he

said, naming Timothy Hoggan, Alexandra Mann, Kevin Proctor and his girlfriend, Emma Croft, as key players in his decision.

“Without her... approval, we'll call it, I definitely wouldn't have gone through with it. Having her beside me was very important to me.”

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Ehrenholz comes from a long line of UBC engineers. His grandfather graduated from the program in 1953. His father, who also served as EUS president, graduated in 1981.

“That was a large part of why I came to UBC [because my dad] had all these really cool stories about what he and his friends did at their time with the EUS, and I was like, ‘You know what? ... I want to have my own stories to pass down to my kids,’” he said. “This one will probably be one of those stories that gets passed down.”

In the third week of his first year, Ehrenholz ran for EUS council and won.

“I had a steep learning curve. I thought I was really cool as student government president of my high school, but [being a first-year in the EUS] was a completely different game,” he said.

The snowballing continued. In the summer of his second year, Ehrenholz took on the role of spirit coordinator, which organizes

FirstWeek and E-Week. Halfway through that year, he was elected to the role of EUS VP Student Life. In 2015/16, he took on the role of EUS president.

The roll stopped last year, when he lost the race for AMS VP Administration to Chris Scott.

“I took a year off and regenerated a lot of energy. I got involved in soccer, which is something I hadn't been doing for the first couple years of school at UBC, and I think that's really helped me have some balance with school and fun,” he said.

LOOKING AHEAD

The campaign might have been — partially — a joke, but now Ehrenholz has to think about taking the reins of a non-profit that represents over 50,000 students.

The AMS is “in a much nicer place” than this time last year, he said. They are not running a deficit, for one. The governance review, having passed, is no longer looming. Now it's a matter of implementing those changes.

“We are changing some pretty big things ... so there could be some challenges getting all the constituencies on board there, but overall, it looks really good. I'm excited to continue to build on the strategic plan with my team and ... do some cool things this year.”

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MUSQUEAM //

Musqueam First Nation developing land off of University Boulevard

Emma Loy
Contributor

The Musqueam First Nation has started development of Block F, a parcel of land bordered by University Boulevard, Acadia Road and Pacific Spirit Park. The land will be developed by the Musqueam Capital Corporation (MCC) over the next 10 to 12 years, and will include a range of residential buildings, a community centre, coffee shops and a grocery store, as well as designated parks and wetlands.

Signs posted around the Block F enclosure read “tree harvesting in process.” The signs have some community members wondering if this is a diplomatic label for environmental destruction. But the signs mean exactly what they say — rather than taking the trees to be processed elsewhere, the Musqueam Nation intends to keep the trees close to home.

“We are honoured to be able to repurpose trees for use throughout Block F and for the use of the Musqueam people,” said Jay Mearns, operations manager of the Musqueam Capital Corporation and member of the Musqueam Nation.

“That’s what we’re really proud of,” said Doug Avis, vice-president of MCC. “[Normally] it would be clear-cut and nobody would even pay attention to where the logs went.”

Larger trees will be used by Musqueam artists, canoe-makers, carvers and elders for various purposes. Some trees will be incorporated into venues built on Block F in the form of traditional house posts and art. Smaller debris will be turned into woodchips and used as sedimentary control for the site.

“We’ve got species like red alder coming off. That’s ideal for smoking salmon,” said Mearns. “We have a lot of artists, so maple, cherry and cedar will go to them.”

The 22-acre parcel of land is roughly one-sixth the size of the adjacent University Golf Club. The Province of BC returned this piece of land to the Musqueam people in 2008 as part of the Reconciliation, Settlement and Benefits Agreement. This followed over a century of the Musqueam people protesting the lack of recognition of their ownership over the land.

Block F was designated to the Musqueam Nation as

“fee-simple” land, meaning the Musqueam people have complete autonomy over what is done with it. The development of Block F will kickstart the band’s plan to become economically self-sufficient and move toward independence from government transfer payments. The development will provide long-term employment and professional education opportunities for many Musqueam people.

“I’ll be honest, it hurts my heart too to see those trees come down, but I take solace in the fact that we’re doing something positive with them,” said Mearns. “Let’s face it, we’re officially wards of the government. We’re trying to find a way to remove ourselves from that situation—one that was not of our own creation.”

The planning process for Block F included extensive consultation with UBC and various community members. While Mearns recognizes there are still those who oppose the development, he hopes that insight into Musqueam history and values will help garner understanding.



COURTESY DAN TOULGEOT

“It hurts my heart too to see those trees come down.”

“The reality is that we did alter the landscape historically speaking, we did take from the earth. We had to build places to live,” said Mearns. “There was ceremony attached to that. If you dropped a tree, there was a reason you dropped a tree, and there was always a return to mother earth based on that.”

While UBC is not involved in the development itself, they noted that the new residential buildings may benefit the growing demand for housing around the university.

“UBC is focusing on housing on campus. But new housing and a range of housing is good,” said Michael White, associate vice-president of Campus and Community Planning. According to White, concerns raised by current community members around changes to transit, cycling and pedestrian routes have been addressed by the Musqueam Capital Corporation and the University Endowment Lands. [U](#)

UBER //

Provincial government announces its support for bringing ride-hailing services to BC

Alex Nguyen
Senior Staff Writer

On March 7, the provincial government announced its support for bringing ride-hailing services to BC. The timeline is set for the end of 2017, but the legislation for it is “still to be written” according to James Lombardi, the BC Liberal candidate for UBC’s riding (Vancouver-Point Grey).

In response, UBC students seem generally excited about the concept of ride-hailing while remaining critical toward Uber — the top service provider currently — as a company.

“I won’t use Uber due to their mistreatment of employees and inability to deal with sexual harassment,” said Reddit user TheDankeKong in an r/UBC subthread asking for students’ thoughts on the news.

Others viewed the announcement’s timing as a political tool for the BC Liberals to “pander for votes” in the upcoming provincial election on May 9.

The AMS has no official position on this topic. Notably in 2015, they were approached by Uber, who asked for their assistance with government advocacy. However, this request was declined.

“I don’t remember very clearly what was said, but if I were to guess, it was probably because the AMS could only do so much lobbying on so many issues,” said current AMS VP External Kathleen Simpson about the reason

for this decision. “It’s very likely that they just didn’t consider it to be a priority for students.”

RIDE-HAILING VS. RIDE-SHARING

According to Flo Devellennes, the co-founder of Pop Rideshare, the crux of this issue lies at the difference between the definitions of ride-sharing and ride-hailing.

“The true definition of ride-sharing is when you’re actually sharing a ride with people and you share the cost,” said Devellennes. “Our drivers don’t make money. We just help them cover their trip’s cost so [we operate within the definition of carpooling] and they aren’t our employees.”

With ride-hailing services like Uber, “there’s no sharing” because the drivers have to drive wherever the customers want. Furthermore, since drivers do make money in this case, many of them make a living with these services.

In short, ride-hailing services are similar to taxi services.

“This is what’s problematic because ICBC hasn’t been able to work with Uber to insure the drivers correctly,” said Devellennes. “Uber is also competing with the taxi industry [without requiring its drivers to pay for taxi licenses].”

Regarding the announcement, he said, “it’s interesting that the government is using [ride-hailing services] as a political tool to get elected,” but also that “it’s inevitable because [they are] better than taxis.”



AIKEN LAO

On March 7, the provincial government announced its support for bringing ride-hailing services to BC.

POLITICAL RESPONSE

For David Eby, the UBC riding’s current NDP MLA, the announcement was “quite distasteful” despite his support for ride-hailing.

“The government wanted to do this for a year and yet no concrete proposal from them, and then there’s a press conference to put a jam on the donation scandal,” he said. “If the government is serious, then they would be putting forward a bill to be debated in the legislature.”

In particular, Eby is waiting for details on how the

government would support small start-ups, ensure access for people with disabilities, protect drivers’ rights and minimize the impact on families who depend on taxis.

While acknowledging that “this isn’t something that will be finalized before the election,” Lombardi responded that the government has outlined some important steps. For instance, there will be an investment of \$1 million into building an app for taxis and “changes to the insurance framework have been made” to accommodate ride-hailing services.

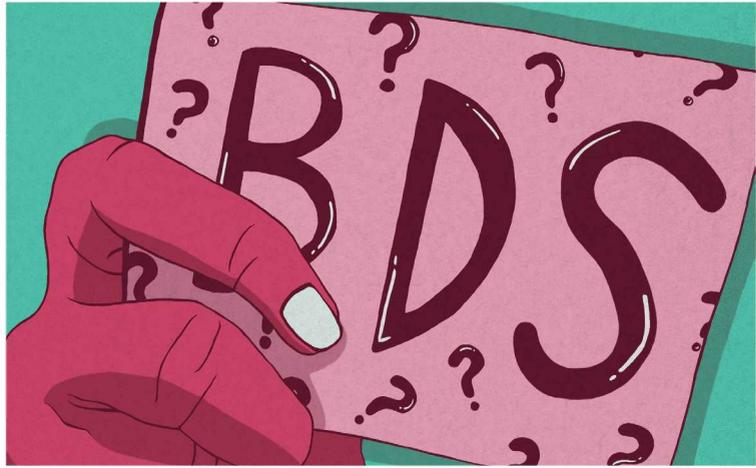
He also addressed the criticism toward Uber as an argument against ride-hailing.

“Every company would have to follow the law,” said Lombardi. “This is not about one company ... but about creating a framework that would innovate BC’s transportation system.”

“In November of last year, we heard from the cabinet saying that ride-sharing is inevitable, but I think they just wanted to ensure that it is brought in the right way,” he said. “That’s why multiple years of consultation have been going on with the various stakeholders across BC.” [U](#)

CAMPUS CONTROVERSY //

Solidarity or anti-Semitism? Hillel calls for dialogue on BDS



The referendum caused friction last time it was posed in 2015.

Jack Hauen
Coordinating Editor

The Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR) club at UBC is aiming to pose the following referendum to students this year:

Do you support your student union (AMS) in boycotting products and divesting from companies that support Israeli war crimes, illegal occupation and the oppression of Palestinians?

The question — which would align the AMS with the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel — was previously posed in 2015. It received more “yes” votes than “no” votes, but failed because it didn’t meet quorum, or the number of voting students required for a referendum to pass.

Critics, including Hillel BC, say the question is vague and biased, and that the BDS movement is built on hatred

rather than dialogue. Proponents argue that the movement is a necessary show of solidarity against Israeli oppression of Palestinian people.

Hillel remains of the firm belief that while the wording of the question is not explicitly anti-Semitic, the idea behind it is.

“I think BDS as a movement is anti-Semitic. Do I think everybody who supports BDS is anti-Semitic? No, because I think people support BDS for varying reasons. I think the reality is that the calls for Israel essentially to not exist — that, to me, is anti-Semitic,” said Sam Heller, program director of Hillel BC.

“Do I believe the intention of SPHR is to be anti-Semitic? Absolutely not.”

No current members of SPHR were willing to go on record, but a representative pointed *The Ubyssy* to Eviatar Bach, a Jewish student who was a very involved member when the club previously

posed the question in 2015.

He said that the movement is “an important expression of solidarity with the Palestinian people” and a way to “put financial pressure on Israel to renegotiate the settlement.”

Rabbi Philip Bregman, the executive director of Hillel, is made uneasy by the movement’s proximity to controversial figures like founder Omar Barghouti.

“[Barghouti] is not about a two-state solution. He is about the elimination of the state of Israel. He makes it clear. A movement that is looking to eliminate an entire country that happens to be a Jewish homeland, I would say, is pretty anti-Semitic,” said Bregman.

Bach notes that the movement itself doesn’t take a position on the one versus two-state debate, and points to the situation in the region as a need for change.

