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THE LOCALS PRO SALE 6 P.M. @ UBC

"Not your dad's ski sale!"

New and used ski and snow gear will be available for sale at great prices.



FALL SOFTBALL CLASSIC

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

FALL SOFTBALL CLASSIC

12 P.M. @ UBC Thunderbird Fields

Kick start the school year with a home run in this fun and friendly softball tournament!



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

TROYBO! 7 P.M. @ Vogue Theatre

This all ages show should be fun!

Featuring The Bohemian Dub Orchestra!

\$30

ON THE COVER

PHOTO BY

Jeremy Johnson-Silvers



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THE UBYSSEY

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OUR CAMPUS

Our Campus: Provost and Vice-President Academic Dr. Andrew Szeri brings his curiosity to Canada



Szeri officially began his term on July 10, 2017.

PATRICK GILLIN

Moira Wyton
Features Editor

Dr. Andrew Szeri was out hiking when he got the call asking him to consider coming to UBC. After taking a few weeks to mull it over, he began the interview process to become UBC's next provost and vice-president academic following Dr. Angela Redish's interim service in the role since July 2015.

"One thing led to another and on May 12 I had an offer from the UBC Board of Governors," said Szeri, who formally began his role on July 10, 2017.

"And I wasn't given the opportunity to say 'no, thank you.'"

A mechanical engineer by training who spent much of the last three decades in the University of California (UC) system, Szeri has already worn many administrative hats. From teaching engineering at the outset of his time at UC Irvine to serving as the dean of graduate studies at UC Berkeley and then most recently as its vice provost for strategic academic and facilities planning, there wasn't much of the large network Szeri hadn't been involved with.

Now, Szeri's move to Canada marks the sixth country he has worked in, and he's focused on learning the ropes of the Canadian academic environment at UBC as quickly as possible. In many respects, UBC functions much

differently than UC — a fact of which Szeri is sharply aware.

"I am in a mode where I'm trying to learn as much as I can about as many parts of the university as I can," said Szeri, noting that UBC's Board of Governors is much closer to the institution than UC's Board of Regents, which manages a much larger network of institutions.

"I like to learn about just about everything I get exposed to, and in some respects this job is a tremendous privilege for me because there's such a huge landscape of things to learn about."

In his role as provost and vice-president academic, Szeri will work closely with the UBC Board of Governors, the UBC Senate, all nine faculties, the AMS and GSS as well as his fellow senior administrators on absolutely everything academic, including strategy, budget and student experience. Szeri notes that for the last point, the rapport he's begun to build with student government over the summer is going to be key.

"One of my earliest meetings over the summer was with student government," said Szeri. "We had a chance to talk about their areas of interest and things like experiential learning, which is an area where I've done some innovative work in the past and I'd like to explore the possibility of bringing here."

Beyond doing his homework and learning the ins and outs of

campus, Szeri will also lead the final stages of developing UBC's strategic plan, which — once finalized — will set the university's course for the next 10 years.

"In the broad consultative work that came before my time, we've seen the importance of a lot of the core activities of the university: teaching and learning, research, community engagement and kind of global perspective," said Szeri, noting that these things figure prominently in UBC's work already.

"I'm seeing some areas of intensified activity emerging around things like innovation and collaboration, inclusion and openness to new ideas, so I think the plan will evolve organically along those lines."

And while the academic portfolio touches upon almost every part of the university — it manages IT and sustainability on campus as well — Szeri wants to make sure he continues to find new connections between UBC's many teams.

"I'm hoping to be a good team player with the other vice-presidents, they have a tremendous amount of expertise and knowledge about the institution," said Szeri. "It's good to work in teams because then we have more eyes on the project and things are accomplished better."

Despite the vastness of his role and the many differences between UBC and UC's governance, Szeri is focusing on the positives rather than the difficulties.

"In some ways if you focus too much on what you anticipate as your greatest challenges in life, you might never get out of bed. I'm focused a bit more vividly on the opportunities — I mean, this is such a tremendous institution."

And for a life-long curious student — he took 22 courses for credit during his PhD at Cornell when the requirement was 0 — the excitement of the new role certainly eclipses the challenges he will face.

"I believe that I'm always in a mode of learning and doing some teaching as well, and that's held constant throughout my entire life, whether it was academic subjects I was trying to master or trying to understand how the university works or could work better."

With clear enthusiasm for education, Szeri seems at home on a campus with so much room to grow.

"If you think about the scope and magnitude of the educational mandate [UBC] delivers year after year for the benefit of so many British Columbians, so many Canadians and many students from all around the world too, I think that's really staggering," said Szeri.

"It's a tremendous and exciting responsibility to be a part of putting on that massive educational effort."

BY-ELECTION //

VP Academic candidate profile: Max Holmes

Samantha McCabe
News Editor

Max Holmes, former AMS elections administrator and the current associate VP Academic and University Affairs (VPAUA), is running in the by-election for VPAUA on a platform of affordability, diversity, improving the student experience and experiential learning.

Before Daniel Lam stepped down from the role earlier this summer, Holmes worked directly underneath him as his associate in the VP Academic office. After Lam resigned, Holmes worked with interim VP Academic Jakob Gatteringer in the same capacity.

“[From this experience] I know where our position is with the university right now, I know where our priorities are, I helped to work on the goals that we created,” he said, noting that he helped create the Academic Experience Survey report, which he cowrote with Lam. “With helping to make that report, I know where every single executive is going to be moving.”

As he explained in an interview with *The Ubyyssey*, Holmes tried to combine the “classic” VP Academic goals with the innovation that he wants to see within the portfolio moving forward.

There are a few goals in his platform that students won’t have



Holmes hopes to tackle the issue of university affordability.

PATRICK GILLIN

seen in Daniel Lam’s campaign and subsequent work within the office.

Holmes hopes to tackle the issue of university affordability by going the housing route, both by making current on-campus housing more affordable and

increasing the rate at which UBC builds new units. He also wants to work with UBC to lobby the provincial government to let the school borrow externally, something that is currently not possible.

Holmes also said he wants to approach mental health on campus by conducting a full review of each faculty’s academic concession policies with the help of the student Senate caucus and the AMS Advocacy Office.

Ideally, he said, the VPAUA office would then be able to make recommendations and assist the university in making these policies more accessible and helpful for students in need — perhaps the solution would be to advocate for the creation of one overarching policy to avoid unfairness and confusion.

“Academic concessions are very complicated, and also, there’s really not a consistent policy across UBC. It’s really difficult, and it’s completely different depending on which faculty you’re in,” said Holmes.

Another platform point is the expansion of the Collegia program so that all first-year students — with a priority on commuters — have a place that they can be on campus. He hopes that this will increase the sense of community and connectivity of all students on campus. During the debate, he was asked how much it would cost and replied that while it would likely result in additional student fees, he would also consider looking for ways to pay for it through the use of UBC’s Excellence Fund.

While his platform is expansive, Holmes struggled during the debate to make hard commitments to students. Many of his goals are ambitious to the point that it will be impossible to see their full realization within the seven months that the new VPAUA will serve, but he said he hopes to hold public office hours and work on transparency for the AMS as a whole. Of course, as always, it will be up to students to keep the new VPAUA accountable.

Holmes said during the debate that he is already working with Senate to establish certain ad hoc committees and that he can guarantee that a review of academic concession policies will be conducted during his term.

Holmes also said that his prior experience would likely make for a smooth and continuous transition into the role.

“I’m trying to be able to continue a lot of the projects that I’ve started in conjunction with my VPs — that’s why I decided to run for this position,” said Holmes.

“There are some things on my platform that I’m very passionate about. There are some things on my platform that I have gaps in knowledge on, but they’re on my platform for a reason. Everything on my platform, I’ve seen that students want.”

BY-ELECTION //

VP Academic candidate profile: Franz Kurtzke

Jack Hauen
Coordinating Editor

Fourth-year philosophy major Franz Kurtzke is running for VP Academic and University Affairs (VPAUA) on a platform of free speech and social justice reform — largely the same topics included in his lettering campaign, for which he gained a bit of notoriety after entering locked campus residences without permission.

Kurtzke’s platform is three-pronged: he wants to improve “viewpoint diversity” at UBC so students “learn how to debate;” promote “comprehensive research-based dialogue” on rape culture and sexual assault; and introduce “antifragile” mental health policies — he likes safe spaces, but not trigger warnings.

The most important issue he’ll face in office, Kurtzke said, is opening up dialogue. He wants to find people who are self-censoring conservative viewpoints and make them feel free to speak, as Kurtzke said he feels “unsafe” as a white man enrolling in GRSJ classes.

During the debate, he said getting UBC to adopt the Chicago Principles — a commitment to free speech made by the University of Chicago and other institutions — would be a top priority, but a “totally long shot.”

Kurtzke also wants to improve the waitlist for psychiatry; cut down on classes with “To Be Announced” professors during registration; improve TeachEval and CoursEval; remove the

requirement from housing contracts for medical cannabis users to register with Student Housing and Hospitality Services prior to possessing cannabis in residence; and increase course content on psychedelic medicine.

Kurtzke has been asked multiple times by *The Ubyyssey* where free speech is being impeded at UBC and has either refused to answer the question or mentioned an incident in which he said he was “bullied” by female *Ubyyssey* staff for pitching an article arguing against rape culture — as previously mentioned in his various lettering campaigns.

At the debate, he also gave an anecdote about getting negative reactions after speaking up about men’s lack of reproductive rights in PSYC 350, a class in human sexuality.

Otherwise, he said that self-censorship is rampant. He also said many professors agree with him, but did not disclose any names.

While Kurtzke’s narrow platform could conceivably be accomplished under the VPAUA’s portfolio, he refused to make any commitments during the debate about what students would actually see from him by the end of the year and was upfront about his lack of knowledge regarding the position and its responsibilities.

“I didn’t know that this position existed until a week, or less, ago,” he said in his campaign video.

On Reddit, he wrote, “the goal here is to put me in a position to be able to have significant impact on things, from the inside, to promote free speech and reform of the social justice movement.”



The most important issue he’ll face in office, Kurtzke said, is opening up dialogue.

