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11 A.M. @ ENGINEERING STUDENT CENTRE

Every year, UBC students, faculty and staff come together in memorium for the lives lost at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal in 1989.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

MEMORY, INTIMACY AND DIFFICULT KNOWLEDGE

3–5 P.M. @ LIU INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL ISSUES

Billed as a conversation between travel writer Noo Saro-Wiwa and poet Dr. Juliane Otoniya Okot Bitek on the former's childhood and memories, this event is free and sure to pique your interest in something new!

ON THE COVER

COVER BY

Alex Vanderput

Want to see more events or see your event listed here?
ubyssey.ca/events

THE UBYSSEY

NOVEMBER 26, 2019 | VOLUME CI | ISSUE XV

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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OUR CAMPUS

Lecturer Jennifer Gagnon believes in the importance of vulnerability

"I struggle and really fight to stay here because I love what I do."

ELIZABETH WANG

Sarah Zhao
Senior Staff Writer

When Jennifer Gagnon first started teaching at UBC, she chose to 'pass.'

Though she uses a cane for mobility, she didn't tell anybody that she had a disability for fear that people would treat her differently and that it would negatively impact her experience at UBC. That changed, however, after a conversation she had with a student.

"[They] said to me that they were thinking of leaving the university because they hadn't seen anybody at the university with a disability succeed. And they felt that as somebody with a disability, 'I don't belong,'" said Gagnon. "And when I heard that, I immediately changed how I thought ... I looked at [them] and I said, 'You're not alone.'"

Gagnon told that student about her own disability and that conversation changed the way that she taught. It reinforced the idea that representation mattered, especially when Gagnon looked back at her own experience as an undergraduate at UBC and then a graduate student in the US.

"I didn't have disabled folks as mentors or role models to look up to, in the field that I was entering. And I thought about how big of a difference that would have made for me, if there was somebody with a disability, who was open about that.

"The thing that I do at UBC that, to this day, still terrifies me is to be really open and vulnerable about living with disability."

That vulnerability also allows her to connect with her students and empathize with their struggles. When her students tell her about their struggles to pay tuition or to balance a job with their school work, she tells them that she understands because she is also struggling to balance her work at UBC with other jobs and everything else in her life.

"To be able to be honest with folks, and to be vulnerable with folks ... I think that that's incredibly important for building not just empathy, but solidarity between folks who are at the front of the classroom and the students who are really why we're all here," said Gagnon.

"Vulnerability isn't weakness ... Folks with disabilities are incredibly capable and are just another aspect of human diversity, and often, when disabled folks do something differently — it doesn't mean we do worse. It means we do it in a new and creative way."

No matter how terrifying this kind of vulnerability — about her disability, about her labour as contract faculty — remains to her, Gagnon takes her role as an educator, which she describes as "an incredible privilege," very seriously. To Gagnon, teaching is a form of activism.

"It's the conversations you have one-on-one. It's what you say in a classroom, it's the way in which students challenge each other in their conversations too," she said.

"I think [that] is incredibly important to see as activism — the kinds of things that make people go, 'I hadn't thought of it like that before.'"

Intersectionality is another critical part of teaching for Gagnon. As a feminist and a woman with a disability, she brings an emphasis on gender issues, disability politics and queer theory to every course that she teaches, stressing the importance of having more people from marginalized communities at UBC.

"[It's] really incredibly important here on campus to have folks who are from marginalized groups and who are willing to talk about their experiences, in my case being a disabled woman, and make that a part of our teaching and what we do here."

Gagnon's passion for intersectionality and social justice issues pushed her to join the Faculty Association's Contract Faculty Committee and to start to speak out about the experience of contract faculty at UBC. She was looking for solidarity, both amongst other faculty and with students.

"I've always very much been somebody who's felt strongly that if you want something to change — do something about it," she said. "For me, 'doing something about it' meant ... using the incredibly unique platform that I have at UBC to talk openly about what it was to be contract faculty in my classrooms."

As a sessional lecturer since 2013 and a woman with a disability, one of the biggest barriers she faces working at UBC is not only the lack of job security, but also a contract structure that doesn't provide any medical benefits. That means she has to find other ways to get the healthcare she needs to function and to be able to do the work she does at UBC.

"That barrier is something faced by many disabled people," said Gagnon. "And that's also a barrier that many queer folks and especially trans folk face as well, with their unique needs for health care. ... At a university, we should have contract structures that guarantee that those who work here have access to things like basic health care.