“It’s becoming increasingly a de facto one-state solution because Israel is building more and more settlement blocks, the settlement wall, all these things that make it much more difficult to actually envision a two-state solution,” he said.

Heller — who “definitely doesn’t support numerous policies of the Israeli government, but still supports the concept of a country called Israel” — is concerned that the complexity of the conflict is being boiled down into a debate of good versus evil.

“This question makes me express my absolute displeasure or makes me a bad person for being against quote-unquote ‘war crimes’ ... there’s no middle ground for me here,” he said.

“I just think there’s a lot of questions that come from this [referendum] question.”

“WHY NOT TALK?”

According to Bach, a key component of the BDS movement is to get people talking.

“One of the most important functions of the campaign itself is to raise awareness of the issue,” he said. “I think, as an expression of solidarity, it’s important.”

But though Hillel officially does not “partner with, house, or host organizations, groups, or speakers” that support BDS, Bregman said he has tried to reach out multiple times to SPHR to discuss the issue — each time, he said, he’s been rebuffed.

“I came onto campus in 2015. The very first Imagine Day, I was at their booth. I handed over my card and I said very quietly and confidentially, ‘Could we get together? Some of your people, some of my students — let’s sit, let’s talk.’ The answer that came back to me was, ‘We have a no-dialogue policy with you people,’” said Bregman.

He then asked them why they didn’t want to talk.

“If we talk to you, we will give credibility to your murderous and genocidal ways,” according to Bregman, was the response he got.

After the last BDS vote, Bregman said he reached out again. “It wasn’t to gloat, it wasn’t to do anything — ‘let’s talk.’”

This year at Imagine Day, Bregman went back to the booth. “I handed out my card. I said, ‘let’s talk, let’s share — we’re talking with all sorts of people on campus.’ No response.”

“SPHR has no record of Rabbi Bregman reaching out to us,” wrote SPHR in an email statement. “There are no emails or other correspondence from Rabbi Bregman that would indicate a substantial interest in working with us.”

SPHR noted that while many people stop by their Imagine Day booth, they haven’t heard anything about Bregman stopping by from SPHR members.

“Our members have spoken with representatives from Israel On Campus on numerous occasions. Some of our members have also attended Peace Factory events.

“We have also engaged in dialogue with campus groups who do not, as a matter of their mandates, support the state of Israel. These include campus groups like the Progressive Jewish Alliance and Vancouver-based organizations like Vancouver’s chapter of Independent Jewish Voices. The allegation that we have a policy either formally or in practice of refusing dialogue is demonstrably false,” wrote SPHR.

While Bach was not able to speak for the current SPHR members, he criticized Hillel’s previous open dialogue campaigns for ignoring what he sees as a power differential between groups.

“It’s often referred to within the Palestinian solidarity movement as ‘normalization,’” he said. “It’s not just a matter of Jews and Palestinians sitting down and being friends. It’s very important to

recognize the power imbalance in these dynamics before starting.”

The club’s position in 2015 was similar.

“When groups want to deny what’s going on, then there’s not really a point in having a dialogue. Dialogue by itself is not necessarily a good or a bad thing,” said SPHR member Hussain Khan in that year.

In a 2015 letter from former Talon editor Urooba Jamal, she said that “it is precisely for the reason of unequal relations of power between Israel and Palestinians that so-called ‘dialogue’ initiatives are harmful.”

It’s this perspective that frustrates Bregman. According to him, Hillel has programs with the Muslim Students’ Association, the Thaqaayn Muslim Association and the Ismaili Students Association.

But with SPHR, “there’s been nothing coming back.”

“Why don’t you want to talk to us? I understand if you want to disagree. We’re on campus. This is a laboratory. Why not talk?”

Now graduated, Heller was a student when the last referendum took place.

“I was thinking to myself, on my campus, they’re going to pass something that ultimately infringes on my ability to be here and — I don’t want to use the terms ‘safe’ and things like that — but yeah, to a certain extent, safe,” he said.

“Putting this on the books ... doesn’t help with dialogue. It actually just shuts it down because how am I going to feel comfortable advocating certain opinions on this campus if it’s been shut down by my student government?”

OTHER CAMPUSES

Many universities and student unions in North America have passed similar referendums — none without their share of conflict.

Bregman said he is “absolutely” worried about a resurgence in hate crimes if the referendum goes to ballot.

“[In 2015], we had people yelling at us ‘go home,’” he said. “My family’s been here for about 120 years. I knew what they meant.”

The referendum comes at a time when anti-Jewish sentiment on socially progressive campuses — especially in light of the BDS movement — is a hot-button issue.

Most recently, a student representative at McGill has faced calls for resignation after he tweeted “punch a Zionist.”

“We’ve seen recently a lot of anti-Semitic incidents since the election of Trump, and I think it is very important for the Palestinian solidarity movement to be careful and not associate with anti-Semites and not promote that,” said Bach.

But Bach also said he has experienced no anti-Semitism during his time with the Palestinian solidarity movement at UBC.

“I found people in SPHR to be more sensitive to the issue of anti-Semitism than the general population,” he said.

“A lot of times, criticism of Israel or criticism of Zionism is conflated with anti-Semitism. And often, sadly, with a lot of Israeli advocacy groups, they’ll use that as a shield against criticism of Israel,”

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INFORMATION SESSIONS
March 21 and April 18

MEMOIR //

Rebellion, Canada Day yacht orgies and meth

Anonymous

The first time I did meth, I didn't find out what I'd smoked until 16 hours later. I knew that I was on some pretty powerful drug — it let me have sex for 12 hours straight with four different guys that I'd met that night — but I didn't know that it was *that* drug.

But I'm getting ahead of myself.

Like most of my millennial peers who grew up at the top of their class in high school and are doing pretty well in their university courses, I thought of myself as smart. Not necessarily book-smart, but at the very least, street-smart. I'd have enough common sense to figure out how to slither out of a tight spot. That I'd know how to get myself back on track after being handed a curve ball. That I'd know my limits and exactly how to push them just enough so that I'd be growing and yet remain very safe. Despite starting as an insecure and closeted teen — fresh off a plane that had traveled across the ocean — two years later, I was out and proud, surrounded by more friends than I could count and heavily respected in the clubs I'd joined. Surely you can't undergo such a drastic transformation in a short amount of time without being smart.

In other words, I was very full of myself.

As a kid who grew up in a conservative, Asian country with Christian fundamentalist parents, I saw my stint at this very liberal university in a Western country as a chance to, in a way, “reclaim my youth.” After all, the media has been very adamant about university being a place of “experimentation,” so why would I limit myself? In a short time, I smoked my first joint, had my first drink, got wasted, passed out in the middle of nowhere and had sex. My closest brushes with danger were those two trips to the ER resulting from alcohol poisoning and a brief dance with chlamydia thanks to an ex lying about his status.

Both of these trips were easily dealt with by properly hiding the hospital tags and pills. I was still doing great at school, everyone I volunteered with adored me and my parents still thought of me as their perfect Christian son who could do no wrong.

I felt invincible.

So when a guy told me they were going to smoke “T” and asked if I was okay with it, I said sure and that I would totally join if they'd let me. I did look up what “T” was and the first hit online said that it was an anti-retroviral HIV drug. I wanted to ask why we would smoke an HIV drug, but it was midnight and I was already in his apartment lobby when he told me what was happening. It was the dead of winter and there were three ridiculously hot guys waiting for me upstairs, so I figured why the hell not? What was the worst that could happen?

I want to say that it was the best sex I've had in my life, but it wasn't. Like, it was great at best, but probably more along the lines of decent to above average. The dudes were nice, I had fun, everyone got off and we went our separate ways.

However, when I got home, I couldn't sit still. I was fidgeting, my mind was racing and I couldn't nap. I wasn't hungry, but I tried fixing



“So when I got invited to an orgy in a yacht on Canada Day, I said sure.”

SAMUEL DU BOIS

myself something to eat. My fried chicken tasted like cardboard, so I sent the guy a text asking if that was normal.

“Yeah, that's what meth does.”

“Meth?”

“Yeah. Don't worry, should be gone in a day. Just make sure to keep hydrated.”

Casual.

I'd love to say that a wave of panic rushed over me. That I was suddenly filled with so much shame and guilt that I decided to come clean to my parents about what I'd been doing, ask for forgiveness and help, and try to be a better son. Maybe even go back to church. Oh, and delete Grindr permanently. Boy, would that have been the smart — say, the right — thing to do.

But where's the drama in that?

Instead, I laughed. “Oh that makes sense now,” I replied. At least I knew the cause. I looked up the side effects, their duration, what other telltale signs I should be aware of. I researched how long it would be in my body for, how my body would metabolize it and what I should do afterwards to return to “normal.” God bless Google.

“Today was fun though,” I added. “Text me when you want to do it again.”

But we didn't because I never bothered reaching out to him, and I think he and his friends were from out of town. I think.

But that didn't mean that was my last tryst with hard drugs. Far from it.

Looking back at it now, it should've been obvious. Queer culture has been heavily associated with partying with drugs, so guys having sex while using drugs would naturally happen. So as a budding baby gay whose exposure to Western gay culture was then limited to the few episodes of *Queer as Folk* I'd watched, I figured this would be fine. Like, it's not okay — because one, these substances are illegal for a reason and two, I do have goals in life and I couldn't just derail all of that for a day or two of uninhibited sex — but if I managed it properly, I would be fine. As long as I personally didn't have any drugs on me, didn't actively look for these opportunities, researched the side effects of these substances ahead of time and ensured that I was still on top of my responsibilities in school and at home, I would be fine.

So when I got invited to an orgy in a yacht on Canada Day, I said sure.

When a guy asked if he could live out his dad-son fantasies with me, I said fine.

When a fuckbuddy invited me to his other friend's house, we stayed there for practically half of my reading week. It was fun.

And it wasn't just meth I tried. I did K, G, M and practically any letter of the alphabet you could think of — on their own or sometimes together. Because where's the fun in killing yourself slowly?

I did have a few ground rules. First off, no needles, which also meant no heroin. Luckily enough, no one I had sex with ever touched those things, so it wasn't too big of a deal. Secondly, I wouldn't miss an obligation — school, volunteer event or even just hanging out with my friends — because of this. I told myself that as long as I'm still a functional human being, the drugs weren't affecting me all that badly. Lastly, I had to tell my best friends — tell them what I'm doing, who I'm doing it with, where I'm doing it. That way, if anything should happen, at least someone would know and could hold me accountable.

I know what you're thinking — if they were true friends, they would've stopped me the first time. And they did, eventually. They didn't stop me the first time because they believed that I was an adult who should be able to make these decisions on their own, but the reason I'm sober now and able to talk about this was because they did put their feet down.

It was the week before Vancouver Pride and one of my friends recommended we watch “Chemsex,” a *Vice* documentary about the growing epidemic of drug use within the UK's gay community. Like most documentaries, it had the undercurrent of an alarmist warning and since I was three months sober at that point, I laughed at it because hey, that wouldn't happen to me. I was over it. And what new information could I have gotten from it anyway? I'd already been there.

But I had nothing to do that night, so I watched it. And instead of being scared beyond my wits and swearing drugs off forever, my lovely self-destructive instincts kicked in. I reached out to old contacts, and

consumed a cocktail of god-knows-what. The next 24 hours were a bit of a blur, but I know I had sex with at least six people.

When my friends heard about it, they were furious — more concerned-furious than angry-furious, but still. They said, “Y'know what? Pride Weekend will be a sober one this year. No drugs, no alcohol, no nothing.”

It was fun — because even sober I was amazing — but it was still at the back of my head that I'd hurt my friends. My “harmless fun” had finally become a burden and I wasn't even the one carrying it.