JACK HAUEN

During the debate, Kurtzke either could not speak on or admitted he didn’t know anything about every specific VPAUA responsibility mentioned, including the Academic Experience Survey, UBC’s Excellence Fund, UBC’s policy on sexual assault, or anything the VPAUA office has accomplished during his UBC career.

“I can honestly say that I’m not aware of any impact, positive or negative, the VP Academic office has had on my life,” he said, adding that

that might be because the AMS isn’t advertising their services properly — something his opponent, Max Holmes, agreed with.

Kurtzke doesn’t have anything in his platform about housing, equity, affordability or liaising with the administration, which are traditionally major priorities of the VPAUA.

“I think they are implied,” he said during the debate, noting that he thinks he should focus on specific priorities in order to get things done.

Regarding equity, Kurtzke said, “I think we need to focus on inclusivity, but some of it, it’s a bit too much,” and that “some of this hyper-political stuff is actually making the situation worse.”

When asked to name the most important group he’d work with during his term, Kurtzke responded with the administrators, specifically Senior Advisor to the Provosts on Academic Freedom Neil Guppy and President Santa Ono. He said he doesn’t think that VPAUA has met with administration recently, which is false.

After multiple questions about topics Kurtzke seemed to have little to no grasp on, he took a chance to rebut one of Holmes’s answers to state that he felt “ambushed” and didn’t “like the direction this was going,” mentioning unspecified “ethical concerns” in the room.

Kurtzke declined to be interviewed for this article, first stating that he was “too tired and busy,” then after the debate that the author seemed “incorrigibly shady.”

Near the end of the debate, student Senator Ian Sapollnik asked Kurtzke how he can determine he doesn’t need a working knowledge of major parts of the VPAUA’s responsibilities when he doesn’t know what those responsibilities are.

“When I take office, I’ll be in precisely the same position as all previous candidates. Everyone has to start somewhere,” said Kurtzke. “And that’s where I’ll start — with the beginning.”

BY-ELECTION //

Holmes and Kurtzke face off in AMS VP Academic debate



The candidates were asked about the various aspects relevant to the VPAUA's portfolio, to which they responded with opposite degrees of familiarity.

ZUBAIR HIRJI

Alex Nguyen
News Editor

Max Holmes and Franz Kurtzke faced off Thursday night in the one and only debate for the AMS VP Academic and University Affairs (VPAUA) by-election.

Kurtzke presented himself in his opening statement as a “candidate of cultural change” with a focus on free speech and social justice reform.

Other issues he said he will focus on include opening up the issue of rape culture to an alternative perspective, developing anti-fragile mental health services and protecting medical cannabis users — as later clarified in the audience question period.

Holmes emphasized his experience as the current associate VPAUA and presented a platform that focuses on “greater affordability, revitalization of campus experience, commitment to equity and experiential learning.”

He said these goals would be supported by more extensive consultations and data-driven initiatives.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

The candidates were asked about the various aspects relevant to the VPAUA's portfolio, to which they responded with opposite degrees of familiarity.

While Holmes was able to reference specific statistics from the 2017 AMS Academic Experience Survey (AES) to support his platform points about affordability — the most pressing matter to him — Kurtzke was not

familiar with the report, which represents a major priority (and chunk of the budget) of the VPAUA office each year.

Kurtzke also “did not think that it was necessary for [him] to familiarize [himself] with it at this point.” Instead, he said, he considers opening up dialogue channels for those who might be self-censoring to be the most important matter.

In response, Holmes noted that the AES is the biggest item in the VPAUA's \$100,000 budget, thus requiring any candidate to know about it in addition to what they are “most passionate about.”

He further argued that “while thought diversity is important, [people] won't be able to have that if [they] can't even go to university” due to unaffordability.

Kurtzke raised concerns that Holmes was presenting thought diversity “as a luxury,” and added that despite not knowing about the AES, he isn't neglecting the issues and will familiarize himself with them.

Kurtzke also attributed his lack of knowledge on certain topics to the AMS's communication gap.

“I'm not aware of any impact — positive or negative — that [the VPAUA office has] had on my life,” he said. “They have not advertised their work sufficiently or done anything relevant of my concern.”

Holmes agreed with Kurtzke regarding the holes in the AMS's communication as he worked on the recommendation regarding this topic following the AES, but argued that Kurtzke also should have done his own research.

After multiple questions about topics with which Kurtzke seemed unfamiliar, tensions ran high following one about the fair allocation of UBC's Excellence Fund for students.

Kurtzke stated “feeling concerned about multiple ethical overlaps ... and conflict of interest” regarding Jack Hauen, the debate's moderator and coordinating editor of *The Ubyyssey*, instead of answering the question. He later mentioned that he was also not familiar with this fund.

This prompted the intervention of AMS Elections Administrator Filza Raza, who reminded Kurtzke that this issue could be brought up in the closing statement instead.

On the original topic, Holmes stated that he has been working with the interim VPAUA Jakob Gattinger on this issue for a month and that they are talking to the Advocacy Office and constituencies about it.

The last question of this period was about the Sexual Assault and Other Sexual Misconduct Policy (Policy 131), which was approved in April 2017.

Kurtzke, who features rape culture narrative reform centrally in his platform, was not familiar with this policy. He said he wants to open the policy up to alternative narratives because the current feminist-based narrative is “excluding alternative and complementary social science,” which could be “putting some people at unnecessary risk.”

Holmes views this policy as a good step by UBC, but acknowledged that there are still gaps to be filled to make it

survivor-focused. He mentioned working with data from the Sexual Assault Support Centre to fill these gaps.

CANDIDATE-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

In this period, the candidates were asked individually about their specific platform points.

For Holmes, the questions touched on topics like expanding the Collegia program, improving co-op and entrepreneurship opportunities, pushing for more transparency within the AMS and advocating for an alternative housing financing model that would allow for external borrowing and more efficient construction.

He was asked to identify hard commitments, as his current platform includes a lot of “I hope” statements.

Holmes responded by saying that he wants to pursue a full review of every faculty's academic concession policy. Pushing for an alternative housing financing model would also be a top priority for him.

Kurtzke was asked mainly about free speech and to provide tangible evidence of it being impeded at UBC.

He mentioned getting positive feedback and support from professors during his various lettering campaigns over the summer. He also referenced an incident at *The Ubyyssey* in which he was “bullied” by female staff members after pitching an article arguing against rape culture, as well as an anecdote about getting angry reactions for talking about

men's lack of reproductive rights in a psychology class about sexuality.

Kurtzke refused to make any hard commitments, but said he would focus on pushing for the adoption of the Chicago Principles, which he acknowledged as a “totally long shot.” Beyond this, he stated that he would be “responsive to a variety of concerns of students and do the best job he [could] in the role.”

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS

The debate rounded off with questions from the live audience, which touched on topics ranging from Indigenous representation on campus to Policy 73 on academic accommodation for students with disabilities, to anti-free speech anecdotes, to the housing waitlist, amongst others.

The candidates' responses varied in degree of tangibility, with more focus being placed on calling for more consultation or just describing the subject matters as “complicated.”

One topic that got a clear and original answer from both candidates was on the affordability of foreign tuition.

Holmes wants to conduct a review of Policy 72, which currently offers financial protection for only domestic students, in favour of protection for international students as well.

While he could not speak on the policy, Kurtzke stated that “if [students are of] non-permanent resident status, non refugee, non citizenship, [they] technically don't have the right to be a student here.”

“Their tuition is high, but it's at market level,” he added.

The debate's last notable topic touched on the transition of the race's winner into the VPAUA office, which was brought up by AMS VP Administration Pooja Bhatti.

When asked about how he would work with the three-day transition period and staff members who were hired by another VPAUA, Kurtzke insisted on a two-week transition period that would allow him to meet the staff and “ease into” the role.

However, the AMS's code states that “once the Elections Administrator's report is presented to Council, the results shall be official and binding upon the Society.”

Accordingly, when the result is presented at the September 27 AMS Council meeting, the winner will have to officially assume the position of VPAUA. This leaves the winning candidate with three business days after the result announcement on September 22 to settle into the role.

Holmes mentioned his experience as the current associate VPAUA and stated that his platform is a continuation of the work already being done in the office.

Online voting starts on September 18 and runs until September 22. [U](#)

VANDALISM //

AMS Falun Dafa's materials reported stolen and vandalized

Joshua Azizi
Contributor

The AMS Falun Dafa Fellowship has reported that materials from their info booth in the Nest were stolen and vandalized. Since August, the alleged thefts are still under investigation and no arrest has been made according to the RCMP.

Formed in 2014, the club focuses on the practice of Falun Dafa, a Chinese spiritual discipline centred around meditation, qigong exercises and the practice of three moral principles: truthfulness, compassion and forbearance.

Also known as Falun Gong, the faith was introduced to China in 1992 and quickly rose to prominence with supposedly millions of followers in the country at its peak.

In 1999, it was banned and designated a cult by the Chinese government, after "10,000 Falun Gong adherents staged a silent protest outside [a] Communist Party's leadership compound to complain about [what they considered to be defamatory] reports in the state-run media." Its remaining followers have been reported to be frequently arrested or harvested for organs.

As a result, the club's President Skylet Yu suspected that the perpetrators were likely from China due to this cultural context.

"Several unknown males and females of Asian descent [have been] identified as persons of interest" by the RCMP, but their exact identities are still to be determined.

WHAT HAPPENED

On August 11, 12 and 14, items such as books, pamphlets, DVD's and display signs were stolen from the AMS Falun Dafa Fellowship's booth. According to Yu, the missing materials were for spreading awareness about the Falun Dafa and the suppression it faces in China.

She communicated this matter to the AMS, whose staff reviewed the video footage and told her what happened.

"He said it seemed like there were two very suspicious people hovering around our booth for quite awhile until the coast was clear, and then they basically emptied out our booth and threw our stuff away," Yu said. "So even from the first day, there was already over \$200 worth of damage."

The club later reported these incidents to the RCMP due to their repetition. The AMS's security footage was also shared to help with the investigation of the alleged thefts.

On August 14, their materials were not only stolen but also vandalized.