"I really struggle to stay at UBC ... but I struggle and really fight to stay here because I love what I do. My vocation is absolutely being a professor. And teaching. And being in a classroom."

Despite everything, Gagnon keeps talking openly about her experiences here as contract faculty and as a woman with a disability — but not because she is brave.

"Oftentimes people will sort of hear me talk about disability and go 'Oh, you're fearless.' And I want to say 'No, no I'm not fearless. I'm afraid all the time.' And I do it because I don't want to be afraid to say these things."

TRANSFER FUNDS //

Amid student protests, Board of Governors sets divestment of over $300 million in motion

"We feel this urgency and we cannot stand to see our university complicit." ZUBAIR HIRJI

Henry Anderson and Emma Livingstone
News Editors

On November 22, as student climate activists flooded the third floor of the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre chanting and singing, the Board of Governors (BoG) Endowment Responsible Investment Policy (ERIP) voted to get the ball rolling on divesting part of its endowment.

Over 50 students — representing UBCC350, Extinction Rebellion (XR) UBC, the Social Justice Centre and others — were picketing the committee meeting with one ultimate demand: that the university divest fully from fossil fuels.

Following a presentation from UBCC350 member Michelle Marcus, the ERIP Committee met to consider a motion authorizing UBC to transfer funds from its approximately $381 million Trek Endowment to the Sustainable Future Pool (SFP), a low-carbon fund that excludes fossil fuel investments.

This would bring the amount of divested funds in the SFP from $30 million to $411 million, amounting to 23.5 per cent of UBC's $1.75 billion endowment.

The Trek Endowment is made up of the university's own money generated from land use revenue for 22 per cent of UBC's Main Endowment Pool (MEP). The BoG can invest and spend the money freely as long as it complies with the BC University Act, which only specifies that governors act "in the best interests of the university."

The remaining 78 per cent of the MEP comprises charitable donations that are restricted by donor agreements specifying how the money must be spent. As trustees of the donations, UBC is bound by the BC Trustee Act, which has a stronger definition of fiduciary duty than the University Act.

While UBCC350 and XR UBC are demanding full divestment, there is no timeline for the divestment of the endowment's charitable purposes trusts.

But even the authorization of divesting the Trek Endowment is bound by two conditions that will delay it for several months.

By February 1, 2020, the university must receive a legal opinion that "confirm[s]" transferring the funds will not have any adverse legal implications.

And by March 31, 2020, the university must conduct an asset-liability study to ensure that no pools within the endowment — neither the MEP nor the SFP — will lose money as a result of the transfer.

In the meeting, UBC VP Finance and Operations Peter Smailes said these deadlines will allow his portfolio to bring forth a definitive vote on divesting the Trek Endowment in the April 2020 meeting.

The move was met with resounding support from governors, including BoG Chair Michael Korenberg. He added that if UBC's legal opinion does not recommend divesting the fund, the Board will have to get a second opinion.

He also told the Investment Management Trust (IMANT), which oversees the investment of the endowment and UBC's Staff Pension Plan, to make sure that the Trek Endowment is invested in funds that are not only low-carbon but also entirely fossil fuel-free like the rest of the SFP.

"IMANT needs to be prescriptively told ... that [low-carbon only] is not an acceptable solution."

Korenberg recommended that ERIP be instated as a permanent committee so that it can work towards divesting the rest of the endowment.

MAKING THEIR VOICES HEARD

During her presentation at the beginning of the meeting, Marcus outlined the student group's demands alongside academic research on divestment.

"We're not here because we want to be loud and cause trouble, we're here because we're terrified," said Marcus. "We feel this urgency and we cannot stand to see our university complicit."

"There are no neutral stances here. By not divesting, you are siding with the fossil fuel industry and continued devastation. This is at odds with the purpose of UBC and your duty as governors of a public institution," she added.

She clarified that UBCC350 is also advocating for UBC to divest its $1.82-billion Staff Pension Plan.

This is not the first time students have demonstrated at BoG meetings. The April 2018 meeting was met with protests from a crowd of students, many of whom were part of UBCC350. At that meeting, the Board also voted in favour of doubling the university's contributions to the SFP.

Many governors were supportive of UBCC350's message for full divestment. President Santa Ono said he was hopeful UBC could completely divest by 2025.