There was a long-form essay from *The Huffington Post* going around titled, “The Epidemic of Gay Loneliness.” It was an interesting read despite not necessarily being all that intersectional (almost everyone interviewed was a white gay male who seemed to come from a middle to upper-middle class background). But what really struck me was that it opened with the

author talking to a friend, Jeremy, who was the epitome of the “type-A gay.”

“He is trim, intelligent, gluten-free — the kind of guy who wears a work shirt no matter what day of the week it is. The first time we met, three years ago, he asked me if I knew a good place to do CrossFit.”

But he was also in the hospital for some meth-related incident.

I laughed because, well, that totally could have been me. That was me.

It was easy to tell myself that I wasn't an addict. After all, the media said that an addict was someone who'd been using these substances constantly, could do nothing else but look for the next high and was very much a non-productive member of society. During my time, I was going to the gym, getting good marks, doing great with my extracurricular responsibilities and creating meaningful connections with the people that I met. But I also wasn't saying “no” when a hookup offered me drugs. I'd gone to class having not slept for more than 24 hours, crashing and sweating like crazy. I'd crammed a number of papers because I was practically a vegetable the weekend before. I kept telling myself that I wasn't an addict because, well, I was functioning.

Don't get me wrong — I regret nothing. I learned a lot from it, I met amazing people, heard stories that I'll probably use sometime in my writing and learned a little more about myself. What I do wish, though, is that I'd been more honest with myself.

I wish I'd realized that I wasn't just doing it because I wanted to “try it out,” that I wanted “get new material for my stories,” that I wanted to “experience it myself.”

I was doing it because I liked it. [T](#)

Editor's note: The author of this work was granted anonymity in order to protect their identity.

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MEMOIR //

The character of my Uncle Keith, an addict

Malcolm Wilkins
Senior Staff Writer

First impressions are profound as a child. When I was about four, I remember meeting my Uncle Keith for the first time. His face was round and healthy, with a dark olive complexion glazed by the sun. He seemed so kind and full of love, and that was it — my first impression of the man. My father's brother-in-law seemed like a nice guy.

It wasn't until years later, when I was 12, that I saw him again. By now, my demeanour had changed. I was quieter than I used to be and a lot sadder, although I wasn't sure why. My dad attributed my disposition to the hormones — I attributed it to the lack of familial involvement. I'm the youngest of over 20 significantly older cousins (that I know of) and it can be hard to feel like part of a family when you are, in essence, the youngest in the flock.

I'm sure you'd agree that while adults talk about booze, work and politics, as a child, you wonder when you can just get the hell out of there and play with your friends from across the street.

My Uncle Keith wasn't an adult. Of course he was grown up, but he had a playful air about him and he never made me feel like an outcast, while the others so easily did. My uncle never tried to be an adult — he just was. He never tried to tell me to be a kid — he just allowed me to be myself. He never ordered me around — he appreciated, and even more importantly, respected my presence as a human being. This outlook solidified my bond with the man. He was cool.

Two more years passed and I was 14. I felt completely different now —

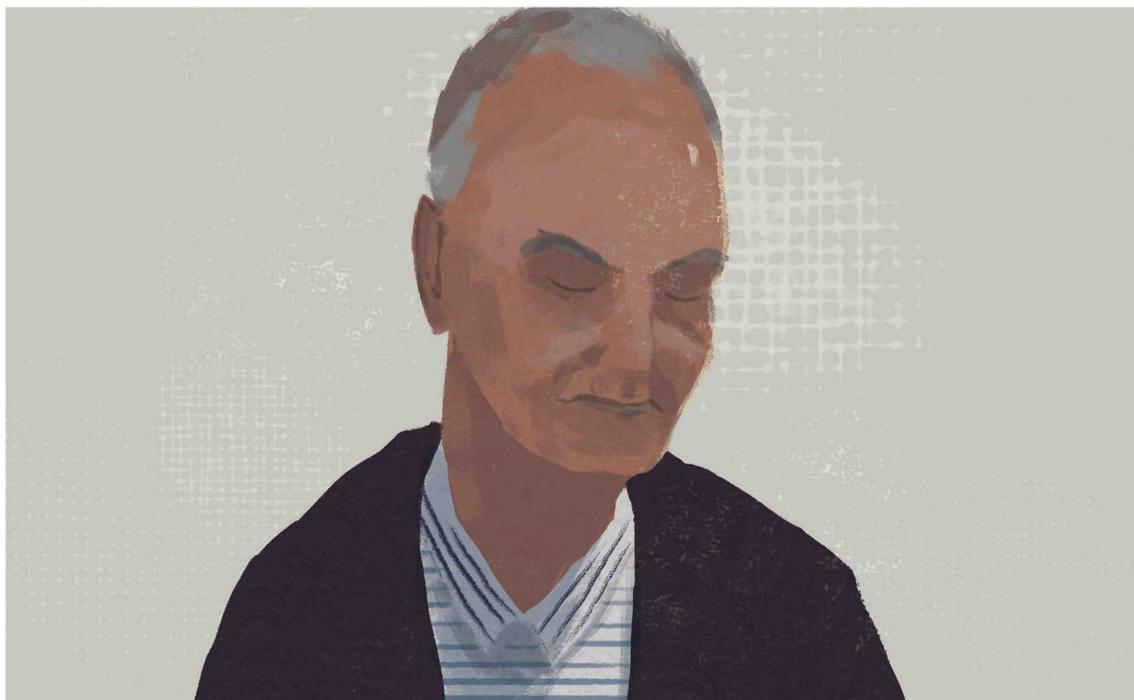
stronger, more confident. Puberty is gracious, but I was still young and had a lot to learn.

It was during this year — 2008 — that my first impression of my Uncle Keith would be challenged. One warm afternoon, my family and I visited him and my Aunt Jenny. Much of the usual adult shenanigans ensued such as talk about work and politics, but this time, something was markedly different: no one mentioned alcohol.

I realized that something seemed off. My family's disposition was cold. Their body language, their expressions and their energy — it all seemed wrong. My uncle sat across from me at the cherry-red dining table, cutely fidgeting about. I knew that sooner or later, he would swoop in and save me from this weird adult mess — we were going to chill together. Whenever I felt alone or mildly uncomfortable in my environment, he had been the troubleshooter and I was immensely sure that he would play that role once more.

It was at this point that Uncle Keith stood up. Everyone looked at him with huge, gleaming eyes. He stood there for a few moments with an odd, rather stupid smile on his face, then he moved into the kitchen.

I stood up, only to have my mother put her hand on my shoulder. I looked at her, slightly confused. She shook her head and her eyes conveyed a very strong message: something was wrong and it was something serious. I looked around the room and everyone else who was there — my father, Aunt Jenny and my cousins Telford and Amanda — had that same look in their eyes. This "look" was a strange combination of fear and dejection. I assumed that



"My uncle never tried to be an adult — he just was."

JERRY YIN

it stemmed from the fact that they had just disallowed me the right to interact with my uncle. I understood that. However, I didn't understand their fear. I knew that it had to do with my Uncle Keith, but I didn't exactly know how. I obeyed my mother and sat back down, puzzled.

A few admittedly awkward moments passed, after which Uncle Keith emerged from the kitchen, holding a glass of whisky in his left hand and a cigarette in the other. He walked over to the front door and, without even saying a word, left the house.

"Go into the kitchen now," my mother said. "Serve yourself some food."

So I did. The plate was full and my stomach was empty, but I couldn't eat. My curiosity burned my hunger to ash. I poked my ear out the kitchen door and it was in that moment that I first became acquainted with my uncle's struggles with alcoholism and smoking.

I heard words such as "alcoholic," "addict," "help," "intervention" and "nicotine" being thrown around freely. I remember feeling this stabbing sensation in my chest. I couldn't breathe. Could this man — the man that had been so loving, supportive and seemingly invincible in the past — fall prey to something like addiction? I began to ask myself many questions — some despicable (and of which I admit now that I am ashamed of) and others, perhaps, quite valid in their line of inquiry. I began asking myself whether I would ever have the privilege of being able to interact with my uncle as much as I had been able to in the past.

It seemed as though my uncle couldn't be my friend anymore. Soon after acknowledging this realization, worry most definitely did set in. Would my uncle ever be the same? It certainly didn't seem so. Would he kick this obstacle in the butt? I sincerely hoped so. Quite simply, I was afraid that I had lost him forever. He was alive, but he wasn't well.

My parents and I left soon after, and it wasn't until I was 16 that I saw my uncle again. In that time, my parents had refused to tell me about his predicament, despite my knowing that on several occasions, my Aunt Jenny had phoned them.

During our next visit, I saw his struggle first-hand. My parents and I went over at his place for lunch, and this time, the tension was at its peak. He had seemed relatively harmless, but I still got the sense that something was about to happen — something explosive. He seemed uneasy all day, fidgeting about with every little thing, from his shirt and his hair, to his watch and his teeth. It was truly frightening to see him so on edge.

At one point, I remember Uncle Keith looking at my aunt with wet eyes. He closed his fist, opened a thumb and touched it to his mouth. My aunt refused. Again, my uncle made the gesture and again, she remained defiant. This trend

repeated until they had a fight and it was a brutal one. Later in my room, my mother explained that these fights had always existed and that my uncle's constant need for alcohol and cigarettes worsened that. This wasn't the man I had thought I had known.

Just when I thought things couldn't get any worse, a few days later, I learned that my cousin — his son — had found him passed-out on a road somewhere. Cars, trucks and scooters would have passed him by. He could have been the victim of an accident, or even worse, the cause of one. My aunt was distraught, my parents were as concerned as they seemed ashamed.

Years later, the whole family met up for a Christmas break in Dubai. Uncle Keith was there. He had the same habits, and still suffered from the same cravings. Everyone was weary of him, but there was this one moment where he looked at me and I feared that something had been lost from him — his authentic character.

Upon noticing his gaze, I thought that he was going to make the same drinking gesture that he had been making to all of my other family members throughout that night. However, he simply made me sit next to him and asked, "So, how are you?" And that was it — the moment where I realized, to my relief, that he was the same man.

I had never been told or taught in school that addiction is a disorder. The compulsive nature that it causes its sufferers to experience stems from a variety of different factors, except one: a person's character. My uncle had a good character and he still does. And even though his constant craving for alcohol and smoking tens of cigarettes every few hours made it seem like he had lost his brilliant sense of compassion, I came to realize that addiction, frightening and powerful as it may be, is not who he is. It controlled my Uncle Keith, but in no way did it define him. And today, as I write this and he sits at home completely safe and sober for years now, I want to thank him. Even during his years of abuse when there had been a lack of communication between us, he showed me the awesome power of his character.

Thank you, Uncle Keith, for being a triumph of an individual. I love you.

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Review: *Amazonia* makes a powerful case for forest conservation

Shelby Rogers
Staff Writer

The words spoken at the opening night of the *Amazonia* exhibit were moving and powerful, bringing attention to a truth many of us have forgotten or chosen to ignore.

“People are not separate from nature, but part of it. The relationship is one of interdependence and the survival of both is intimately connected,” said Anthony Shelton, director of the UBC Museum of Anthropology (MoA).

That is the core ideology that the entire exhibition rotates around — an ideology that, while often forgotten in Canada, has not been forgotten by the Indigenous people of the Amazon. They reject the concept of nature as a commodity and instead recognize the Rights of Nature, something British Columbia, and Canada as a whole, has failed to acknowledge.

In South America, the countries of Ecuador and Bolivia have listened to the Indigenous people’s knowledge of nature and incorporated the Rights of Nature into their national constitutions. This decision sets a powerful example for the rest of the world and poses a question to other governments: When will you do the same?