"We had sandwich boards on display [that] were completely torn and ripped apart," said Yu. "All our signs were ripped and thrown in different places. There were parts of them on the floor, parts of them on the table — our tablecloth was also not on our table



A photo exhibition of Falun Dafa's history hosted by the AMS Falun Dafa Fellowship

anymore, it was kind of pulled off and it seemed quite violent."

When Yu approached the AMS about this, they told her that they had been watching over their booth, but this attack had happened when the security guard monitoring the area was taking a half-hour lunch break.

"We updated the RCMP, and [they] suggested that there could be anti-Falun Gong organizations or students on campus," she said. They also advised her to inform AMS President Alan Ehrenholz about it.

In a brief statement to *The Ubysey*, the AMS expressed their concern over the situation.

"The AMS places a high value on the safety and security of all students, staff and members of the public accessing the AMS Student Nest building," read the statement. "As such, the building operations team have made clips of the Falun Dafa [sic] student club vandalism incident available to the RCMP campus detachment. Should the RCMP be able to identify the offending student(s) in question, further action will be considered, in collaboration with the club and the AMS operations committee."

BETWEEN TWO SOCIETIES

Yu noted that the most reactions — particularly those of students from China — to Falun Dafa have been that of surprise and apprehension. She based this perspective on her experience working with them as a teaching assistant.

"They're totally shocked when they found out that I practice Falun Dafa because it was so different from what they had learned about it," she said. "In their history textbooks there will be just one sentence that says 'Falun Dafa is an evil cult;' [or] 'they're a violent group,' right out

of nowhere."

In particular, Yu claimed that many are unwilling to interact with fellowship because they are scared that the Chinese government might take note of any associations. She recalled one conversation with a friend from China that turned tense when the topic of Falun Dafa came up.

"She said 'I know you can practice Falun Dafa and it's good for you, but practice it in your own home, don't show your face. Don't even show your face in public because you're gonna be on the blacklist and everyone around you is going to be endangered ... Do you know how many eyes are watching?' "We were actually sitting in a restaurant. We weren't even on UBC campus at the time."

WHAT NOW?

Since the RCMP can't identify the perpetrators from the security footage, they have told Yu that there's nothing they can do at the moment, according to her.

Despite the damages, she and the rest of the club don't wish to penalize the perpetrators.

"We understand that they probably don't know any better," she said. "They grew up from China, this is what they know. Or if they didn't grow up from China, maybe this is what they heard from their friends in China."

Instead, the club is more interested in educating people what Falun Dafa is and what it isn't.

"We just hope to raise awareness so that they know Falun Dafa isn't a cult," Yu said. "We're not trying to overthrow any government, we're not political, we don't ask for money and we're not trying to scam anyone either. So hopefully they'll reach out or they'll at least go online and look it up and find out for themselves." ☺

REGISTRATION //

Students spend hundreds for spots in full courses

Clare Skillman
Contributor

UBC students are paying hundreds of dollars for a spot in full classes through Eyeout — a popular service amongst students that allows them to purchase or trade seats from other students in otherwise full or blocked courses.

As listed on its classifieds, seats are typically advertised for between \$0 and \$50. However, courses from departments in high demand like computer science can be as expensive as \$1,299 for a seat and \$699 for a waitlist spot.

"Computer science is one of the hardest majors to get in ... everyone recognizes the need to be able to understand code," said Zack, a second year Arts student and recent seller on Eyeout. "This problem can't be solved as long as the demand is greater than the supply... it's economics."

Other courses that have or had been listed with a hefty price tag include COMM 491 at \$300, WRDS 150 at \$300 and MATH 105 at \$500.

There have also been listings that exceed what students would rationally pay for, such as \$50,000 for Math 105. Others were not used to buy, sell or trade courses altogether — instead, some read "buy \$NaN" or "sell \$10 Pepperoni Pizza notanactualemail@gmail.com."

"[The users] can pretty much write whatever they want," said Bea Subion, the current manager of the service. "I just created the section because everyone kept spamming my suggestion box with trying to buy or sell courses."

She also noted that she has no knowledge of whether any of these sales actually go through, as students are not required to have an account on Eyeout to use it.

"Anonymity isn't a sole feature of the classifieds section," she said. "It's the entire website, and that decision to not make

accounts leads to Slacknotes — the website that manages Eyeout — not receiving anybody's names or personal information."

Students do actually respond to these expensive listings, as confirmed by Zack.

"[I've] had friends buy courses for \$1,000 ... it's actually simpler to buy it at a higher price than to wait in a waitlist," he said.

Even so, he expressed feeling conflicted about benefiting from Eyeout and believes that the onus should be on UBC to advance its registration system so that students don't have to spend thousands to be registered in core courses.

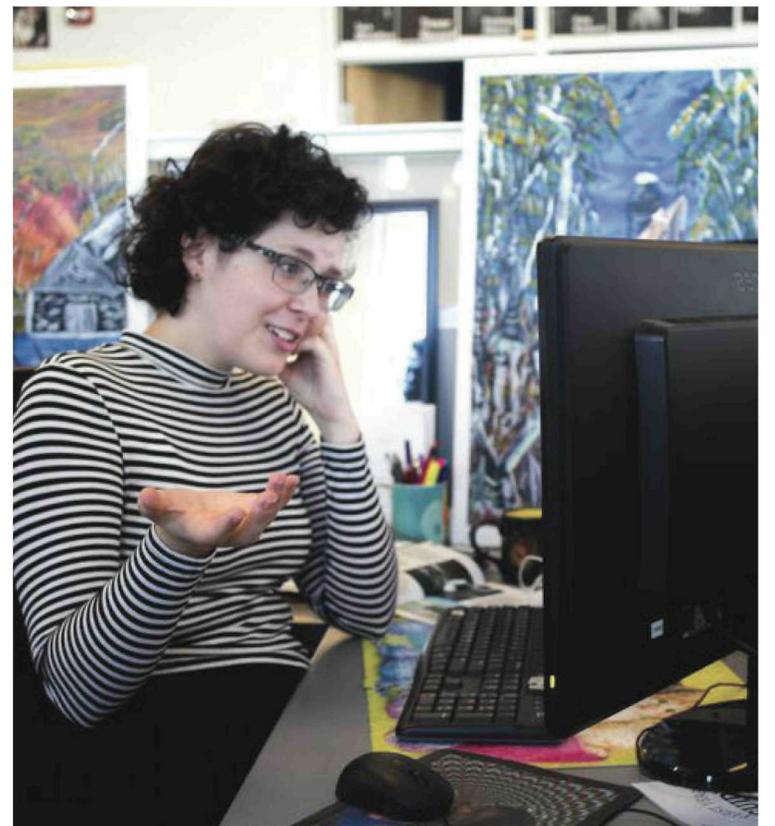
In response, Associate VP of Enrolment Services and Registrar Kate Ross stated that the use of bots to monitor courses' availability is in violation of Policy 104.

"We are monitoring the various services, and the buy and sell sites closely to ensure that this does not happen again," read her emailed statement. "A notice has also been posted on the Student Information System (where students access academic, financial and registration) and sent to students reminding them of our registration and conduct policies."

For finishing students, Ross urges them to meet with an adviser because under UBC policy, "no student in a graduating year may be excluded from a course necessary to meet degree program requirements because of lack of space."

However, this policy does not guarantee enrolment for non-graduating students, thus leaving a demand for services like Eyeout.

"Why not just make a quick buck on this — I realize it's unethical and probably against UBC policy but, if there's a way people will always find a way," Zack said. "People will always find a way." ☺



"People will always find a way."

FILESAMUEL DU BOIS

CAPITALISM //

Shopping on a cellphone is connected to impulsive buys, says UBCO researcher

Cathy Yan
Contributor

Despite the prevalence of touchscreen technology, how touchscreens impact the behaviour of consumers is a relatively new area of research. According to a study led by UBCO's Dr. Ying Zhu, it turns out that those who use devices with touchscreens for online shopping spend more impulsively than subjects with access to only desktop computers.

Data was collected from university students over three lab experiments. In each experiment, those participating were asked to choose between a product that yielded pleasure, categorized as hedonic, such as a gift card to a restaurant; and another considered to be practical, like a gift card to a grocery store.

The results showed that desktop users displayed greater levels of rationality than touchscreen users.

To rank the users on their rationality, Zhu used a scale devised by Hoffman and Novak. Commonly used in marketing research, it measures the extent to which people think rationally versus experientially to make decisions.



FILE JOSHUA MEDICOFF

Consider using a desktop over a cellphone when making purchases.

The former refers to logical and analytical skills, and the latter to the use of intuition and feelings.

Participants were asked to respond to questions during the experiment, and their responses demonstrated that touchscreen users had more characteristics of experiential thinking than desktop users.

This study focused only on students, but other demographics — like seniors — are predicted to respond to touchscreens in a similar way.

"If [members of] the older population don't have exposure to touchscreen devices, and they do everything on a computer, then you can see a strong effect [when]

they're on a touchscreen," Zhu said.

The reason for this is because unfamiliarity and novelty may lead to greater excitement and, consequently, higher levels of experiential thinking. Likewise, students who rarely use desktop computers may experience a spike in rational thinking when exposed to them because they suggest work and professionalism.

At the same time, since this study was conducted using only smartphones, predictions are uncertain when extrapolating data to other touchscreen devices such as tablets.

"People use it for both work and pleasure, so the effect may either go away or [be amplified]," Zhu explained. The latter prediction results from looking at online shopping traffic, which shows that more people make purchases through tablets than phones.

In this experiment, Zhu studied students' decisions in a controlled environment, in a short span of time. However, she is also interested in longer-term consequences of touchscreen devices.

When asked if social media or other apps not related to shopping

may influence people's spending habits, she responded, "When you're in the experiential [thinking] mode, you're thinking about experiences, and Facebook is more experience-based. ... I don't have data, but based on my gut feeling, Facebook may even amplify the effects."

The implications for students are clear. "If you want to stick to your budget and not overspend, but you're thinking about [something pleasurable], don't look at the product on your phone," Zhu advised.

It may be easy to search up products online, but using a touchscreen device will enable experiential thinking and make it more difficult to resist impulsive shopping.