"There's so much more we have to do even beyond [divestment]. This is really an emergency," he said, fulfilling a Global Climate Strike ask from the groups that he declares a climate emergency.

Other governors, including Vancouver BoG faculty representative Dr. Nassif Ghoussoub, said the university should have made more progress on divestment over the last three years.

"Why are we just rediscovering the wheel when many universities have gone through these motions?" Ghoussoub said.

Vancouver BoG student representative Max Holmes also said he was glad to see action being taken after many instances of avoidance, but more immediate steps are required.

"Climate change in its current crisis isn't about the low-hanging fruit. It's about the entire tree," Holmes said.

In a presentation on UBC's Responsible Investing Approach, UBC Treasurer Yale Loh said the university had been communicating with other schools and organizations about their divestment initiatives.

Recently, Concordia University and the University of California system made decisions to divest their endowments from fossil fuels.

According to Loh, the people UBC spoke with encouraged them to take time to assess the risks and consequences.

"Their advice to us was always take it slow and you got to be careful as you progress through this because of understanding the consequences," he said.

This was met with calls of "shame" from the student demonstrators.

Loh added that IMANT will do more to provide more transparency as it engages the companies it's invested in to accept more sustainable practices. And notably, the approach did not declare divestment a poor climate action strategy as past proposed approaches have.

AMS President Chris Hakim said the AMS supports the student call for divestment. According to him, the AMS has seen a profitable portfolio from its decision to divest last year and they've cited that in discussions with the university.

"Students are making it very clear to the university that divestment needs to happen as soon as possible, that this community has waited much too long for this movement. The progress that is happening now should have happened years ago," he said.

As the meeting wrapped up, two student activists stood up and demanded the university make a public statement committing to full divestment. Darryl-Lee Schalm, a student organizer with XR UBC, said students would begin a hunger strike if the university failed to act by January 6.

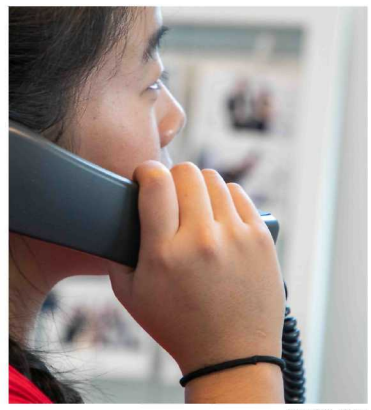
"We want to make it clear that we do not want to do a hunger strike. It is painful. It is uncomfortable. It is exhausting and it is unsafe," Schalm said.

"We would much rather focus on our studies and our professional pursuits. But what is the point in doing that if we don't have a future?"

As the governors began to file out of the room, the students remained singing: "Which side are you on?"

MENTAL HEALTH //

Empower Me expands its reach



ZUBAIR HIRJI

Maria Saleeb
Contributor

The AMS's Empower Me mental health hotline service has recently undergone changes to make it more widely accessible for students seeking mental health support.

Launched at UBC in 2017, Empower Me is a 24/7, Canada-wide mental health service that connects students with mental health professionals. The service offers multiple ways of connecting, such as through phone calls, video chat or in-person counselling in multiple languages. UBC students can also use the service to connect to counsellors in-person if they're not in BC.

Previously, the service was only available to students who were covered by the AMS/GSS Health & Dental plan. Now the service is available to all UBC students.

As some students who are still covered by their parents' health insurance or access other types of insurance choose to opt-out of the AMS/GSS plan, this change will allow a flexible option for students seeking mental health support, regardless of their insurance.

The changes occurred due to a Memorandum of Understanding between UBC and the AMS, whereby UBC took on the full costs of running Empower Me. Previously, the AMS had been funding half the service, while UBC funded the second half.

"The role we played is drafting an agreement to not only making sure that UBC was taking on the cost for students but also expanding it so that everyone at UBC can access it," AMS President Chris Hakim said.

The hope is this change will allow more students to access the service, especially as the demand for mental health service availability increases.