The opening night was full of people who crowded around

the chairs and podium to listen to what Shelton and the exhibit curator, Nuno Porto, had to say. Prior to the opening words, people were busy admiring the exhibit and all the voices became a babble of excitement and somewhat pretentious conversation. The moment the MoA director stood up to speak, the audience went silent, eager to hear what he had to say. He introduced the exhibit as the fourth in a series that has examined the relationships between Indigenous cultures and their knowledge of the environment and land.

“Indigenous knowledge about the environment is taken very seriously, rejecting the idea that nature is a commodity to be exploited, given monetary value and traded,” said Shelton, going on to describe how the South American governments of Ecuador and Bolivia have adopted the Indigenous perspectives of nature. The *Amazonia* exhibit explores these perspectives as well as how South American countries have incorporated them into their governments to protect the Amazon rainforest.

Porto then gave a few comments on the exhibition which took two years to complete. He described the relations between humans and nature, reinforcing the Indigenous concept that humans are a part of nature as opposed to being superior to it.

“The forest became what it is — not in spite of, but rather because of the many peoples that live there. Being one with nature has been central to these Indigenous people’s knowledge from the earliest times to present days,” said Porto.

Porto went on to discuss the importance of preserving the forest and promoting its ability to flourish and grow.

“Living well is not about having more things. It’s about living a well-adjusted life [and] continually building relations with other people and with natural elements ... doing so in such a way that prosperity and wealth are here not just for now, but for many generations to come.”

The implementation of the Rights of Nature into these countries’ constitutions is “a promising prospect for our future,” said Porto. The governments of these countries are not just ensuring the Amazon’s protection for our own sake, but for the sake of generations to come.

“In BC and in Canada, we do not recognize that nature has rights,” said Porto. “That is what this exhibition is about.”

Porto closed his speech with a quote from Miguel de Cervantes’ work, *Don Quixote* — “To change the world, my friend Sancho, is not madness or utopia. It is justice.”

From here, there was enthusiastic applause from the audience who were now all the more fascinated by the exhibit. People flooded to

the exhibit entrance, wanting to get the first and best look at all the exhibition had to offer.

At the beginning hung a quote from the Constitution of the Plurinational State of Ecuador that read, “Nature, or Pacha Mama, where life is reproduced and unfolds, has the right to integral respect for its existence and for the maintenance and regeneration of its life cycles, structure, functions and evolutionary processes. All persons, communities, peoples and nations can call upon public authorities to enforce the rights of nature.”

As we walked into the exhibit, there was a large sign wrapping around the right wall which began with geographic facts about the Amazon, then moved into the countries that it consumes. From there, it continued on into information about the Indigenous peoples that live there, concluding with information about what threatens the forests’ safety and the primary causes of deforestation. The curved design elegantly led us further inward.

On the left wall was the “Amazon Cosmos,” where two films from Diego Samper were being projected: *The Serpent and The Sky* and *Amazon Genesis*. The sign next to the projections described the significance of these two films, as well as how the Amazonian people understand the “connections in time and space between places, beings

and spirits, and are conscious of the role of humanity in the intricate fabric of nature, not as a conqueror, but as the custodian of its sacred balance.”

At the far back of the exhibit were a number of hammocks that visitors were allowed to lie in with their shoes off. While watching this, I saw a woman and her child lying in a hammock, with the child smiling with delight. A couple of hammocks over from them, two older women were rocking back and forth, giggling with one another.

Overlaid throughout the entire exhibit, there was a soundscape playing from Diego Samper’s *Amazon Chant*, which featured the voices of Indigenous singers and storytellers. It created an atmosphere that transported me from the exhibit, almost making me forget that I was in a museum in Vancouver. As I made my way through, the abundance of items from Amazonian cultures and information about the forest, had me completely lost amongst the displays.

Everything from the visuals, to the soundscape, to each individual display and placard was deeply entrenched in the messages that Nuno Porto and Anthony Shelton spoke of earlier. This is a unique exhibit that I would recommend everyone go to. The richness of information that effectively supports the concept of giving nature rights is unlike anything I’ve seen before. [u](#)

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PHOTOS KOBY MICHAELS, BEN GEISBERG, JOSHUA MEDICOFF AND JACK HAUEN

PRESIDENT

ALAN EHRENHOLZ

Alan Ehrenholz, a fifth-year engineering student, won the race for AMS president. His platform focused on long-term functioning of the AMS — noting the recent governance review and current work being done on their strategic plan, as well as maintaining support for varsity athletics and student life on campus. He also said he plans to consult with professionals more well-versed on the topic and provide further consultation on the draft sexual assault policy.

“Campus spirit isn’t just varsity athletics. Campus spirit is an overall feeling of engaging with your school,” he said in an interview with *The Ubysey*.

Ehrenholz only released his platform three days before voting ended, having started out as a joke

candidate running as the Engineering Cairn.

“I’ve made this decision to run under my own name because, even running as a joke candidate, I was the best option to be your next AMS president,” he said during the announcement.

His late decision to run seriously means that Ehrenholz did not end up engaging in campaign period in the same way other candidates did, mainly by not participating in the first debate, speaking in the third person at the Great Debate, and talking mainly about minute issues with AMS Council and concrete during his candidate profile with *The Ubysey*.

Ehrenholz’s election marks the first time that a joke candidate has won the AMS presidency.





VP EXTERNAL

SALLY LIN

Sally Lin is bringing her past experience of being a council member on the AMS board of directors, an elected Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) representative, co-chair of the AUS first-year committee and Vancouver School Board Committee education and student services representative to her new role as AMS VP External.

The platform that Lin ran on consists of three key points — academic affordability, better student housing and accessible transit.

In her first platform pillar of academic affordability, Lin emphasizes her goal of achieving textbook parity, collaborating with other student unions to “lobby on federal legislation that prevents universities and bookstores

[from] sourcing textbooks anywhere around the globe.”

The second key point in Lin’s platform hopes to “work with other student unions in BC to lobby the provincial government to relax debt rules and allow the university to find alternative financial arrangements.”

Finally, in addressing accessibility of transit for students, Lin hopes to push for quick development of the Broadway Corridor.

She also places a strong emphasis on constituency support and engagement, and hopes to re-examine the AMS-constituency relationship next year in terms of support and strength.

“I feel super excited, super shaky, but overwhelmed in a good way,” said Lin of her feelings after the win.

VP FINANCE

ALIM LAKHIYALOV

After running unopposed, Alim Lakhialov was elected as VP Finance on a platform that includes creating a long-term sustainable financial plan, implementing professional development programs for students and expanding financial system usage to all clubs and constituencies.

He brings experience working as this year’s associate VP Finance and previous vice-chair of the fund committee.

“One of the main motivators [for running] as well as for the past 10 months, the VP Finance and I have been working really, really closely ... and I was really involved in the launches of all these new initiatives,” said Lakhialov.

He also hopes to expand the financial systems that he saw at the

beginning of this year.

“[These projects have] such massive opportunities for growth in the future.”

Lakhialov will be working with the new investment policy that was just passed at referendum, which could generate a lot more revenue for the AMS. He also pledged to continue Louis Retief’s work in moving towards financial transparency by releasing the AMS budget on a quarterly basis.

“With the quarterly updates, it ... would be more frequent updates [so that] students can understand what’s happening financially with the AMS,” said Lakhialov. He noted that these budgets would be summarized instead of full line-item breakdowns.



VP ACADEMIC

DANIEL LAM

After running unopposed, Daniel Lam was elected as AMS VP Academic and University Affairs on a platform centred on affordability, student experience and equity and inclusion.

Lam’s platform focuses on decreasing the impact of financial hardship, providing more support to certain underrepresented groups on campus and trying to help students get the most out of their academic experience.

Lam promises to push for review of Policy 73 concerning academic accommodation for students with disabilities.

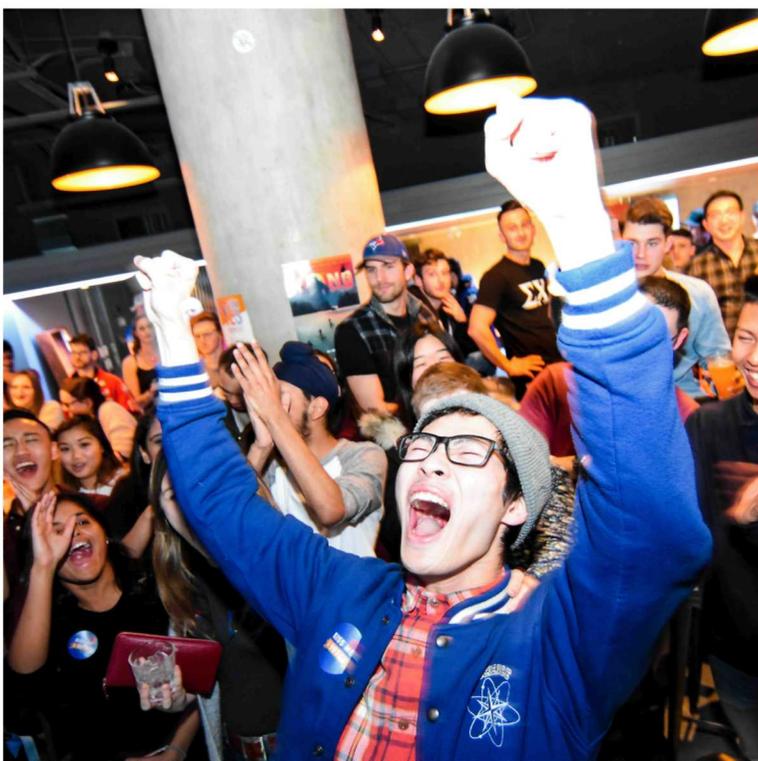
“I’ve been part of certain groups

on this campus representing neuro-diverse individuals,” said Lam. “A lot of them talk about problems with Access and Diversity.”

In terms of affordability, Lam plans to lobby with the future VP External to advocate for funding for open educational resources at a provincial level.

He also recognizes that continuing the advocacy efforts on Policy 93 could pose a challenge in the coming year, but noted that the policy as it stands is “only going to provide a sort of starting point for the university.”

Lam was also elected to Senate for the coming school year.





VP ADMINISTRATION

POOJA BHATTI

Pooja Bhatti was elected as AMS VP Administration on a platform of restructuring the AMS-constituency relationship, improving outreach to and by clubs, increasing sustainability and accessibility of the Nest, and enhancing campus culture.

Her experience includes working as the SUS's current VP Administration and as the UBC Canadian Liver Foundation's former president.

She believes that there's a need to "rebuild this relationship" with clubs and constituencies because the executives of "the past years have been more focused on [the Nest]."

For the first pillar, Bhatti aims to implement the recommendations laid out in a recent report on the AMS's relationship with constituencies. One particular

issue is the lack of "structured support" from the AMS, which Bhatti considers a major problem.

In response, the recommendations include "improved communication," "a resource package" and "AMS VPs reaching out to respective constituencies' roles."

The next two pillars plan to empower clubs by increasing communication between them and the AMS, and streamlining the current booking process in the Nest.

"I'd like to make it an online booking system," said Bhatti.

For the last pillar, Bhatti intends to incorporate clubs and constituencies into the planning process of events like Block Party in order to increase student engagement beyond the academic realm.

Board of Governors



JEANIE MALONE

Jeanie Malone, one of the two newly elected student members of the UBC Board of Governors, ran on a platform of seeking transparency, advocating for a better student experience and communicating the student voice.

Malone's experience includes her current role as president of the EUS as well as the current chair of the Geering Up board of advisors. She also worked to oversee the approval process for the biomedical engineering undergraduate program.

Throughout her campaign, Malone emphasized the small steps involved in changing the rhetoric of transparency such as making sure agendas are released in a timely manner.