Due to the relatively recent introduction of smart products, it is important to understand how touchscreen products affect and alter our everyday lives.

In the future, Zhu plans to examine how touchscreens impact consumers' judgement. Her current research examines what people purchase, but the next step is to look into how they arrive at the final product in terms of mapping out decision making step by step. [U](#)

SUPERSTAR //

Undergraduate Tatjana Raison finds that intimate partner violence is not gendered



Tatjana Raison emailed a prof after reading about his work in a newspaper. COURTESY TATJANA RAISON

James Vogl
Contributor

If you're anything like me, just the thought of approaching a professor after class to ask a question can be a little intimidating. But emailing one out of the blue asking if you can do research with them? Woah there, pump the brakes.

Yet that's exactly what fourth-year psychology undergrad Tatjana Raison did. What's more, it worked.

As a result of that email, Raison

went on to spend a year doing a directed study course with now-retired psychology professor Dr. Don Dutton, during which she conducted a literature review of articles concerning intimate partner violence (IPV) and the most common motivations for its perpetration.

IPV refers to violence between partners in an intimate relationship, and differs slightly from domestic violence in that the partners need not be living together.

What inspired Raison to send that first email and investigate this topic was a newspaper article profiling Dutton and the controversy surrounding some of his research on IPV.

His findings, along with others' in the field, suggest that contrary to popular belief, the most common form of IPV is not men being violent against women. In fact, researchers have found that this form accounts for the smallest percentage of IPV cases, with the majority involving violence from both partners.

Raison got curious about IPV and its causes, and that was when she reached out to Dutton.

Over the course of her review, she found no single clear reason why IPV occurs. Most subjects gave multiple reasons for engaging in violent behavior, with the most common reason being anger. Other common explanations included retaliation for physical or emotional injury, jealousy, a desire for control, a lack of other means of expression and a desire to "get through."

Raison's work highlighted the complex nature of IPV. She ended her review calling for more research on the issue in order to build a better understanding of what leads people to engage in IPV.

According to Raison, the best way to get involved in research is simply to be curious and act on that curiosity. "You have to be genuinely interested," she said.

"Prof's will see through [you] if you're just talking the talk."

"But if you are genuinely interested and you are curious and you have questions, approach them, email them, say, 'Hey can

I talk to you about this?' The worst thing that will happen is you have a cool conversation and they won't have anything for you, but at least you will have had that opportunity to talk to them." [U](#)

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HOMECOMING VICTORY

Bill Situ
Contributor

The 'Birds lit up Thunderbird Stadium on Saturday night, outgunning the University of Saskatchewan Huskies and impressing the Homecoming crowd with a 31-10 win.

The game boasted an attendance of 9,542 football fans — the third-largest crowd in Canada West history, according to UBC Athletics.

UBC president Santa Ono also crowdsurfed during the game.

"It was an awesome experience. It's the most [fans] I've ever been around here at UBC, so if we could get that every game then that'd be awesome," said T-Bird defensive back Stavros Katsantonis after the game.

UBC was quick to get onto the scoreboard on their first possession, when receiver Alex Morrison caught a pass from quarterback Michael O'Connor before finding an open path to the end zone for the touchdown, picking up 93 yards on the play.

Five minutes after Morrison's touchdown, running back Colton Klassen evened up the score for the Huskies.

At the start of the second quarter, the 'Birds responded with a field goal to retake the lead. With the home team up 10-7, the game went into a stalemate thanks to strong defensive play by both teams.

No scoring play came again until nine minutes into the third quarter, where the T-Birds scored back-to-back touchdowns. First, Ben Cummings capped off a

successful drive with a seven-yard rush to the end zone. UBC's next drive was another round of strong offensive plays, including a 45-yard pass by O'Connor to receiver Trey Kellogg. Receiver Trivel Pinto got the touchdown for the 'Birds on a 23-yard reception.

With UBC leading 24-7 after three quarters, Saskatchewan notched one field goal to bring their tally to 10 points while kicker Greg Hutchins secured two field goals in UBC's favour in the final frame. The 'Birds also picked up a rouge, making the final score 31-10 in favour of the home side.

UBC head coach Blake Nill credited the win in large part to the T-Bird defence. Saskatchewan scored 87 points in their previous two games, making them a challenge for any defensive line.

"You got to give credit to coach [Pat] Tracey and his staff and also the players for executing," said Nill about the team's defensive coordinator. "We run a complicated defence."

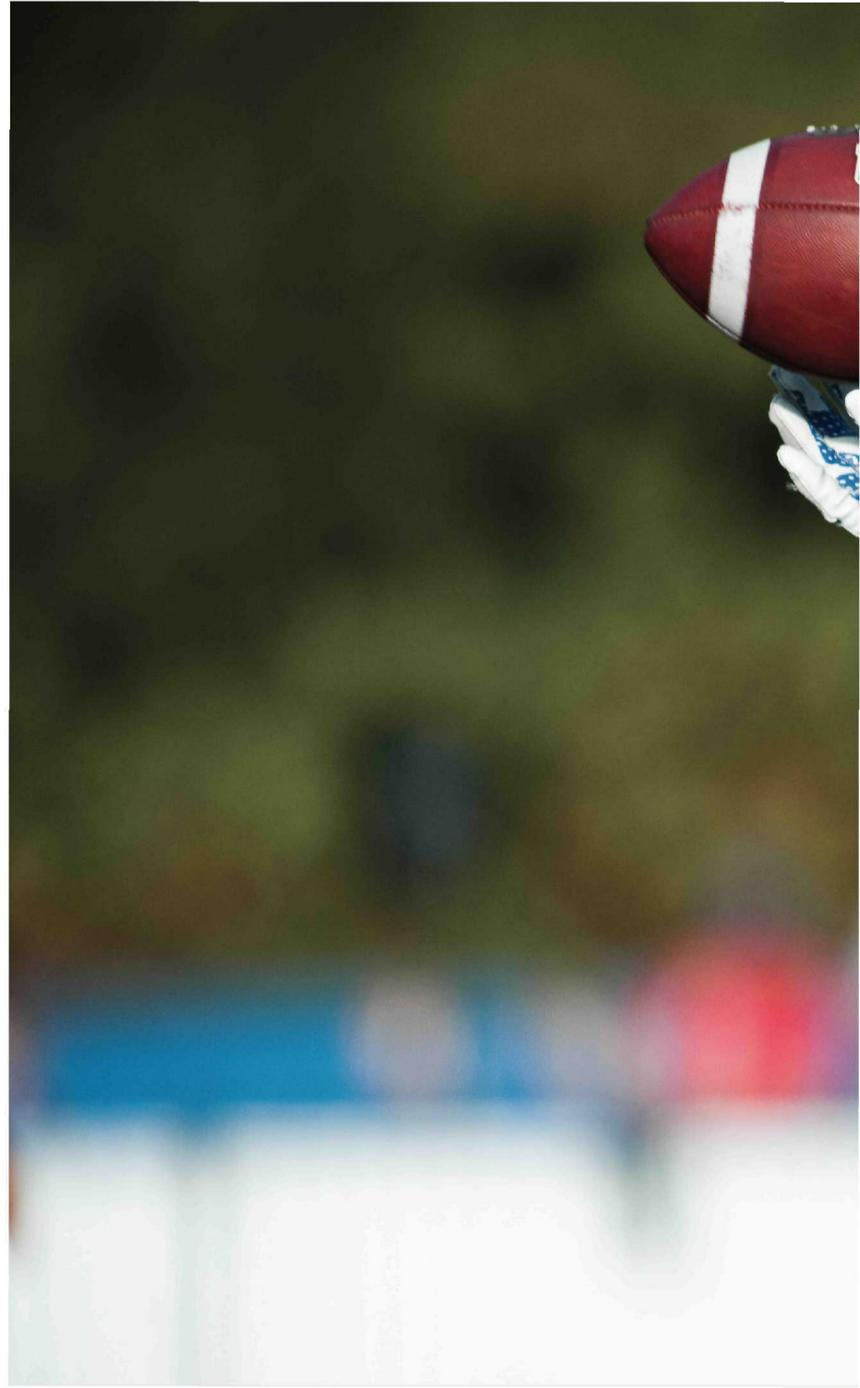
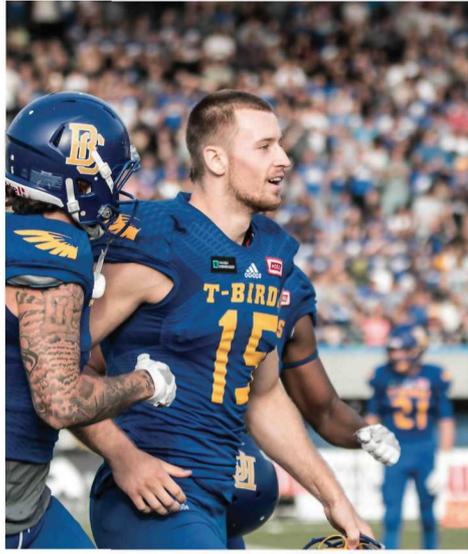
The offensive line also put up impressive numbers on the stats sheet, even without star receiver Marcus Davis. Cummings racked up 178 rushing yards while Pinto finished with 165 receiving yards. O'Connor's 431 passing yards also outmatched Huskies' quarterback Kyle Siemens' 265.

Nill was also thankful for the support from Ono and the amount of school spirit during the game.

"I just want to thank [Ono] for his genuineness in the way that he interacts with our students and the importance on place in athletics," said Nill. 🦅



Photos by Patrick Gillin, Salomon Micko Benrimoh and Jeremy Johnson-Silvers





ATHLETICS SPENDING //

Budget breakdown: UBC spent \$146,000 last year marketing the T-Birds

Jack Hauen
Coordinating Editor

UBC Athletics spent \$146,144 to promote its 26 Thunderbird teams in 2016, or 0.007 per cent of the university's \$2.1 billion budget. Well over a third of that went to football.

The "football marketing" and "Homecoming" line items add up to over \$52,000 — a necessary expense, said Senior Athletics Director Gilles Lepine, to promote Athletics' "best product."