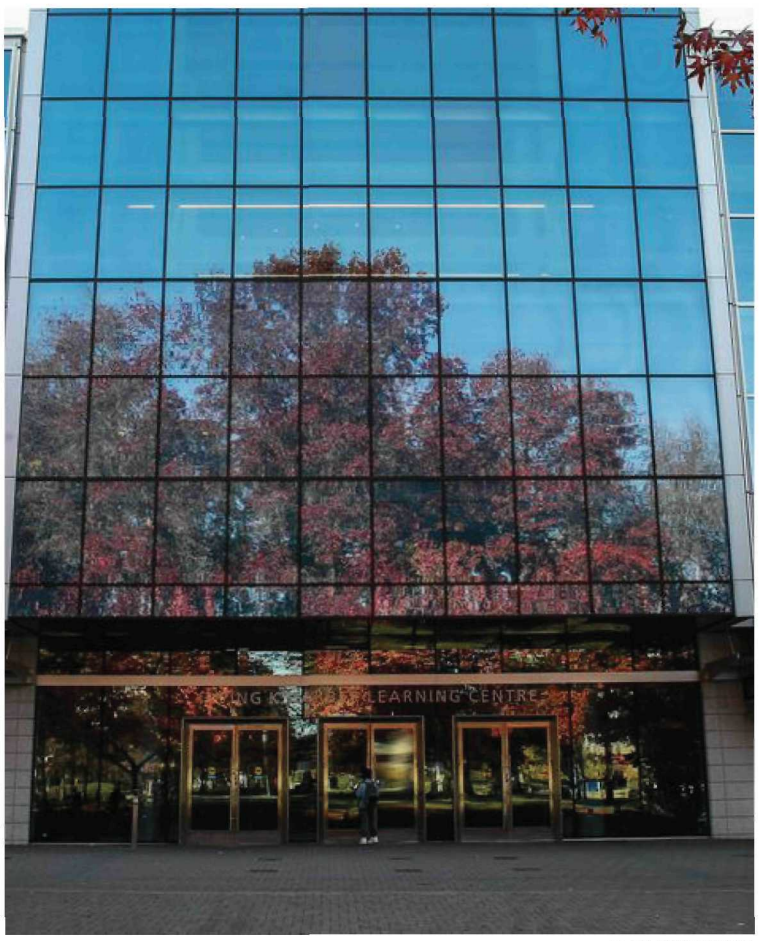
"Recognition of mental health concerns is becoming more prominent and there is less shame in seeking services. So there is huge demand of mental health services," said Terri-Lynn Mackay, the associate director of UBC counselling services.

Now that Empower Me is accessible to students both opted-into and out of the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan, the AMS is working on expanding awareness.

"Moving forward, we will be working with Student Care and UBC on increasing the awareness around the Empower Me program so that students that are looking for mental health and wellbeing resources can find them," Hakim said.

CHARTER RIGHTS //

Senate develops working group to review Statement on Academic Freedom



FILE ELIZABETH WANG

Now over 40 years old, UBC's Statement on Academic Freedom has not been reviewed or revised since its inception.

Thea Udwadia
Senior Staff Writer

In light of recent events where controversial speakers have been invited to campus, sparking protests and pushback from students, UBC is reviewing its 1976 Statement on Academic Freedom. In the past, the Statement has been used as a tool to address student discontent surrounding such speakers.

The UBC Senate has composed a working group to review the statement and decide if it needs to be revised. The group comprises four student representatives, four faculty and four staff members.

"The working group is not going in with the premise that we are going to change the statement," said Dr. Paul Harrison, emeritus professor in the department of botany and chair of the working group. "But we are looking at whether there is a need to change it."

THE TEST OF TIME

Now over 40 years old, UBC's Academic Freedom Statement has not been reviewed or revised since its inception.

"The fact that this hasn't been reviewed in almost half a century is somewhat concerning, but it's good that we're getting to reviewing it now," said Max Holmes, a student representative on the Board of Governors (BoG). Holmes was one of the students at the September BoG meeting who suggested the matter be brought to Senate for review.

The statement was created to protect the academic freedom of "members of the university" and also those who are "invited to participate in its forum."

It outlines that suppression of this freedom "would prevent the University from carrying out its primary functions."

Alex Gonzalez, a UBC student senator and one of the student members on the working group, attributes the need for revision to recent events on campus.

"The reason this working group was founded [is] because there were bodies on campus that were concerned about some of the speakers that have been brought in over the past couple of months," he said.

"I feel that the current statement is very strongly worded," Gonzalez said, while emphasizing that his views do not necessarily reflect the working group's position. "And it protects anything, anybody who's a member of the university, even if this is speech or an idea that would make somebody on campus feel maybe physically unsafe."