"I think that Policy 93 is obviously going to have a big impact, and [it's important to be] pushing for student voices to be heard and pushing for transparency via the review of that policy," said Malone.

Malone also plans to push for the prioritization of initiatives like GamePlan and the sexual assault policy to emphasize student experience. She hopes to sit on the finance committee and the people, community & international committee.

"It's important to be very clear [about the things that] will impact students and to make those choices," said Malone. "But I think that once a decision is made, you stick by the decision and you represent Board."



KEVIN DOERING

Kevin Doering, one of the two newly elected student members of the UBC Board of Governors, ran on a platform of transparency and communication, tuition and affordability, and student housing.

The prior experience that he brings to this role includes his current position as associate VP Academic as well as his previous work as a peer advisor with Arts Academic Advising.

Doering's first pillar is to address the cost and scarcity of student housing, which he plans to do by advocating against any changes that he would see as having further negative effects.

His second pillar aims to address the topic of transparency within the Board

— he hopes to bring meaningful further discussion to Policy 93. To further increase transparency and student connection, he hopes to write blog posts and op-eds for *The Ubyyssey*, and hold open sessions for students before committee meetings.

Doering's third platform pillar concerns affordability, which he sees as not just tuition but also fees, textbooks and housing.

He was also elected to Senate this year. "In both positions, I will strive to protect and improve affordability and access to education — not just by opposing tuition increases, but by addressing the many compounding issues that all contribute to affordability," he said on his website.

SENATE



SIMRAN BRAR

Simran Brar, a third-year biology student, is one of the five students elected to be a student-at-large on the UBC Vancouver Senate. She ran on a platform centred on support for mental health initiatives, mandatory syllabi, a fall reading break, the extension of withdrawal deadlines and an ad hoc committee on diversity.

One of the main reasons behind Brar's bid for Senate is the disconnect she sees between the actions of UBC's governing bodies and students' understanding of them.

"I think, as student senators, we can try to bridge that gap by providing students with alternatives rather than 500-word meeting agendas to find out what Senate actually does," said Brar in an interview with *The Ubyyssey* during campaign period. "I've heard concerns that students might not care, but I think in order to be transparent, you need to make materials accessible.

As senator she has promised to work to reach out to students and make Senate materials accessible to students.

"I want to be the kind of senator that spends 10 hours working for Senate each week," she said.



JAKOB GATTINGER

Jakob Gattinger is a third-year mining engineering student and another one of the five students successful in their bid for the UBC Vancouver Senate. His platform is focused on mental health, a commitment to diversity and tuition consultation concerns.

Gattinger plans to use a position on Senate to change aspects of academics that are "fundamentally unfriendly" to students by working to integrate academic and financial decisions.

"Having [academic programs] that are just structurally unfriendly to mental health and well-being is what needs to be addressed next," said Gattinger, referring to the new biomedical engineering program which will see students in class with very few breaks for the first 18 months of their degree. "We've talked about [mental health and well-being] conceptually, but I think that they really need to be put into practice."

A couple of Gattinger's platform points — namely his intention to bridge the gap between program and tuition approvals and his desire to make sure the newly created diversity and excellence funds have the largest impact possible on academics — become more difficult after he was unsuccessful in his bid for a position on the Board. They are still achievable goals, but will now require more communication with members of the Board.



KEVIN DOERING

Kevin Doering, a fourth-year honours economics student, has won a seat on the UBC Vancouver Senate as well as the Board of Governors this elections season. This dual win is especially useful because much of his Senate platform was based on this hopeful dual role. His platform for Senate focused specifically on having a "student-focused agenda."

As senator, Doering has promised to work towards the elimination of non-tuition mandatory course fees such as problem set access codes for students, a textbook review section in course evaluations, more open educational resources and a student senate caucus that is coordinated and united in the agenda items it puts forward.

His push for open access to court materials is motivated in part by the potential solution it provides to educational unaffordability given that in the current system, he says, "students who are financially disadvantaged are also academically disadvantaged."

Doering noted that the Senate is entering a new triennium with new faculty representatives being elected.

"It's important that we start to look at what goals we can set for the next three years," he said.



IAN SAPOLLNIK

Ian Sapollnik, a third-year economics student, was successful in his bid for re-election on the UBC Vancouver Senate. He ran on a platform focused on uniting tuition and curriculum approval processes, initiating a review of academic scheduling guidelines and creating a strong Student Senate caucus.

Like Gattinger and Doering, who were also elected to Senate, he plans on working with the Board of Governors, who determine tuition fees, to unify student consultation processes for tuition and programs.

"I don't expect that [unified student consultation] process to be formalized or codified next year," he said. "My goal by the end of next year would be to have a document that outlines that process across the table for all programs at UBC."

Sapollnik also wants to review academic and scheduling procedures — including revisiting add/drop deadlines and exam scheduling guidelines.

"I'm not committing fully to having a fall reading break or moving the add/drop deadline," he said. "What I'm recognizing is that a full review of these processes hasn't happened in quite some time and things have remained the same."

Sapollnik also plans to chair the 18-member Student Senate caucus, giving continuity to the new group of senators.



DANIEL LAM

Daniel Lam, a third-year atmospheric science student, has been re-elected to serve on the UBC Vancouver Senate as well as next year's AMS VP Academic. He ran with a platform focused on continuing current Senate initiatives, diversity, reforming the relationships between the Board of Governors and Senate as well as the introduction of a fall reading break.

"University data has shown that certain groups of people are feeling less of a sense of belonging and also feeling less supported in their academics," said Lam. "Groups like the LGBTQIA+ community and also certain international students from specific countries ... are feeling less belonging."

When he returns to Senate, Lam has promised to create an ad hoc committee on supporting diversity in the student body.

Lam sees the role of student senator as providing "an informed perspective from students to a body that is mainly made up of faculty," given that students will directly feel the effects of Senate decisions.

He plans to continue the work Senate did on engaging the student body last year — in part through their Twitter account and Lam's column in *The Ubyyssey* — to keep students involved in the coming year.

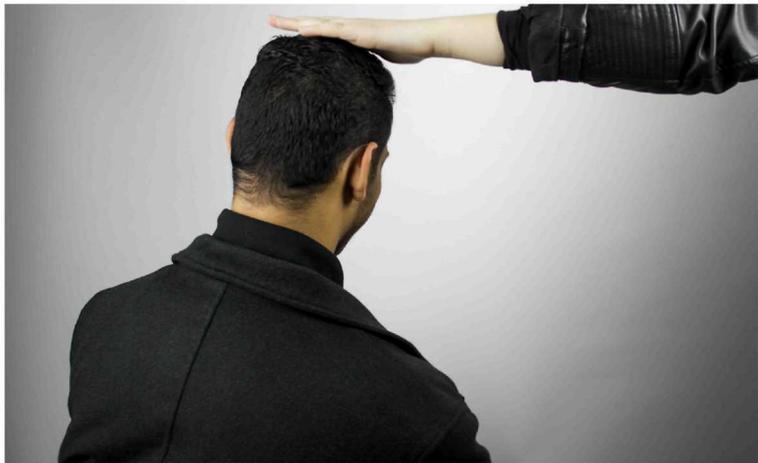
All referendums pass in the AMS elections.

The four referendums put forward in this year's AMS Elections passed with quorum.

One of them will establish a fee that would fund the construction of a student fitness and recreation building on campus. Another will allow the AMS to sell up to four pieces of art from their collection. The third one consists of changes to the AMS's bylaws that reflect recent changes to the governance structure and are intended to reduce redundancy. Finally, the Ubyyssey Publication Society's bylaw changes also passed. [u](#)

JEALOUS SCIENCE KIDS //

Ask Natalie: My engineering roommates keep making fun of my arts degree and they need to stop



"I'm in a 'soft subject' in arts and all of them are in STEM."

JOSHUA MEDICOFF

Natalie Morris
Senior Staff Writer

"My (now ex-) boyfriend cheated on me with a friend of a friend. I'm really heartbroken about our break up, but it feels like an extra punch in the heart that he still goes out with/sees the group she is in, and most likely is still talking to her (or another girl). I lie awake thinking about him with her and I can't stop stalking them on Facebook, comparing myself to her and missing him. How do I get out of this obsessive, horrible heartbreak?"

Block them. I know it feels like an itch you need to scratch, but you have to block them. Unfollow them at the very, very, very minimum.

Keeping yourself suspended in a post-break up state is not healthy. If you allow yourself to keep looking for his back in a crowd, you'll never move forward yourself.

It's completely shitty that he cheated on you and it's completely shitty that he cheated on you with someone you knew, but that just means he doesn't deserve you. Don't worry about who he's hanging out with because I'm sure most of his friends are disappointed in his choices. As for her, there's a reason the saying, "If they cheat with you, they'll cheat on you," exists.

But I can understand how hard it would be for him not to hang out with her group. Not to justify his actions, but you guys broke up — you probably got half the friends in the

split. Who else can he turn to other than his other friend, even if they're in the same circle as the woman he cheated on you with?

I know it sucks. I know how much a break up can mess with you. But focus on you and not them, and you'll get through this. You'll come out the end of this tunnel healthier and happier than you were before.

"My roommates are really fun and we get along really well, except for one thing. We have a lot of banter and we make a lot of jokes about each other (always in a good-natured way, everyone's generally okay with it), but it seems like every joke made lately has been about my degree."

I'm in a "soft subject" in arts and all of them are in STEM, so they make a lot of jokes about my homework and readings not being hard and that I'm "just reading" or that it's "sad" I need to take a class "to learn how to read," and it's honestly pissing me off. This is my degree. This is what I want to do. But I don't know how to say that without spoiling the mood of the house."

My goodness, it's like looking in a mirror. My whole family's in the engineering field and the stuff they say to me during my trips back home... well, explains why I don't take more trips back home! My sisters only started accepting my program during my third year.

You need to be straight with them. If you all do something semi-serious together, like a house meeting or a house dinner, bring it up then. Don't do it over text because tone is so easy to misunderstand with text. Be honest and say that their jokes have crossed a line. Tell them what you wrote me and tell them the level they've been going at isn't appropriate anymore.

Banter and jokes are a great way to bring friends together, but not if someone comes out feeling badly about themselves. Like every relationship, the key to success is consent and communication.

Do you need to start a "safe word" for when someone crosses a line? Do you want a list of off-limit topics? Do you just want them to have a little respect for your education? I mean, we're all at UBC — it's not like we're dumb because we're in arts.

If they keep making jokes after you talk to them, just stop engaging. Ruin the mood. Start standing up for yourself. They'll get the hint. One more thing to remember is not to throw what you can't take. If you're not pulling punches over their degrees, you can't expect them to pull punches for yours.

Best of luck — hopefully you won't need it. 🍀

Need advice? Contact Natalie anonymously at asknatalie@ubyssey.ca or at ubyssey.ca/advice and have your questions answered!

POLITICS //

Letter: We need to encourage women to run for AMS leadership

Veronica Bylicki
UBC Student

Out of 22 candidates in this year's AMS election, five of them were women. There were no women running for president and only two running for executive positions.

If you do the math, that's 22 per cent of the total candidates that are women — and yes, I'm including "joke candidates" in the count because hey, they're still running.

Why does this matter? According to 2016/17 enrollment statistics, 55 per cent of UBC's student population is female.

If a seemingly progressive university that prides itself in being a "place of mind," innovative, international and diverse doesn't have a gender-balanced student government, then how can we expect higher levels of government or different jurisdictions to be gender-balanced?

So who's to blame, what's the problem and how do we fix it?

I'm not saying to point the blame at anyone in particular, but this alarming lack of female presence in student government does speak to a Canada-wide and worldwide issue, and should be a concern and an important topic of conversation here at UBC.