"The thing that we can sell right now to bring new communities, students, staff, media attention, alumni interest [and] donor interest, is to have big events where people feel ... the 'wow' effect," he said. "And this 'wow' effect is coming definitely more with football than other sports."

Football provides a useful hook, Lepine said, to draw attention to other sports. For example, Athletics wanted to rent a huge screen to use at games. After he secured it for football, Lepine said, he got the sponsor to throw it in for a basketball and a volleyball game as well.

"So that's my way to work — we use one to open the door ... and after that, we can serve other sports," he said. "We want to use football to elevate the brand, attract sponsors, attract people, attract TV, attract everybody."

The football team is also the biggest draw for media interest. In a market where UBC is competing with the Canucks, Whitecaps and Canadians, "we have to be strategic," Lepine said. "And that's what we do."

THE BREAKDOWN

The Athletics department gets its money from sponsorships, alumni



Football received more than a third of the promotional budget for UBC Athletics last year.

FILE: JEREMY JOHNSON-SILVERS

donations and directly from UBC. The money they receive from the university comes in a lump sum, after which they're free to determine their own priorities, according to Gord Hopper, director of performance and team support.

Included in the January to March (\$24,036.82) line item, said Hopper, was newspaper ads, media buys, some merchandise and profiles by Allsport, a sports insurance marketing agency.

From April to December

(\$67,550.82) Hopper said the department spent about \$30,000 on free Thunderbird T-shirts that were given away to first-years, in addition to billboard marketing, newspaper advertisements, promotional supplies, giveaway items and game activations.

After the \$52,132.86 spent on football, that leaves \$2,424.32 on the promotion of Thunderstruck, a women's basketball game against the University of Victoria held in late November 2016.

Lepine sighed when asked if he felt like he was getting enough support from the administration. "That's a big question, coming from another university and seeing how there is," he said. Lepine previously worked as director of excellence for Athletics at Laval University, where football attendance regularly breaks 10,000.

"It's something that we try so hard to use very efficiently, the money that we have," he said, pointing to recent Thunderbird championships — nine last year — as evidence their athletes are well-prepared.

"But that's meant a lot, lot of energy," he said.

"We have a good amount of money to work with," said Lepine, and "great support from the university."

"But we have to find other sources of revenue, and that's why we're working ... as much as we can to be autonomous."

EGGS IN A JUST FEW BASKETS

Lepine said his department plans to continue with their strategy of promoting a few big "carnival-style" games every year across a few sports, as opposed to trying to get as many students as possible

breaking turnout of 7,834, the remaining two home games saw 1,429 and 1,043 fans, respectively.

But Athletics Senior Manager of Communications and Media Relations Len Catling pointed to the year-over-year attendance increase in Homecoming and the men's hockey Winter Classic as evidence the strategy is working.

"I think what we're seeing is that the students are interested in additional festival events," said Hopper.

Now, the trick is to turn that into sustained interest.

"I hope we're going to have 5,000 people minimum at every [football] game. But are we there? No," said Lepine. "For [students] it's a special thing to go to a game. And I hope in a few years it will be natural to go there."

The promotional budget for 2017 breaks down similarly to last year, according to Hopper, though with a bump in overall funds at \$166,599 — Catling wrote in an email that the increase was mainly due to the huge video screen used at football games and events like Winter Classic.

Lepine says he still has ways to go to get campus interest in the Thunderbirds where he'd like it to be.

"I think we're working very hard to elevate in the community and especially in the students here at the university, the interest with the Thunderbirds," he said.

"Now, I hope that we can transform that in money. That's what we want to do," said Lepine. "But first, if the students and the staff here don't believe about the brand, it's tough to sell." 🐦

For further details on this story, visit ubyssey.ca.

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Volleyball (W)	MacEwan	0-3	UBC
Soccer (W)	UBC	5-0	Winnipeg
Ice Hockey (M)	UBC	8-3	SFU
Soccer (M)	UBC	1-0	Calgary
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Field Hockey (M)	UBC	8-2	Vancouver Rowing Club Jokers
Rugby (M)	UBC	17-32	UBCOB Ravens RFC
Volleyball (W)	UBC	3-1	McMaster
Football	UBC	31-10	Saskatchewan
Soccer (W)	UBC	4-1	Manitoba
Soccer (M)	UBC	5-0	MacEwan
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17			
Field Hockey (W)	Victoria	0-3	UBC

ONE SHITTY FOOD PUN AWAY FROM QUITTING THE AMS | SWEAR ON MY LIFE //

Iwana Taco, a quesadilla worth fighting for

Salomon Micko Benrimoh
Contributor

For quite some time now, the UBC food scene has consistently been more and more disappointing. Students find themselves paying more and more for food of lesser quality and quantity. For many of us who are already paying thousands of dollars in rent and tuition, it would be nice to finally have an on-campus restaurant with a decent deal.

But change is on the horizon as a number of new restaurants are sprouting up across campus. The real question is whether or not they will finally give the starving students of UBC the cheap, good food that they've been craving.

A bunch of the new restaurants will be opening at the base of the new apartment building on University Boulevard in the coming weeks, including Taiwanese street food place Bao Down, Mexican restaurant Tacomio and Joe Pizza. JJ Bean and Nori have already opened.

But some new places are also popping up in the Nest itself, replacing what used to be go-to vegetarian spot Palate, the frozen yogurt shop Qoola and the decent but usually underwhelming burger joint Flip Side.

Iwana... Iguana Taco... I Want a Taco... whatever it's called has already moved into the basement of the Nest and taken over what was once Flip Side. They're serving up Mexican classics like burritos and quesadillas, as well as meat and veggie tacos.

In the buildup to its opening, *The Ubyyssey* wasn't expecting too much from Iwana Taco. Especially when it comes to quality Mexican food, we've all been let down too many times before. As some of you may remember last year, *The Ubyyssey* went on a long but ultimately doomed quest to find a decent quesadilla on campus. Our search took us to the Soup Kitchen, the Gallery 2.0 and others — but in the end, we returned to our cubicles empty handed.

Despite expectations, Iwana Taco is surprisingly good.

Obviously it's not the best Mexican food in Vancouver, but for a campus spot, it's not too shabby. Iwana Taco brings forward a simple and classic Mexican-style menu mixed in with some healthy and fresh British Columbian ingredients, including Ocean Wise certified fish.

The best thing on the menu are by far the tacos. The tortillas themselves are actual fresh corn tortillas instead of the cheap



SALOMON MICKO BENRIMOH

I would die for this quesadilla.

store-bought fake tortillas that were anticipated to be served.

The burritos are also pretty good and they get you the most bang for your buck. They may not be of Chipotle-level quality or taste, but they might be some of the best new deals on campus. For \$7.50 or \$8, you can get a decently sized beef, cumin chicken, vegetarian, or shrimp burrito. Again, it's not the cheapest eat in the city, but it's the best price you'll find on our lovely but

unfathomably overpriced campus.

The best deal to get is the four tacos for \$10, in which you can choose between beef, fish, cumin chicken, shrimp, mushroom and other options. And the best of them is the fish taco. It's actually good quality fish with a surprisingly nice mayo sauce and fresh veggies. Tacos are priced at \$3 a piece if you don't get the four for ten deal.

The quesadillas — which we've already established as

something the culture section cares about more than freedom of the press — are also decent. There are vegetarian and carnivorous options available, and they are priced between \$6.50 and \$9.00.

If Iwana Taco is a sign of what's to come to UBC's food scene, then you better get excited. We might soon be free from having to meal-prep every weekend because we're getting sick of buying the same old boring food. 🌮



Here at *The Ubyyssey*, we very much love our avocados.

FILE JACK HAUEN

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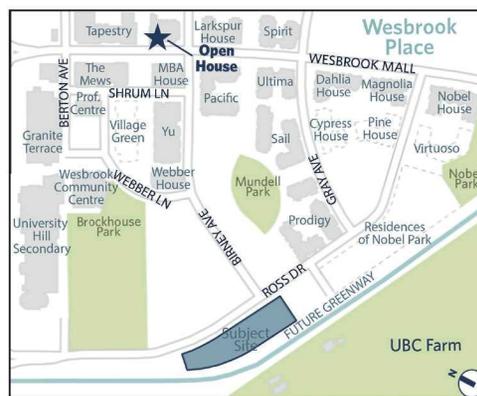
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Lot 11 Wesbrook Place

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Date: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 **Times:** 4:30 - 6:30 PM

Place: Wesbrook Welcome Centre, 3378 Wesbrook Mall



Representatives from the project team and Campus + Community Planning will be on hand to discuss and answer questions about this project.

The public is also invited to attend the upcoming **Development Permit Board Meeting** for this project.

Date/Time: October 11, 5:30 - 7:00PM

Location: Wesbrook Community Centre
3335 Webber Lane

For further information:

Please direct questions to Karen Russell, Manager, Development Services
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TOO SOON? //

Chris Rock's show was a hard-hitting rollercoaster that almost always delivered

Olamide Olaniyan
Contributor

The lights went out in Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre. The conversations dropped to a dull murmur and audience members frantically got into their seats. Kanye West's "Ultralight Beam" blared through the arena and the screen behind the stage displayed two letters in a cloister black font: CR.

The crowd cheered as though at a rock concert — and it pretty much was. Chris Rock — actor, comedian and host of the 2016 Oscars ceremony — strutted on stage and looked around. The floodlights behind him casting a long shadow on the stage as he greeted the crowd. The words "comfort is the poison" in blood-orange flashed onto the screen behind him. The Vancouver show of Rock's Total Blackout Tour had just begun.

He cozied up to the Vancouver crowd with a quick dig at Surrey, as well as some comments about the lack of black people in the city. Then — as expected in the current political climate — he turned his attention to the presidency of the United States of America. He was a little bit optimistic. For him, if George Bush could have been followed by Barack Obama, then

perhaps President Trump would be followed up by Jesus.

The comedian — whose Oscars opening monologue focused on the lack of diversity in Hollywood and the #oscarssowhite controversy — switched it up and talked about how prices are the "new Jim Crow." He explained how although segregation by race was no longer a thing, black people were still excluded from places like Whole Foods with "\$7 oranges."