But despite its being up for review, Dr. Emma Cunliffe, associate professor at the Allard School of Law, does not believe that the statement necessarily needs to be revised. Cunliffe has published a scholarly paper on academic freedom and presented to the BoG in September about its legal framework.

"I haven't heard the case for revising the 1976 statement, as opposed to ensuring that the university is functioning in a way that fully respect the parameters of the 1976 statement," said Cunliffe in an interview with *The Ubyssey*.

"I feel like if something has fundamentally stood the test of time when people have understood it well and applied it well, I'm a little hesitant to change it."

Nevertheless, she agrees that there are some ambiguities to the text that need to be discerned in the review process, such as the question of who enjoys academic freedom.

"Who has the power to extend an invitation and thereby extend academic freedom to somebody that they'd like to hear from?" she asked. "We've operated on the premise that student groups have that power, as do individual faculty members."

"I would be sorry to see that premise undermined because I think that the more compelling way to understand academic freedom is to go back to its purposes."

According to Cunliffe, its purpose is very much tied to the pursuit of knowledge.

"And I think that student groups, for example, have just as much of a claim to be engaged in the pursuit of knowledge as senior administration."

THE CASE FOR ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Cunliffe believes that the problem with the 1976 statement lies more so in its current interpretation and implementation than its actual content.

She added that a current concern with the statement is that it is not being applied and understood as per the Canadian legal framework. Cunliffe pointed to the report on academic freedom, drafted by the Honourable Lynn Smith and submitted to UBC in 2015, as an effective tool to understanding academic freedom within the context of Canadian institutions.

"Whether it's a student or faculty member of the university that wishes to exercise academic freedom, I think ... it needs to do so in a way that meets what the Honorable Lynn Smith described as the constituent of features of academic freedom," Cunliffe said.

Some of these constituents are defined as the honest search for evidence, the respect for disciplinary norms and the attempt to be impartial.

"And when we valorise speakers who reject those norms, then we undermine the academic freedom of those researchers and students who are engaged in that work," Cunliffe said.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM VS FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Despite its intended purpose to serve as a safeguard for academic freedom, some believe that the statement has been misused to debate the related, but distinct matter of freedom of expression.

"Really the statement is supposed to be a powerful statement protecting academic freedom on this campus and trying to show how broad that protection is," said Holmes. "But lately, the statement has also been used to protect what most people would see as freedom of expression, not academic freedom."

According to Harrison, the two terms are close enough to confuse, but nevertheless have different implications.

"It's easy to conflate them and not realize the distinction," he said.

While freedom of expression is guaranteed to all as per the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, academic freedom is predicated on more stringent guidelines.

According to Cunliffe, if somebody fails to meet the guidelines that Lynn Smith describes as constitutive of academic freedom, even though they would not be entitled to academic freedom at UBC, they are still entitled to freedom of expression.

But the issue subsequently arises of how to balance this right against others' right to equality and dignity, when the two come into conflict.

"We have to pick sometimes, as a community. That's a moment where we need to ask ourselves, what sort of a community do we want to be?" Cunliffe said.

"Do we want to be a community where we allow the broadest possible expression of opinions which may undermine the dignity of some of our members? Or [one] that places some constraints on expression where it's not an exercise of academic freedom, for the sake of having it as inclusive as possible?"

"I think we're at the place where we need to have a collective conversation about that," she added.

This conversation, Cunliffe believes, needs to be one that is more informed about the Canadian legal context and UBC's institutional history. Too often, she mentioned, the public tends to fall back on American conceptions of free speech and the Chicago principles, which place few limits on free speech except when there are violations of law.

Canadian laws, however, are different — they do not privilege freedom of expression above other rights and are carefully weighted when they come into conflict with others.

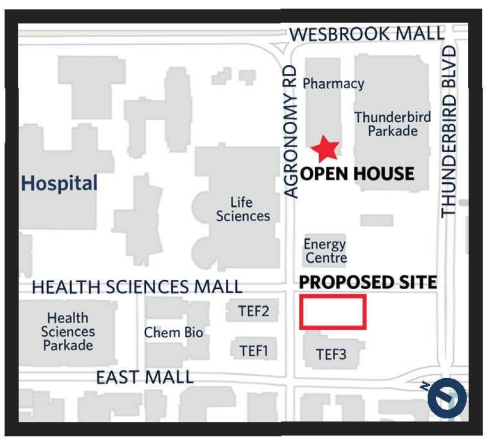
"I believe [the conversation] begins with a lot more education for senior leadership and for governors and senators, about what the institutional history of academic freedom [is]."