With men more likely to be encouraged to seek positions of leadership than women, we need to start by building processes and removing barriers to encourage women to go after these opportunities. That starts by encouraging young women to run, ensuring higher female representation in student government.

We've seen how important conversations and perceptions on gender are in leadership races globally — we can't change those perceptions of women in power if we don't have women running in the first place.

The most impactful thing that we can do as individuals on campus and as global citizens is to be encouraging of women running for student government. Next time you hear a woman you know talk about running — and regardless of what gender you are — don't tell her it's not a good idea or agree with her doubts. Support her, encourage her and tell her that she would make a great leader.

If we build a community where women are supported, where women support one another to run and where our own elections and governments are gender-balanced, we can start to make a dent in the overall challenge of gender imbalanced leadership.

Because after all, UBC, it's 2017. 🍀

Veronika Bylicki is a student in the faculty of land and food systems

TRAVEL //



"Every city's queer community has a different vibe."

GRAEME WHEELER

Their Campus: Feeling comfortably queer in Cardiff

Graeme Wheeler
Contributor

Sitting down in an attempt to write this piece has only got me begging the question of what makes communities individual, specific and important. Having moved around for a majority of my adult life, I have been able to experience many different forms of "community."

Especially being LGBTQ+, no matter where I go, there are always individuals willing to accept me for who I am. I don't want to go in depth into the nuanced differences within the queer community

because I'm supposed to be focusing on how Cardiff University differs from UBC. I'll simply leave it by saying that every city's queer community has a different vibe. I guess that's just like how cities have different reputations, but I will say the thing I noticed right away about Cardiff in general is how extraordinarily nice the people here are.

Remember, that's coming from a Canadian.

Another thing I haven't experienced before is just how open and accepting a gay scene can be. Cardiff University has one of the most active Pride groups in

Britain and because of that, they foster a sense of belonging that stretches way beyond the group itself. I ended up finding this out by timidly attending a "freshers" get-to-know-you event within my first week here and was immediately assimilated into the CU-Pride "family."

Not to throw shade at UBC's LGBTQ+ group, but the one here at Cardiff Uni just feels more established and organized. That may be because UBC is like twice the size of Cardiff and can only reach a certain number of people, but in my three years at UBC, I've never really heard about any

significant events coming out of our Pride group.

In many ways, Cardiff is a very stereotypical university city. Mostly everything here is in some way focused on student life — from the many restaurants, to the pubs, to the frankly ridiculous nightlife. Unlike Vancouver, everyone here seems to understand the fact that students have basically no money and to offset this, there are always food and drink discounts if you present a student card. 🍀

Graeme Wheeler is a third-year arts student studying abroad at the University of Cardiff.

STUDY //

Researchers use car2go to map CO₂ around Vancouver

Diana Oproescu

Senior Staff Writer

It turns out car2gos are useful for more than just avoiding overcrowded buses. Scientists are using them to map CO₂ around Vancouver.

UBC researchers have developed a method to map carbon dioxide emissions in cities by using new mobile sensors. These small mobile sensors were attached to car2gos, which were driven through the city to measure the amount of carbon dioxide at street level in any given geographical area.

The data collected by the mobile sensors was then compared to measurements collected from sensors located on a tower above Vancouver, which allowed the researchers to more accurately calculate where the emissions were coming from.

In a press release, project lead and UBC geography graduate Joseph Lee said “the data measured by the sensors confirmed what we expected to find,” in that downtown Vancouver and Stanley Park revealed the highest and lowest levels of carbon dioxide respectively.

“What is novel about our method is that we are able to combine multiple mobile sensors with tower data and to

consequently map emissions across large areas of a city in high detail,” said Lee in the press release.

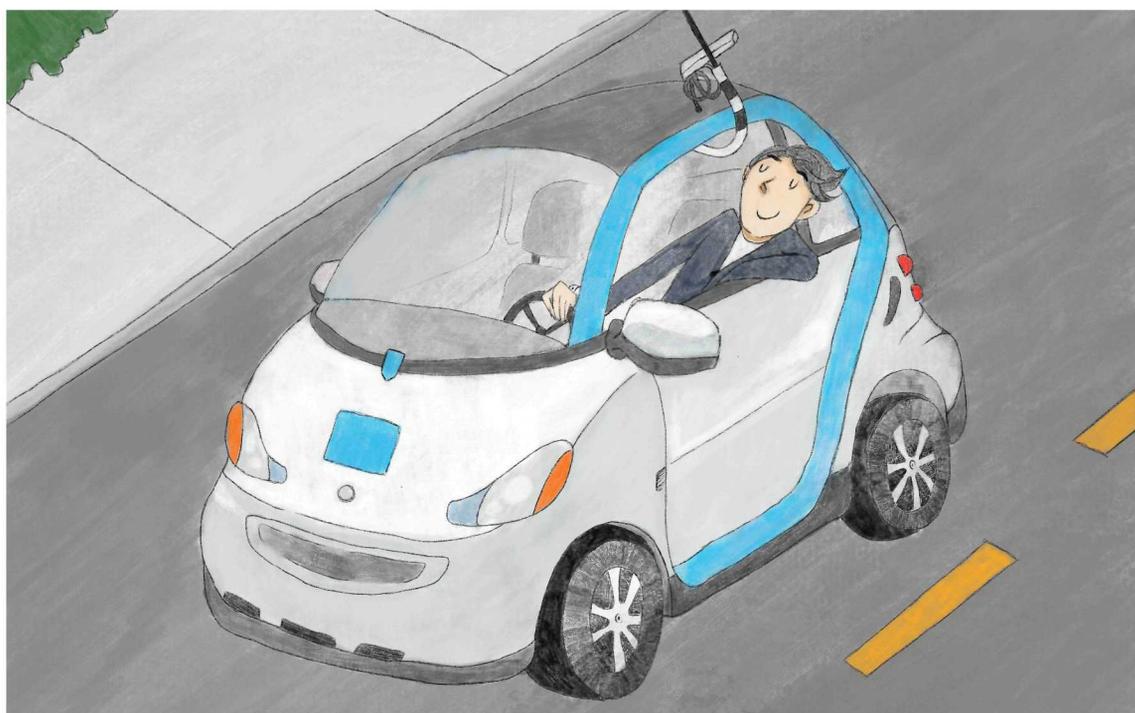
“Other researchers have previously attempted to measure carbon dioxide levels at street-level using mobile sensors, but were unable to translate their levels to emissions.”

Despite the confirmation the mobile sensors provided in determining the areas with the highest and lowest levels of carbon dioxide, Dr. Andreas Christen — senior author of the paper and UBC geography and atmospheric science professor — emphasized that this was not necessarily the project’s main purpose.

“Our idea was really not to measure the levels of the concentrations of carbon dioxide, but rather to have a tool to visualize emissions,” said Christen. “We wanted to translate the information from scientific numbers on spreadsheets to visually attractive maps that can be used in decision-making.”

Christen also emphasized the importance of the collaborative communities at UBC that contributed to bringing this project to fruition.

“The idea happened because UBC is a place where people with different backgrounds collaborated together,” said Christen. “The university is not a place of people working in



AIKEN LAO

The highest concentrations of CO₂ were found in downtown Vancouver, the lowest in Stanley Park.

isolation, but rather [a place] where there is exchange and teamwork happening.”

The project led by Lee and Christen was under the co-supervision between the UBC school of architecture and landscape architecture and the department of geography.

“Our students here at UBC,

in all faculties, are motivated to change the world for the better, and to find new technologies and other means of combating climate change,” said Christen.

Christen expressed that a challenge in communicating these findings and new technologies to students would be teaching them how to implement solutions.

“That’s, of course, not an easy task,” said Christen. “We can easily have a technology where we can map emissions, but what does that mean in terms of selecting emission reductions strategies?”

“It’s a step forward in the technology and we are proud of what we achieved, but there is much more potential in front of us.”

STUDY //

Universal pharmacare could save Canada \$3.1 billion



MAGINEART/FLICKR

Some argue that universal pharmacare would monopolize the system and give patients less choice.

Jordan Chang

Contributor

A recent study published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal has rekindled debate over whether Canada should implement a universal pharmacare system, eliciting editorial responses from both of Canada’s national newspapers, *The Globe and Mail* and the *National Post*.

Although Canada has a universal healthcare system where medical services such as hospital visits are publicly funded, the government does not provide

universal coverage for prescription medicines. Instead, the cost of prescription medicines is covered in varying degrees through private and public insurance plans as well as out of individual’s own pockets.

According to Dr. Steven Morgan, professor at the school of population and public health and co-author of the study, this makes Canada an anomaly, as it is the only advanced-economy country with universal healthcare that does not also have a universal prescription drug coverage component.

To provide a manageable first step to potentially move Canada towards universal pharmacare, Morgan and his colleagues estimated the savings to Canada if the country were to provide universal public coverage of 117 essential medicines. They estimated that Canadians could save \$3.1 billion annually by providing universal coverage for these essential medicines, savings largely derived from bulk purchasing power.

“If you have a system which is a single-payer for all of Canada, that system becomes

powerful in the world market for pharmaceuticals,” said Morgan. “The price of [generic] drugs are far lower in countries that have national procurement systems than they are in Canada.”

Despite the potential savings, universal prescription drug coverage — even universal coverage restricted to 117 medicines — faces significant political obstacles.

“If we believe that a system of universal coverage of these medicines could generate on the order of \$3 billion in net savings to Canada, that means that somebody in the sector is going to get \$3 billion less in revenue that they are getting right now,” said Morgan.

Among stakeholders with the most to lose, Morgan lists insurance companies and pharmacies.

To overcome these obstacles, politicians need to be given adequate impetus to act.

“Canadians need to say this matters to our health because when people are not filling the prescriptions they need, their health gets worse. It matters to their bottom line because families that have a high burden of illness pay a lot out of pocket for medicines and it essentially becomes a tax on poor health,” said Morgan. “It matters to taxpayers because if people do not fill out prescriptions, they end up in hospitals and we all pay for that. Oftentimes, it ends up being more expensive than it would have been to give them the drugs in the first instance.”

Morgan sees the millennial demographic as a potential tipping point in this policy debate. He encourages the millennial generation to become informed about healthcare policy and politically engaged in the discourse surrounding the issue, regardless of political views. He stresses the importance of the issue to millennials in light of changing dynamics of employment in Canada.

“The job market today is one that is full of precarious work, part-time positions or working in smaller businesses and entrepreneurial settings, which is great and exciting, but those are settings that do not offer health benefits. Millennials, interestingly enough, are going to be a generation of people who will grow into the labour market that just does not have a health benefit for them,” he said.

Because of estimated fiscal savings and expected improvement in access to prescription drugs, universal coverage of essential medicines could become a profound piece of legislation if implemented.

“It is an opportunity for [Prime Minister Justin Trudeau] to leave a legacy on the healthcare system that would be bigger than his father’s by a long shot. This would be the biggest legacy in Canadian healthcare since Medicare was founded in the 1950s and 60s,” said Morgan. “It does represent an expenditure, but if it’s done right, it also represents a profound policy legacy.”

SECOND PLACE //



FILE JEREMY JOHNSON-SILVERS

The T-Birds boasted their best record since their 2013/14 campaign.

Silver lining: After their loss in the Canada West final, women's volleyball is headed to the nationals

Olamide Olaniyan
Sports and Rec Editor

Despite their solid regular season, the UBC women's volleyball team was defeated by the University of Alberta Pandas in the Canada West final on Saturday, March 11. The 'Birds fell in a four-set match.

There is a silver lining though, as the team will head into the U Sports championship.