He pivoted to talking about fatherhood and the difficulty of preparing his daughter — who is going into high school — for a cruel world. He jokes about priming her for the "white man," by making everything that was white in their household "hot, heavy or sharp." Their toilet seat would be hot, child onesies would weigh a ton and vanilla ice cream would be sprinkled with glass. "Next time, choose chocolate," he said to the roar of laughter.

He talked about the shooting of black teenagers in the United States, saying: "People always say that the black teenage boy is an endangered species. I say, nah, that's not true. Endangered species are protected by the United States government."

A bit about faith and religion was highlighted by his mantra, "I

am trying to find God, before God finds me." Rock has started doing some good, albeit when everyone, especially God, won't stop hearing about it. He mentioned a time when he gave a homeless man \$5, which is a nice thing to do. But then he pointed out that he had more than \$300 in his wallet at that moment and that he had to scroll through 50, 20, and 10 dollar notes to even find a \$5 note.

Rock also touched on the topic of how people say that God never makes mistakes. He said that it's not true. "God made Surrey." The crowd cracked up.

Rock is arguably the most important funny person of his generation. But one thing that makes him stand out is his honesty and vulnerability when discussing his mistakes. "I didn't listen. I was a bad communicator. I cheated," he said while talking about his marriage and divorce. You could hear the audience stop breathing and do a quick double-take. The way Rock reckoned with this topic took the audience by surprise.

Rock had a bone to pick with comfort and dove into topics that many might have found disturbing or even "too soon" to joke about. One constant the entire show was the audience being unsure if it was



No punches were pulled and no topic was safe.

COURTESY PUBLICIST

okay to laugh at a joke.

While he often played it too safe with his discussions of race and then sometimes clumsily resorted to profanity for cheap laughter, the combinations of his frenetic style of humour, his honesty and

self awareness, and his surprising vulnerability made the Vancouver show of the Total Blackout Tour an emotional but delightful rollercoaster that was worth the ride. Chris Rock is a comedic rock star and a treat to see live. [@](#)

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DISAPPOINTED //

The underground accordion festival broke my heart

Natalie Morris
Design Editor

We were waiting outside together, this mismatched group of people. An older couple waited by the door, making sure they would be the first in. An accordion player was singing to help the wait go faster until the doors open. Couples and groups wander in or wander past. I was by far the youngest in the crowd and I wondered if I had made a horrible mistake.

This was the 10th Annual Accordion Noir Festival — Canada's largest alternative accordion festival.

"Alternative accordion festival?" you ask. "I didn't know there were any accordion festivals." Trust me, I know. I was in that exact position a month ago when the press release came tumbling into my inbox. Of course, I immediately asked our culture editor if I could cover it. Screw VIFF, the Noir Festival is clearly where it's at.

My excitement only grew as the grand event got closer. What would this festival bring?

I made the 50-minute bus ride into East Vancouver, past Main Street to a small Canadian Russian centre. I waited outside and my hope that this would be a super cool, underground indie-alternative festival was chipped away slowly.

After the doors opened, I found a community hall with

tables set up. A small cash-bar offering "classy boxed wine" — I'm assuming ironically — was opposite a small bake sale. Everything about this was smaller than I expected. The stage had old Christmas trees in the back and the tables were quickly being filled by the older members of the crowd. There was probably a maximum of 75 people in the whole hall. Apparently this event sold out days ago and now I know why.

I had researched the festival and accordion music before coming. Very popular in Europe, particularly in Finland, accordion music was on the up and up again. When I was younger and had more free time and money, I was a bit more musically literate, but it had been a while since I found a festival that excited me. Nothing, nothing, could have prepared me for this event.

The acts were interesting, that I can say with absolute confidence. They all offered something new with their accordion. Some — particularly the first act, a West Coast duo — nailed the old vintage feeling that accordions and banjos are known for. Others, like Finnish accordion star Antti Paalanen, offered what felt like banger club music mixed with accordion music. Individually they were good. Together they offered little more than a confused musical vibe.

The young people got up to dance. The older crowd sat and



With no consistent sound between acts, it was hard to get into the festival.

NATALIE MORRIS

chatted with their neighbours. We all learnt a bit of Finnish. Except for the times I got up for photos, I sat in a corner in wonder. It was a strange vibe. I don't particularly know what I was looking for, maybe just a concert whose edgy poster matched its sound.

I appreciate a good marketing plan and I'm willing to admit that in this case, I fell for it. Seriously, whoever did their posters was out of this world.

But it was less of a concert and more of a community talent show featuring the accordion world's most

popular alternative artists, including some West coast stars. I think if they were able to have a coherent sound I would have enjoyed the concert infinitely more. But the extreme differences in what was being played made it hard to keep up and even harder to enjoy.

I have no doubt that the accordion world is a small one and the alternative accordion music world is even smaller, but the inconsistent sound really limits how much of a following the festival could gain, particularly with students. If they were able to theme

their concerts in future festivals, I'm sure they would be able to provide a better night, but as of now — for the night I went — it's hard to want to go back.

That being said, as much as I was disappointed by the confusing music being played, the Vancouver arts scene needs all the support it can get, even if it's just a student who's neither hipster enough nor old enough to enjoy this particular festival which — like so many others in Vancouver — is limited by funding. But there is still opportunity to grow and gain a real crowd. [U](#)



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Ubyessey Staff

Whoever is elected AMS VP Academic and University Affairs (VPAUA) will be making huge decisions this year on your behalf.

The position is “a go-between for concerned students and the university administration,” according to the AMS website. This expansive role has a much more tangible impact on UBC than other VPs — with its hands in projects such as: representing student interests in university policies on sexual assault and accessibility; campaigning for affordability, from tuition to housing to textbooks; Indigenous issues and reconciliation efforts; and the Academic Experience Survey — is arguably the most important tool for demonstrating what students want and need.

Sound pretty important? That’s because it is. And right now, the vacancy for this position — left open when prior VPAUA Daniel Lam resigned midsummer — is up for a by-election, with two disparate candidates running.

Max Holmes, the current associate VPAUA, is running



The two candidates at the debate.

SCREENSHOT BY KATE COLENBRANDER

a pretty standard campaign focused on affordability, diversity, improving the campus experience and creating more co-op and mentorship opportunities for

students. He’s a second-year, but acquired experience working under Lam and then interim VPAUA Jakob Gattinger for the past five months.

Franz Kurtzke, a philosophy major, is running an outsider campaign of social justice reform, promoting free speech, “antifragile” mental health policies and

alternative theories on rape culture. He has no student government experience and during the debate appeared unfamiliar with most VPAUA responsibilities.

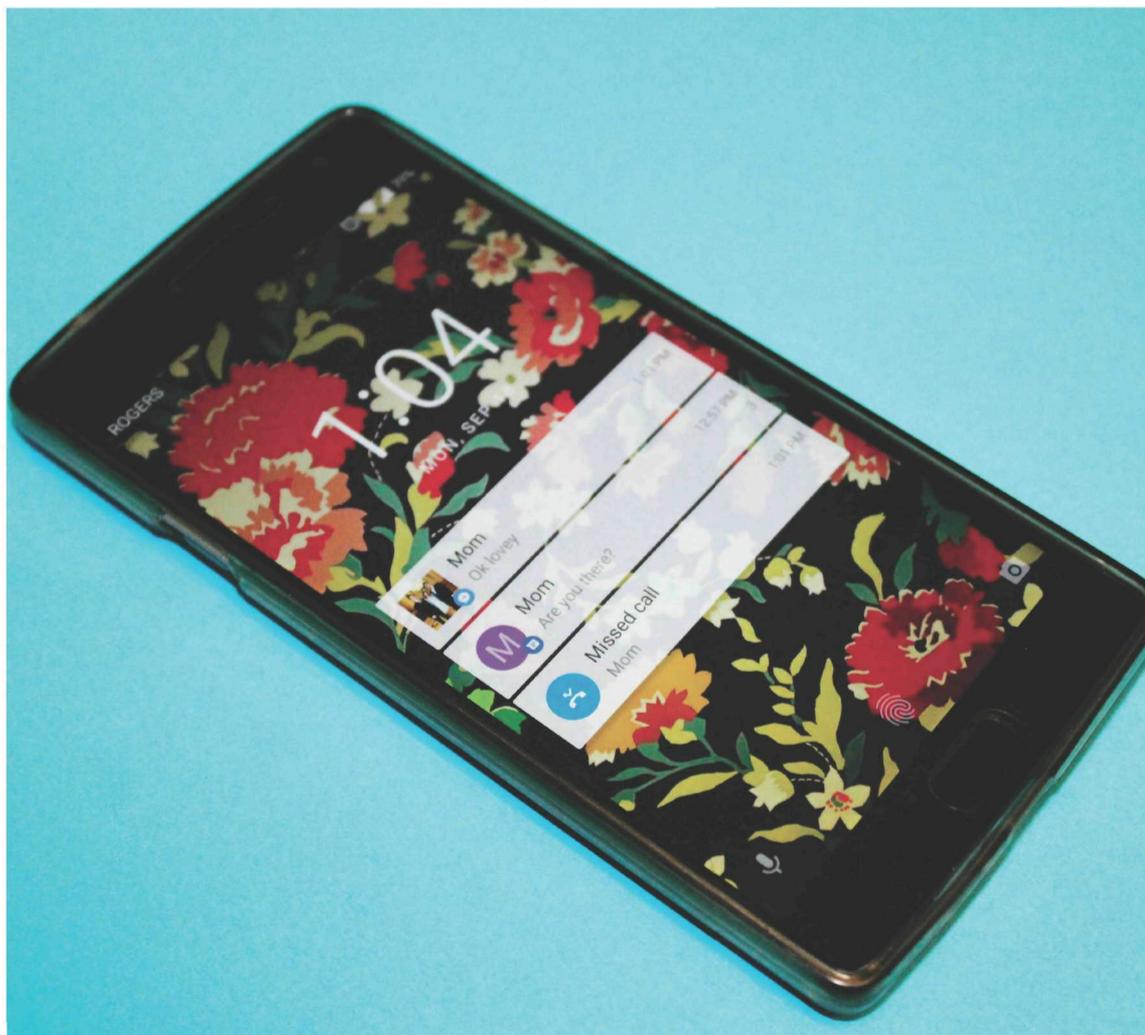
Last by-election’s voter turnout in 2013 was an abysmal 3.8 per cent or 1,821 people. If voter turnout is similarly low this time around, the result could be swayed by very few students. No matter who you’re voting for, your vote matters.