Notice of Development Permit Application - DP 19034

Public Open House TEF4

Join us on **December 5, 2019** to review the proposed **Technology Enterprise Facility 4** - an addition to the existing group of TEF buildings which provide market office and lab space for UBC research partners.

Date: Thursday, December 5, 2019 **Time:** 4:00 - 6:00 PM
Place: Atrium, Pharmaceutical Sciences Building, 2405 Wesbrook Mall



Plans will be displayed for a 13-storey office/lab building with a tenant rooftop amenity space, ground floor commercial retail units, one level of underground parking, and courtyard landscaping.

Representatives from the project team and Campus & Community Planning will be available to provide information and respond to inquiries about this project.

For further information:

Please direct questions to
Karen Russell, Manager, Development Services
karen.russell@ubc.ca 604-822-1586

Can't attend in person?
Online feedback on **TEF4** will be accepted until **December 12, 2019**.
To learn more or to comment on this project, please visit:
planning.ubc.ca/vancouver/projects-consultations

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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Campus + Community Planning

THERE ARE NAP ROOMS //

New Arts Student Centre design to reflect the experience of being an arts student

Camila Castaneda
Contributor

The change of site for the future Art Student Centre (ASC) from the Oak Bosque to beside the Allard Law School presented a challenge to the young firm directed by founder Michael Leckie.

But the new location also brought new design opportunities for innovation.

NEW DESIGN

"One of the interesting challenges was understanding the larger urban room of Brock Commons," said Leckie.

"We wanted the space between all the adjacent buildings to feel like one single unified space and that's what led us to the circular form and a radial plan, which eliminated the sense of a border at the Walter Gage Road corner."

The new design has a different structural system based on concrete and steel, but it maintains some of the interior design features, like wood elements to bring warmth.

In addition, Leckie has also decided to incorporate nap capsules, which is something currently being explored by the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at UBC. The design also includes all-gender bathrooms and a primary entrance pathway for circulation close to the elevator, so that people with accessibility issues don't feel they have to use a different route to travel.

"I like it better than the old one," said Kathryn Pierre, master of architecture student at UBC.

"This design plays with an interesting streetscape at East Mall and Walter Gage Road. It has different presence than anything else I've seen on campus."

Leckie was honoured and excited when awarded the commission.

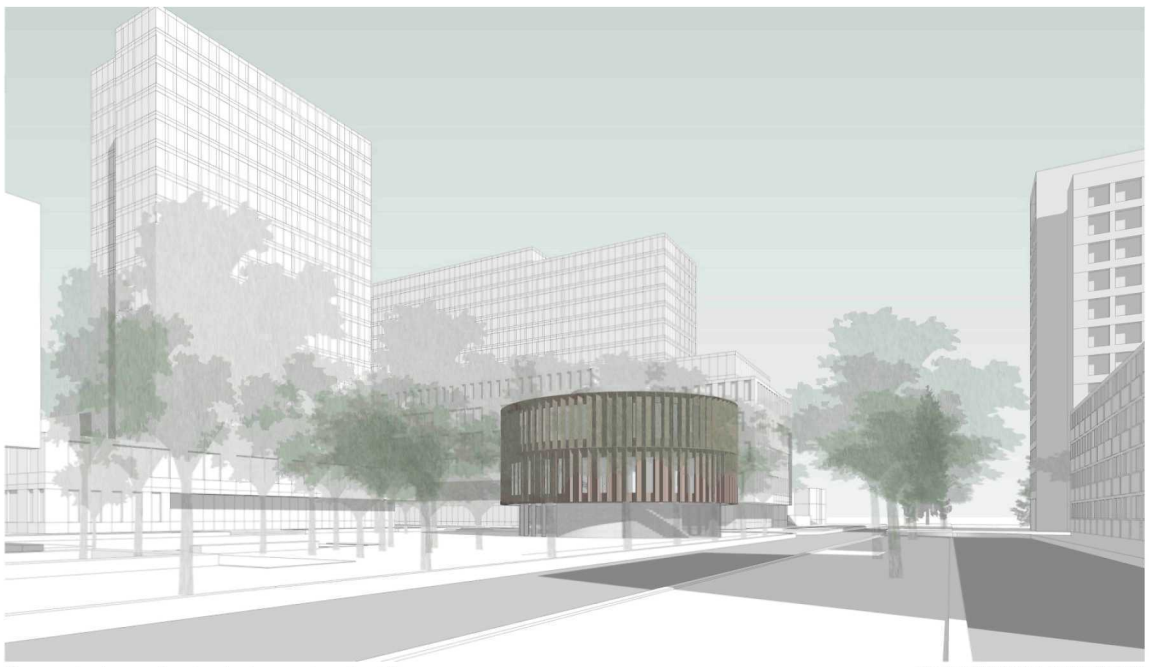
"This is a very important project for our emerging young practice, and so we see it as a fantastic opportunity. I'm an alumnus of UBC myself, I graduated from the School of Architecture so I feel very honoured to be practicing on campus." he said.