The night before, the T-Birds battled another of their western conference rivals — the Trinity Western University Spartans (TWU). UBC led the game in two major aspects. The team had 53 kills compared to the Spartans' 41, and 12 blocks compared to the Spartans' eight. The differences end there. The teams were matched at seven aces each and had a similar amount of digs, with UBC making 46 and TWU making 43.

Outside hitter Danielle Brisebois made 20 kills in the game. Victoria Behie and Juliana Kaufmanis followed, with 12 and 10 kills apiece. Fourth-year setter Alessandra Gentile led the entire game with assists. As the 'Birds ended their regular season just below the Spartans, they walked into the final with confidence and momentum behind them.

With both UBC and Alberta jostling in the top five of the U Sports rankings, it was sure to be an interesting battle. Alberta's Meg Casault made the first kill for her team. She went on to tie at the most overall kills with the T-Birds' Laura MacTaggart at 15. UBC managed to keep up earlier in the first set, but faltered and lost the set at 25-18.

The next set was worse for the Thunderbirds. The Pandas jumped ahead right away thanks in part to UBC errors. They continued to

maintain a three-point lead until they seized the set at 25-14.

UBC came back in the third set, going on a five-point streak and holding that lead. They won the third set 25-18. However, their rally was not enough. With a final set score at 25-18, the Pandas took the fourth set and the Canada West title.

The T-Birds' run has been impressive. In addition to winning a silver at the Canada West championships, the 'Birds also boasted their best records since their 2013/14 campaign — the year they were defeated in the U Sports finals by the University of Manitoba Bisons. If their season is any indication, the Thunderbirds are likely to be contenders in the national championship. [U](#)

UBC will face the Western University Mustangs in the U Sports quarter-final on Friday, March 17.

SPIRIT //

Patrick Thomas is the Thunderbirds' hype man



SALOMON MICKO BENRIMOH

Thomas' years of experience in Vancouver sports make him invaluable.

Lucy Fox
Senior Staff Writer

The UBC men's basketball team is playing in the Canada West quarter-final. There are about 600 fans in attendance, but the War Memorial Gym is abuzz with the clanging of bam-bams. Fans cheer on their home team amongst the screeching of trainers on the wooden court.

Patrolling the south-side stands — unable to sit down for more than a few seconds — is a recognizable face in the Vancouver sporting community. He holds a drum and a drumstick ready, waiting for a lull in the game to get the crowd going.

The play stops and he jumps onto the court alongside the UBC Athletics promo team. He hypes up the crowd with some fresh dance moves — smattered with some shouting and a good beat of his drum.

His name is Patrick Thomas, but his blue Thunderbirds jersey displays the nickname that he has come to be known as: Crazy P.

Thomas is a 12th man and crowd conductor at UBC sports games and other Vancouver sporting events. His love for sports and his natural gravitation towards the hype man role started from an early age.

"The cheering and the yelling — I used to do that with my team. I was the emotional leader," said Thomas.

"I was about 12 [years old] and our team was kicking butt all over Vancouver Island and Victoria," he said. "We'd beat [a team] and then I'd go out in the middle of the field with the whole team surrounding me, and we'd sing songs and chants about how we'd kicked [their] butt. It was so big that the news came and covered it once."

That passion and pride for team sports continued as he made his way to Vancouver and stepped into a role with the BC Lions 12 years ago, stirring up their fan base. It was only a matter of time before UBC came calling.

Following conversations with UBC Athletics, Thomas started attending the T-Birds' basketball games regularly in 2007. He cheered the team on to a Canada West final and other accomplishments over the seasons.

In 2015, he expanded his support to the football team, joining in on the Vanier Cup excitement.

"UBC was outstanding — watching them in their Vanier Cup year, winning and winning at home

and watching that Cinderella team grow and achieve what it did," said Thomas.

More recently, Thomas has been at Thunderstruck and the Winter Classic — the latter being a personal favourite for Thomas.

His years of experience have set him up to be an important piece in the UBC Athletics game day puzzle. Gareth Saunders — coordinator for promotions and game day with UBC Athletics — spoke about Thomas' long-time involvement in sport and his vast experience, citing his work with the Vancouver Giants and the National Lacrosse League in Langley.

According to Saunders, this experience lets Thomas know whether to jump in or to pull away with the hype. Thomas also attends pre-game meetings to coordinate the prime moments for him to step in and get the crowd going. Lately, he has been given free rein to get fans involved in the stands at War Memorial Gym and Thunderbird Stadium.

"He's great in terms of sitting down before the game, looking at what we have planned out for activations and time outs ... and we can look at different points where it's like, 'This would be an awesome piece to jump in there and really get the crowd involved,'" said Saunders.

Saunders brought up the thunder clap from the Courtside event in January. All the fans get on their feet and Thomas bangs the drum twice, and the crowd claps on in response. The collective boom fills the gym each time. It is moments like this that make Thomas invaluable as the UBC Athletics team continues to try building excitement and pride around varsity sports in the UBC community.

"He's great to have around. He's a very passionate guy and loves UBC athletics," said Saunders. "That energy, it rubs off on other people, so to have him in the stands and on the court or on the field — whether it's basketball or football — it gets people excited."

But even with personality and presence at games, Thomas doesn't see himself as the main attraction. For him, the UBC teams and the sports culture should be what draws in the crowd.

"I know it's important to do the school work, but I think it's also rich and important to have a well-rounded experience in university," said Thomas.

"When you get older you're going to have those memories." [U](#)

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COOL RUNNINGS //



PATRICK GILLIN

Lumb most recently tied for gold with Mexico's Arturo Reyna Tristan at the NACAC championships.

UBC's cross country prodigy is heading to Uganda

Olamide Olaniyan

Sports and Recreation Editor

It was early November in Elsah, Illinois — a 48-minute drive from St. Louis, Missouri. Kieran Lumb, a first-year engineering student at UBC, was about to participate in his first ever national championship with the Thunderbirds.

The 18-year-old had a good track record. He had beat out the best runners in the province at the BC High School Cross Country Championships, and had also set a world record for the Red Bull 400m race up the Olympic ski jump in Whistler, BC.

But now he would be running at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Cross Country Championships in a field of about 330 other athletes — many of them in their third and fourth years, and many of them the best university cross country athletes in North America.

All eyes were on fourth-year Jesse Hooton and third-year John Gay, who finished in fourth and fifth place respectively. But eyes were on Lumb too. The team's lead endurance coach, Chris Johnson — who joined the team in September 2015 — was watching the race on the internet. Johnson himself had been a UBC track and cross country athlete between 1994 and 1998 before his career ended due to injuries.

The race started and for a large chunk of it, Lumb was pretty far behind. However, according to Johnson, he was running a “mature” race.

“A lot of athletes — they get a little bit undisciplined. What happens often is that they go out too hard or they’ll run with the lead pack even though the pace is too quick,” said Johnson. “Whereas Kieran recognizes when that happens and he actually was quite a ways behind for the first half of the race ... which would cause a lot of athletes to panic, but he didn’t panic.”

Things changed in the second half. Johnson watched as Lumb began to move through the field. Slowly and steadily, he edged his way closer to the pack — each step taking him closer to his goal.

“Every kilometre, he’d pass five more guys, five more guys, then all of a sudden...”

Johnson trailed off and chuckled. “If you actually analyzed his splits, his splits throughout the race were quite even.”

Lumb went on to come 26th in the race — an impressive feat for a rookie. His performance helped

propel the men’s team to its third-place finish at the championships. Johnson knew that Lumb could make the Canadian junior team that would go to the IAAF World Cross Country Championships in Kampala, Uganda. To do so, he had to qualify at the Canadian Cross Country Championships in Kingston, Ontario and to do this, he needed to run a similar race to the one he did in Elsah.

The 5’11 athlete went on to do just that. On November 26, 2016, he finished sixth in the Under 20 division. His time in Kingston also qualified him for the North American, Central American and Caribbean Athletics Association Cross Country Championships (NACAC) — also known as the Pan American Cross-Country Cup — in Boca Raton, Florida. Lumb tied for gold with Arturo Reyna Tristan from Mexico.

Funnily enough, running has never been Lumb’s main sport — his focus growing up was cross country skiing, which his father was on the national team of. According to Lumb, he probably started skiing at two or three.

“Both my parents always really encouraged an active lifestyle and so I guess it would definitely be from them that I lead an active lifestyle,” said Lumb.

He first realized he could run — and run well — in elementary school. Throughout those years, he had a close friend and fierce rival growing up — Thomson Harris. Harris, who now plays field hockey for UBC, would always beat him or tie with him at running. “He was the one that really pushed me throughout elementary school and even throughout high school,” said Lumb.

“Running was kind of our middle ground. I was focused on skiing and he was focused on field hockey, and running was where we kind of met in the middle.”

On the last day of cross country in elementary school, Lumb managed to beat Harris by just a little bit. For him, that was a big moment in his running career, and that encouraged him to keep going.

“I am very obsessive. When I have something that I really want, that becomes my single focus whether that’s running, or academics, or outside of those two. I just kind of become obsessed with it,” said Lumb.

Although cross country seems to be his strength, Lumb actually ran the 800m throughout high school. Moving from this to the higher, heavier mileage of cross country was

a big transition. Early in September 2016, he was injured for a few weeks because he wasn’t used to that level of running.

While everyone was running, he was either on a bike or swimming in the pool. However, that turned out to help him quite a bit. According to Lumb, he “eased into the season a little bit more gently than a lot of people.”

Lumb trained with Johnson and Norm Tinkham — another of the endurance coaches — in the fall.

“[Johnson] was never really pushy with the training and he was very understanding that I was kind of a low-volume athlete,” said Lumb. “It was important to keep me healthy and not over-run.”

Obviously, Kampala, Uganda is not Vancouver, British Columbia. According to Johnson, the temperature is expected to be around 28 to 30 degrees, plus some humidity. The team has had to train for that. They have a protocol with the UBC sports science department under its head, James Brotherhood, which involves a sauna and treadmill sessions at the Lululemon lab.

“They actually have a heat acclimation chamber and a treadmill in that chamber so they’re able to make the temperature and humidity of the room mimic what Kieran will face in Uganda. Although it’s on a treadmill, at least we can mimic it,” said Johnson. “We can simulate the climate that he’s going to be up against.”

Johnson has worked with Lumb since the spring of 2016 — when Lumb joined the team for a few workouts after the end of the ski season. He thinks that the rookie is “unique,” “talented” and “has a bright future in distance running.”

“Do I think he can make the Olympics? That’s hard to say cause he’s only 18 years old,” said Johnson. “But he’s on the right pathway.”

Lumb isn’t really sure what’s next — in fact, he has no idea. For him, that’s why he chose to do engineering and focus on his degree. His interests shift all the time and he doesn’t like super distant goals, both in general and in training.

“I just take it one season at a time and see what opportunities present themselves and what races I’m going to focus on in the moment.”

On March 26, Kieran Lumb will be competing for the Canadian national team at the IAAF World Cross Country Championships in Kampala, Uganda.

DISCUSSION //

UBC Recreation’s Yoga Rave at the centre of conversations about cultural appropriation

Miguel Santa-Maria.

Copy Editor

Yoga, especially in a health-centric city like Vancouver, has been a huge part of mainstream physical activity in North America for many decades. From your fit friend’s blog posts about it, to seeing a yoga studio every few blocks in the Kitsilano area, there’s no denying its popularity.

But yoga is an inherently cultural and spiritual experience. The practice is steeped in South Asian Hinduism and Buddhism, which played a key role during its origins. When UBC Recreation put on a “Yoga Rave” — which consists of a massive yoga class featuring DJs and glow-in-the-dark paint — last month, some students raised concerns.

The original discussion took place on a comment thread within the UBC Needs Feminism Facebook group, where several students voiced their criticism on the nature of the event which has been running for two years. One member suggested that the entire event defeats the purpose of the practice, as it contradicts its meditative and peaceful nature. Others were also concerned about cultural appropriation.