If you don’t believe us, look at last year’s batshit insane arts Undergraduate Society elections, in which 7.5 per cent (1,060) of arts students voted. The president was decided by 22 votes, the VP Internal was decided by 11, and the VP External race had three candidates that ended up within three votes of each other. The winner was decided by a single vote.

Voting begins Monday and runs through the entire week. It’s incredibly easy to do online, so set aside the fraction of your day that it will take and participate in campus democracy. With that accomplished, you can feel more justified in complaining about the AMS. [U](#)

ADVICE //

Ask Natalie: My mom won’t stop calling me to check in



Your mom used to call you on your cell phone, late night when she needs your love.

SALOMON MICKO BENRIMO

Natalie Morris
Design Editor

“Natalie,

I’m in my first year and I’m from another province. My mother calls me every day. She gets upset if I don’t answer. She knows my class schedule and she’ll call when she

knows I’m not busy. I feel bad but I can’t take it! Help a girl out?”

Yeah, that’s not fun. Tell her you love talking to her but you find you’re missing out on some experiences because you talk so much. Talk up how busy you are and how you would rather talk longer once a week — maybe twice a week

if something exciting happened — than take shorter calls everyday. Be honest but phrase it more as a rearrangement rather than a discontinuation of your phone calls.

If push comes to shove and the truth isn’t getting you anywhere, make up a study group that meets irregularly. Parents love study groups.

“Dear Natalie,

There’s a lot of people in my program that consider themselves better than everyone else. I won’t say which program we’re in, but it’s really frustrating. I have friends in other majors and faculties and I don’t think I’m better than them because I have something different on the sheet of paper we all get when we graduate. But it feels hard to say that when I’m surrounded by people within the program. What should I do?”

I think it’s clear by now I’m in arts, but I know people in all faculties — even land and food systems. It’s a difficult thing to feel disconnected from your peers, especially if you’re in a smaller program. But I would advise you not to take this too seriously.

Everyone I know at one point or another has said something like, “Well at least I’m not in Engineering so I can have a social life” or “arts degrees get you a job at Starbucks and a mountain of debt” or the stupid Sauder snake meme that’s gained a following this year. Everyone feels a least a little bit of pride when it comes to their program.

Even within faculties, majors often place themselves above other majors and judge each other for what their major says about them. It’s stupid. The whole thing is stupid, but people do it anyway.

People like what they do and they want to feel like the life choices they’ve made are the best life choices anyone could have made, even if it’s far from the truth. When people are overly

defensive when it comes to their program or major it just means that they’re not 100 per cent sure about those choices and they want other people to tell them how excellent they are.

But the truth of the matter is, no one’s program is better or worse than anyone else’s. Every single program has pros and cons. Every single major has ups and downs. arts may have a reputation for being unemployable, but it’s also hard to put a science degree to use if you don’t have your Master’s.

The STEM programs may shit on the literature classes but I’d like to see any of them get above a 70 per cent on some of the essays arts kids have to do. Arts kids might turn on the commerce students because of their reputation, but at least there’s some practical application to business classes. Sauder people might piss off the kinesiology students, but we all know who would win in a fist fight when kin gets involved.

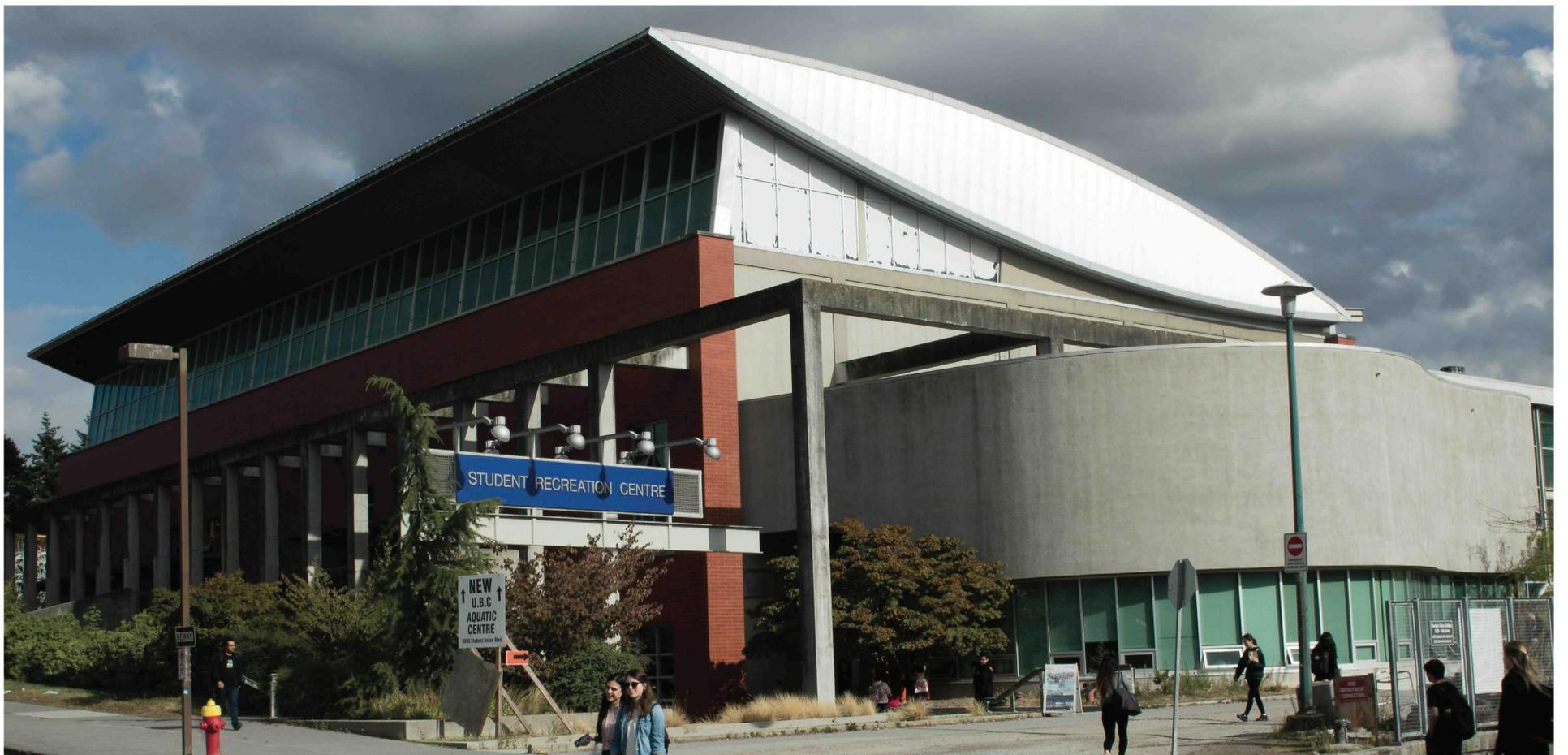
What I’m saying is it’s a circle. As much of your program is making themselves feel above than the other programs, those same programs are probably doing the exact same thing.

Don’t join in. It’s an unhealthy competition we’ve put ourselves in and the deeper you go, the less chance you have of getting out unscathed. Don’t engage in the nonsense, but don’t worry about defending the other programs — like you said, we all end up with the same piece of paper.

Need advice? Contact Natalie anonymously at asknatalie@ubyssey.ca or at ubyssey.ca/ advice and have your questions answered! [U](#)

SWEATY STUDENTS //

Op-ed: It's time for UBC to fly the Coop



The Coop smells more than my gym socks.

SALOMON MICKO BENRIMOH

Moira Wyton
Features Editor

The BirdCoop, with its \$30 per-term fee and convenient location in the SRC, could be the ideal space for students to stay active and be social on campus. Instead it's cramped, damp, crowded and has worse air ventilation than my lungs after climbing to the top of Buchanan Tower. As many first-year students sign up for the Coop this month and marvel at the low price, they'll soon learn the sad truth — we really do get what we pay for.

Only in this case, shouldn't what we pay for at least have an air conditioning system that isn't an emergency exit door propped open? Cardio machines go days or even weeks without being fixed, the towels used to wipe down equipment are few and far-between — if you can even find one that doesn't reek of dried sweat — and the floor space for stretching could be advertised as an attractive nano unit after a quick paint job.

If UBC students are Thunderbirds, why is our gym too small even for newly-hatched chicks? We've outgrown the BirdCoop — it's high time we left the nest in search of greener pastures and far less green water fountains.

Other universities in Canada, even much smaller ones like the University of Alberta and Queens, have palatial fitness spaces — but at 0.15 square feet of recreational space per student, UBC has the lowest university ratio in the whole of Canada. Granted, we don't totally miss the mark — our own Thunderbirds' sports teams have their own private gym and training spaces and for the aquatically inclined the new Aquatic Centre shines as a beacon of light in a sea of construction.

But if you're just another plebeian NARP (Non-Athletic Regular Person) on a budget who wants to stay fit during school and not contract a strange fungus from exercise equipment or be constantly squeezing between two very gassy looking people on the mats, you don't have much of a choice. Gold's Gym is expensive and despite it being close to campus, it adds a good walk for students who are trying to squeeze in going to the gym between classes. The nearest YMCA is on Dunbar, and residence gym spaces are limited to those who live on campus.

And while it is more than true that UBC Rec offers some wonderful classes in more spacious settings and that there are plenty of opportunities to get involved in intramural sports on campus, UBC's gym space is abysmal at best and, at worst, detrimental to the mental and physical health of students. For a university that preaches the importance of mental health and living a balanced life, UBC has dropped the ball on providing a space on campus for that balance that is accessible to all students.