In 2018 Michael Leckie's studio was awarded the Emerging Firm Award in 2018 by the Architecture Foundation of British Columbia.

SUSTAINABILITY

Horizontal and vertical fins on the external skeleton of the building will mediate privacy and views while providing attraction from solar gain — an efficiency feature that is fundamental for passive solar design. The building also incorporates passive ventilation strategies, plus water collection management.

At the same time, the pursuit of enduring architecture is one of the goals of the university. The building is expected to have a 100-year lifespan, according to Leckie.



The centre has a circular design and vertical fins. COURTESY MICHAEL LECKIE STUDIO

The new ASC will also achieve the LEED Gold Certification, this is a primary objective for the stakeholder group and was discussed during the development of the design.

A PLACE TO CONNECT AND LEARN

The new centre aims to support a variety of activities and the studio has used a scenario-based approach for the planning of the building, which means it will be adaptable over time. The interior design is set up for interactivity and collaboration.

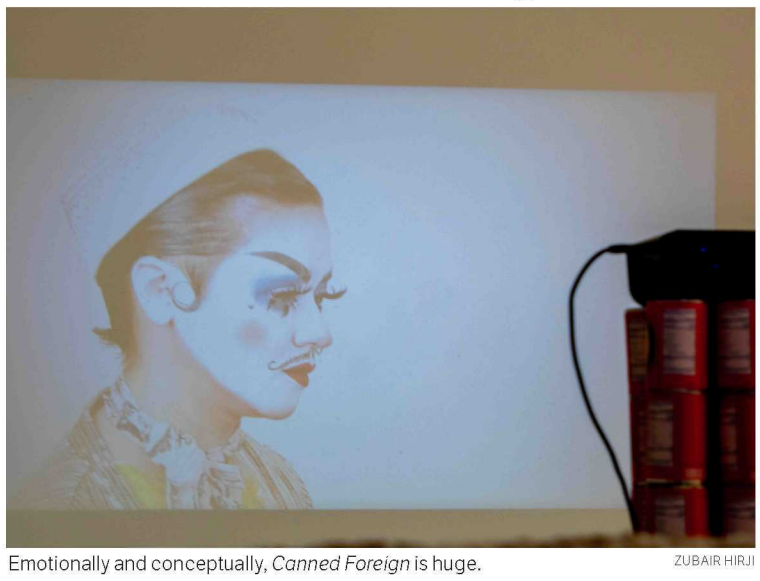
"We are really trying to build a work of architecture that will foster community engagement, to allow people to meet socially and really feel that they have a place that brings them together," said Leckie.

The centre also strives to encapsulate the identity of the Art Undergraduate Society. The requirement for an art space has been fulfilled with a flexible public gallery to house exhibitions.

"It looks like it's going to be more of a retreat than anything else. It will be a net gain for the art students, a lot of group work and quiet spaces. Also, the media and graphics production area will be massive, specially since the world is looking for more digital and curated design experiences," Pierre added.

ART SHOWS //

Canned Foreign at the Hatch knows its audience



Emotionally and conceptually, *Canned Foreign* is huge. ZUBAIR HIRJI

Moe Kirkpatrick
Senior Staff Writer

Three bananas on a silver platter: one painted yellow, one white and one unpainted, but bedazzled. Yes, real bananas, rotting in real time. Also, cans. Lots of cans.

Welcome to the Hatch gallery's latest exhibition, *Canned Foreign*.

Canned Foreign is a sparse, but deeply emotional multimedia exhibition by four half-Japanese artists and students, exploring themes of identity, diaspora, queerness and cultural heritage. I say sparse because there are only six pieces of art, in total. But emotionally and conceptually? *Canned Foreign* is huge.