Suzanne Jolly, the manager for physical activity at UBC Rec, has been listening to these concerns. She responded on the thread inviting students to voice any issues directly to them. In an interview with *The Ubyyssey*, Jolly expanded as to what kind of efforts they have taken to avoid pitfalls of appropriation and misrepresentation.

“[Our] discussions originally when it was launched were the concerns about the use of the word ‘rave’ attached to the word ‘yoga’ and how would we promote [an] event that was healthy and avoided substance abuse,” said Jolly, who has acted as the program’s oversight ever since the idea was pitched to her by intramural staff. “But as the development of program continued ... we started realizing that people didn’t understand what they would participate in [and] we needed to define it.”

She thought, “how do we encourage people to move in an inclusive way that is low-barrier and fun-oriented ... while at the same time recognizing that this is just one facet of what a yoga practice really is?”

Jolly and her team have taken steps to emphasize that above all, the rave has more to do with the physical aspect and that alone. Instructors are briefed to not use any references to prayer poses or use namaste during the event. Social media coordinators and photographers are also trained to make sure they do not perpetuate anything inappropriate online and on-camera.

The dilemma, however, is moderating the participants themselves. Despite their efforts to keep the event as culturally neutral as possible, it is difficult to assert when promoting a fun

and open environment as well. Fortunately, there have been no notable incidents in either of the last two raves.

Still, Jolly and her team make efforts to educate people on the cultural and spiritual meanings with things like information boards featuring education material within the venue. Apart from that, it’s up to participants to dig deeper.

“Unfortunately ... there’s not a lot of opportunities for UBC students to learn about the spiritual and cultural aspect,” said Jolly. “But [the physical aspect] is how they get their eyes open to the rest and who are we to define spiritual meaning?”

For Dr. Adheesh Sathaye, a professor in the department of Asian studies, that just might be the way to go. Although the commodification of physical yoga can be detrimental to its heritage, he agrees that it can become a key window for individuals to further explore and respect that if they choose to, as well as bolster spaces of inclusivity. This is especially considering that the origins of yoga itself are not tethered to any specific belief system.

“Philosophically, it’s not grounded to any one religion. It allows you to practice whatever religion you want. It just shows you one way to do it which is oriented towards the body,” said Sathaye. “I think the way to do it is to differentiate the philosophy from the practice. These are two different histories.”

He also noted that in some ongoing research, yoga may also have predated religion and even before its proliferation in modern Western culture, soldiers in medieval India were possibly already using it for strictly physical purposes.

That said, it only makes the issue of cultural or religious misrepresentation — particularly that of South Asian Hinduism — a much bigger risk, especially when gendering and sexualization also come into play.

“There is misrepresentation that happens because if you see yoga in practice in a studio [and] equate with a religious tradition, it’s a misrepresentation of that tradition that is richer and more grounded in a history that stretches back much further than the studio practice today. You do have to be careful with that,” said Sathaye.

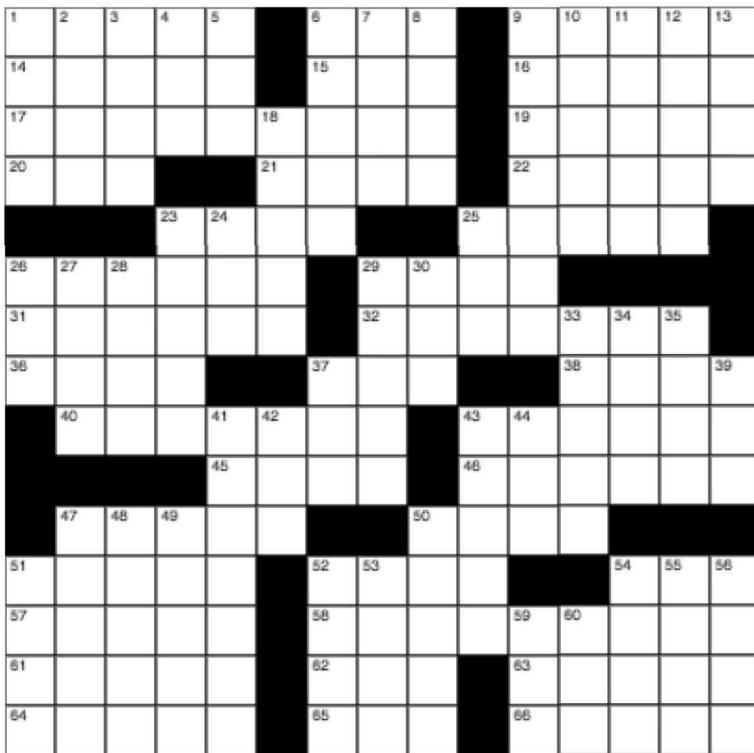
Even taking these contexts into consideration, Jolly noted that there is still room for improving the event’s execution in this respect. Again, she insists that students, whether individuals or groups, keep approaching them on how to do it better, whatever their reasons may be.

“Part of my job is to look at equity and inclusion for Recreation, so I think that the Yoga Rave is in my portfolio for a reason,” she said. “What gaps we need to fill in recreational programming — that’s my job, so we need to bring that forward. We are working really to be more inclusive and social justice-minded.”

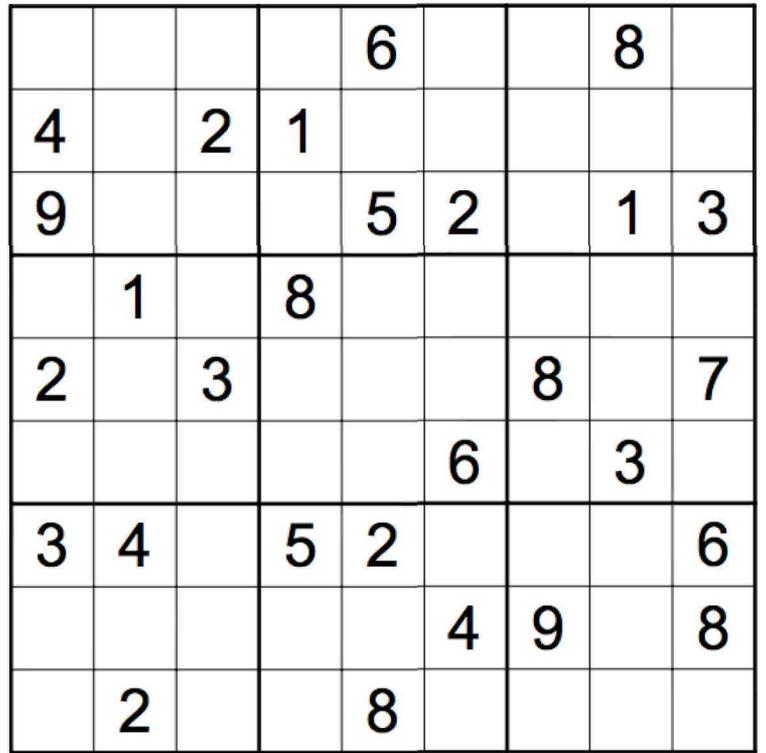
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1- Ornamental coronet;
- 6- Mex. neighbor;
- 9- Hilton competitor;
- 14- Rod used to reinforce concrete;
- 15- Parked oneself;
- 16- Spooky;
- 17- Building design creator;
- 19- White-and-black bearlike mammal;
- 20- Parisian possessive;
- 21- Actively engaged;
- 22- Attempts;
- 23- At the apex of;
- 25- Relaxes;
- 26- _____ Island Ferry;
- 29- TV horse;
- 31- Ostrich or emu;
- 32- Hearing distance;
- 36- Put on the market;
- 37- Thunder Bay's prov.;
- 38- Cut out;
- 40- Correspondences;
- 43- Bathhouse;
- 45- Brainchild;
- 46- Early stage;
- 47- Pop pieces;
- 50- June 6, 1944;
- 51- Hue;
- 52- Wings;
- 54- Fast flier;
- 57- White poplar;
- 58- Gazette;
- 61- "Endymion" poet;
- 62- "Wheel of Fortune" buy;
- 63- Stop on _____;
- 64- Sea eagles;
- 65- NFL 6-pointers;
- 66- _____ I can help it!



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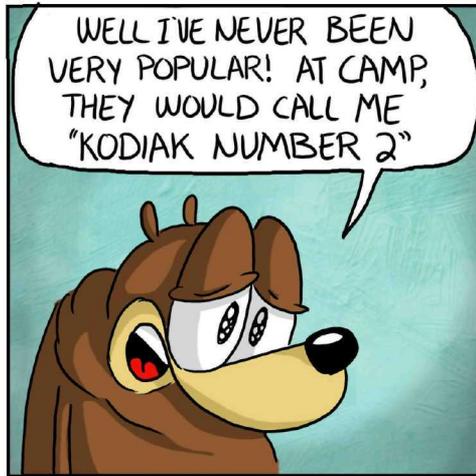
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DOWN

- 1- Streetcar;
- 2- Able was _____;
- 3- Basics;
- 4- It's a bit of cheer;
- 5- Jackie's second;
- 6- Deplete;
- 7- Pouches;
- 8- ABA member;
- 9- Groups of seven;
- 10- A long time;
- 11- Army leader?;
- 12- They get high twice a day;
- 13- Afternoon affairs;
- 18- Steakhouse order;
- 23- Leaning;
- 24- Asian occasion;
- 25- Auction ending?;
- 26- SAT takers;
- 27- Chinese weight;
- 28- Salt tree;
- 29- Brainy org.;
- 30- Double-crosser;
- 33- Pastime;
- 34- Actor Sharif;
- 35- Minute;
- 37- Mine find;
- 39- Chinese "way";
- 41- Large, striped female feline;
- 42- Begley and Wynn;
- 43- Surrenders, as territory;
- 44- Doctors' org.;
- 47- Temperate;
- 48- Upstate New York city;
- 49- Nick of "Lorenzo's Oil";
- 50- Coolidge's vice president;
- 51- Birthday treat;
- 52- Med school subj.;
- 53- Grant temporary use of;
- 54- Rotisserie part;
- 55- Truck stop sight;
- 56- Not kosher;
- 59- Metal container used for frying;
- 60- "Much _____ About Nothing", play by Shakespeare;



By: L. A. Bonté



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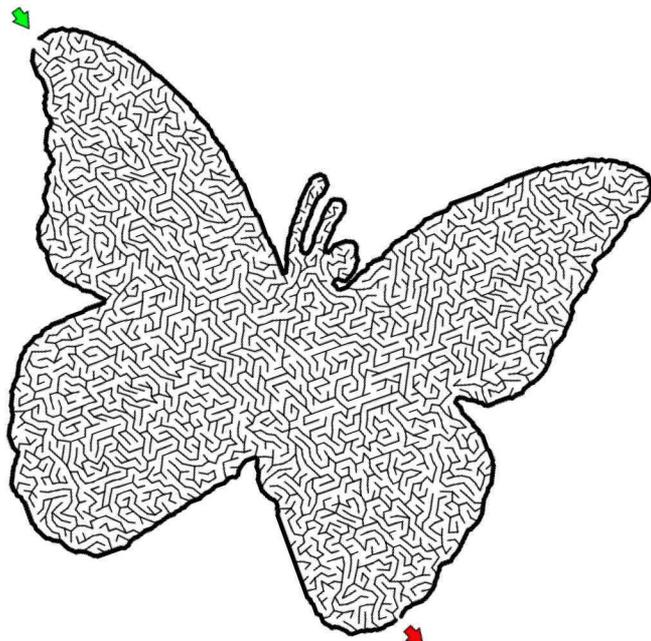
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