Yes, you barely need to pay to use the Coop, and yes, we should be grateful we have a space at all to keep our minds clear and our bodies strong. But for busy students who squeeze in workouts and can't commit to a set recreational schedule or pay \$100 per term for a class at the Student Recreation Centre, having a space where you can reliably work out without waiting half an hour for the same equipment Olivia Newton-John probably used in her music videos seems like a reasonable request.

With the passing of the AMS referendum to collect a fee to be used towards a massive expansion of recreational space on campus in March, things may be looking up for the moment, even if UBC has yet to

commit to its portion of funding for the project. But the fact that it has taken this long to secure only partial funding for a student recreation facility while upgrades and expansions of the T-Birds' training and fitness facilities have continued seems backwards.

The new fitness space in the Life Building — previously the Old SUB

— is slated to open in “early 2018,” but as the consuming humidity and pungent odours of the Coop close in around us, January couldn't feel further away.

Fitness and wellbeing are important for everyone, star quarterback or not. It's time for UBC to end the aimless walking in circles of weightlifters in

between reps looking for a space and the constant waiting for the bikes facing the poorly closed-captioned CNN reports during the morning news. Spacious and comfortable fitness at UBC shouldn't be as unlikely as finding a spot on the mats. UBC may be a place of mind, but as of yet there is no suitable place to unwind. [U](#)

Stadium Neighbourhood

Help create UBC's next community

Public Consultation

PHASE ONE: SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 22

We're beginning to plan a new neighbourhood in the area around Thunderbird Stadium, and we want your input and ideas to help shape this process.

Share your insights on living, working, studying and playing at UBC. Your experience can help guide our planning decisions.

planning.ubc.ca/stadium

Questions?

Contact Neal Wells, Manager, Communications and Engagement at neal.wells@ubc.ca or 604 822 0473.

Join the conversation online or in person.

Online Survey

September 28 to October 22
planning.ubc.ca/stadium

Public Open Houses

Saturday, September 30
3pm to 6pm
Wesbrook Community Centre,
3335 Webber Lane

Tuesday, October 3

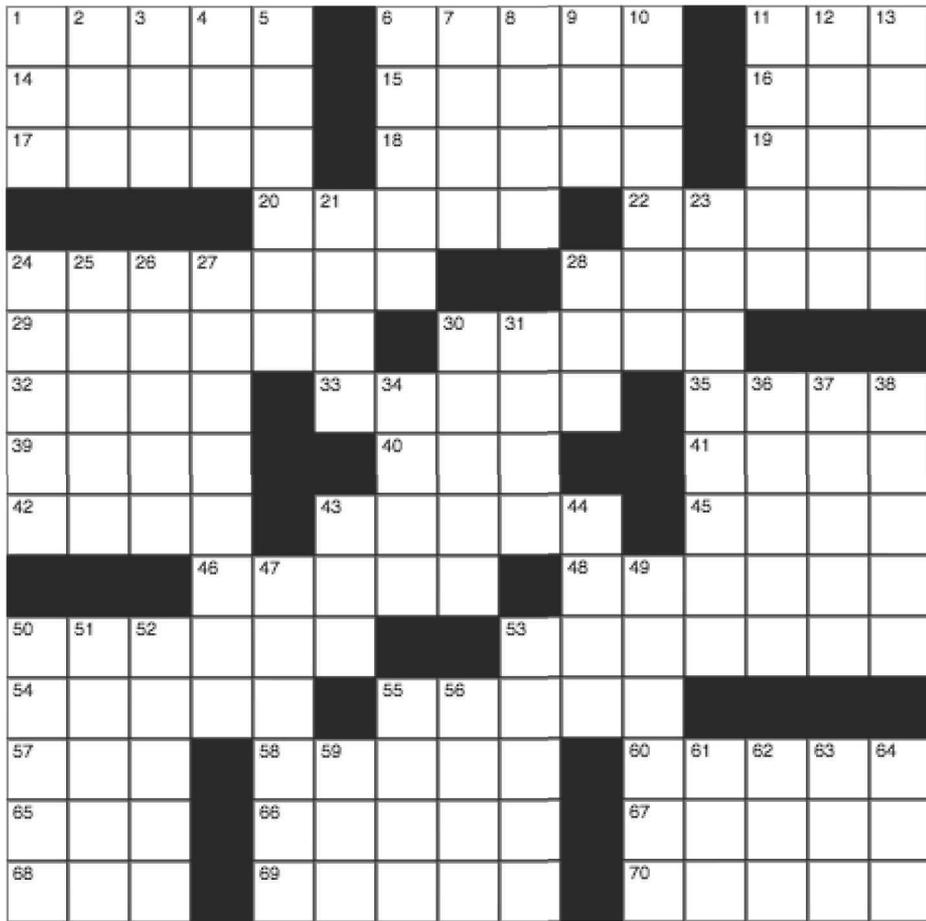
5pm to 8pm
Old Barn Community Centre,
6308 Thunderbird Blvd

Thursday, October 5

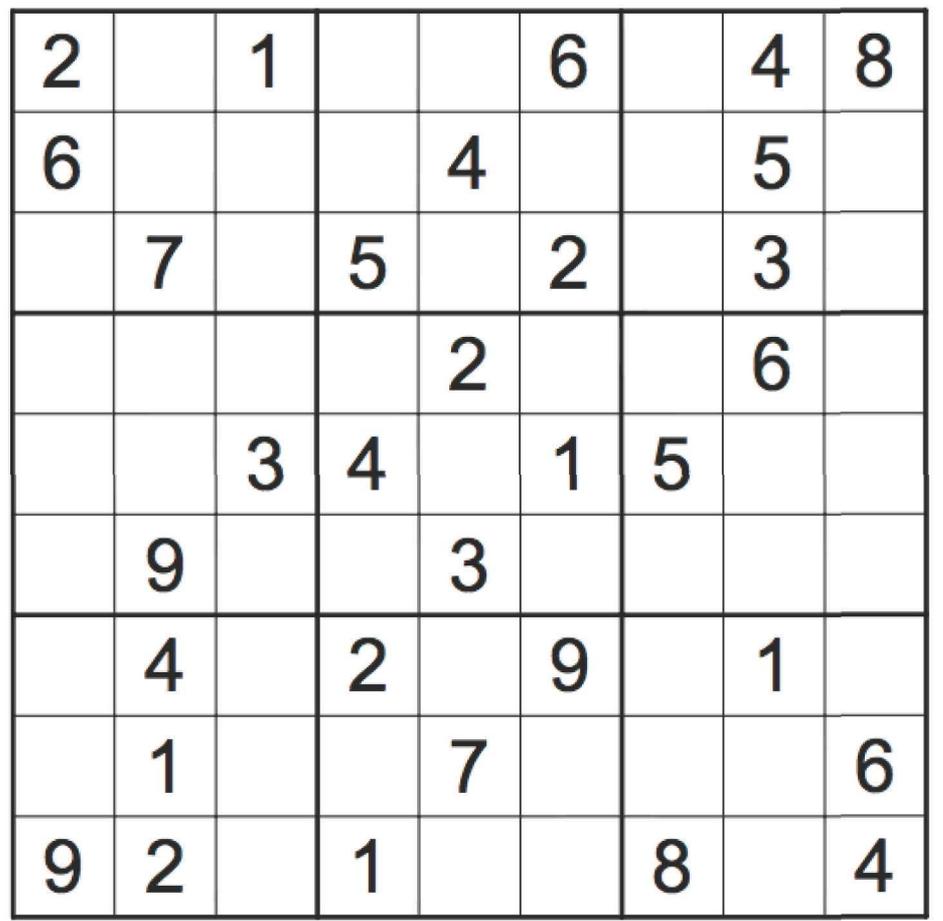
11am to 2pm
I.K. Barber Learning Centre,
2nd Floor Lobby



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Campus + Community Planning



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1-Disney deer;
- 6-Got wind of;
- 11-Circle segment;
- 14-Gum;
- 15-Actress Verdugo;
- 16-Debtor's note;
- 17-Favored crime of pyromaniacs;
- 18-At ___ for words;
- 19-Sculler's need;
- 20-Brother of Moses;
- 22-Assembly rooms;
- 24-Bon ___!
- 28-Mock;

- 29-Shone;
- 30-Refreshment stand;
- 32-Lawman Wyatt;
- 33-Medicinal shrub;
- 35-Breezes through;
- 39-Nevada city;
- 40-Compose;
- 41-Asta's mistress;
- 42-Nicholas II was the last Russian one;
- 43-Slightest;
- 45-Album unit;
- 46-Like some college walls;
- 48-Roma's land;
- 50-Came after;
- 53-Locks;
- 54-Abounds;
- 55-Actress Sophia;

- 57-Solo of "Star Wars";
- 58-River that flows through Paris;
- 60-Spanish hero;
- 65-UFO crew;
- 66-Borden cow;
- 67-Ankle bones;
- 68-Shad delicacy;
- 69-Atty.-to-be exams;
- 70-Night noise

DOWN

- 1-Lingerie item;
- 2-___Lingus (Irish carrier);
- 3-Ed.'s pile;
- 4-Life story;
- 5-From birth;
- 6-Soul mate?;

- 7-London greeting;
- 8-Long time;
- 9-Hosp. workers;
- 10-Rushes;
- 11-Garlic sauce;
- 12-Author Dahl;
- 13-Swearword;
- 21-Helps;
- 23-State of USA;
- 24-Red as ___;
- 25-Rings;
- 26-Anorak;
- 27-Retail store;
- 28-1950 film noir classic;
- 30-Mix dough;
- 31-Taverns;
- 34-Sporting blade;
- 36-Loses heat;

- 37-Bert's roomie;
- 38-Long stories;
- 43-Cover;
- 44-Grow weary;
- 47-Ship;
- 49-Beliefs;
- 50-Early anesthetic;
- 51-Keen!;
- 52-Have a feeling;
- 53-Woody inhabitants of forests!;
- 55-Actress Kudrow;
- 56-Put a lid ___!
- 59-Windy City trains;
- 61-PC linkup;
- 62-___-Magnon;
- 63-Neighbor of Syr.;
- 64-Decease



By: L. A. Bonté



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U

THE UBYSSY

More than just your crossword and sudoku.

We're also your FWB.

And by that we mean Friends With Board of Governors meeting summaries.