This exhibition borrows the title of a short story by Japanese-German author Tawada Yoko. In the story, a young Japanese woman living in Hamburg ruminates on how others racially profile her through an examination of the everyday absurdity of advertising. Specifically, how items are packaged with images of other items on them, like soap bars with phoenixes on the wrappers or cans of tuna advertised with art of Japanese women.

How much can you guess about an item or a person from their appearance? How much are you misperceiving when you do that?

This brings us back to another central metaphor of *Canned Foreign*: bananas.

Specifically, their dual role as a slur against East Asian and Southeast Asian people — and as a controversial term of self-identification by some multiracial Asian people. It's about the duality.

As an exhibition, *Canned Foreign* explores a wide variety of concepts related to a multiracial Asian experience, through an even wider variety of mediums. There is an entire wall covered in little fragments of survey responses on beige and brown placards, a video tea ceremony done in drag and the bananas, of course. There is also an audio loop and even an entire living room, boxed out in semi-transparent fabric.

The experiences *Canned Foreign* explores are not ones that I share. But more than that — I am not the audience. Why should I be?

But first: what makes an audience?

For me, it's about explanation. Which experiences or slangs are defined and which are not because it's assumed the audience already knows what those words mean. *Canned Foreign* does not outright define what a "banana" means in this context. It does not define being haafu or hapa or halfie. Why would it?

Contemporary Western culture constantly tells us to create for a "general" audience, but most of the time what that actually means is a white audience. A white, cis, straight, neurotypical, abled, upper-class, primarily male audience.

That's not the audience *Canned Foreign* is speaking to.

In the audio piece, "Dichotic Listener," one ear hears an interview conducted in Japanese, while the other hears fragments of English conversations from VHS tapes. While I was there, the CD player was malfunctioning. The audio was extremely quiet in one ear, to the point where I had to use my own headphones to listen properly.

While the simultaneous sounds meant I couldn't discern either conversation clearly, I still would only have been able to understand one, because I only speak one. I can't begin to imagine how disorienting this piece would be to those who do speak both Japanese and English.

But that didn't mean I couldn't listen to and understand the piece as a whole. It just wasn't made for me.

That, I think, is the true heart of *Canned Foreign*: it invites us to look in but does not care if we stay. Why would it? Does it have to?

It's incredibly hard to be vulnerable about complex, traumatic subjects and especially hard when you have to continuously re-introduce the complexity of the subject to each new person who asks. *Canned Foreign* skillfully implies the cultural information it works with without ever providing a definition.

It says, simply: I'll let you in, but I'm not going to explain.

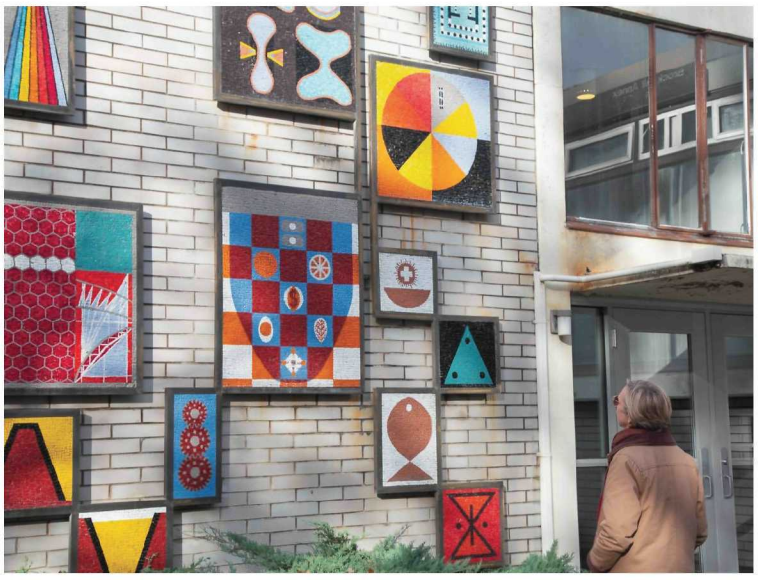
Stay or go; I will still exist.

Canned Foreign *will be at the Hatch from November 15 to December 3. Closing reception — featuring a drag performance by artist Rose Butch — will be held on Thursday, November 28 from 6-9 p.m. Artist Yuko Fedrau has previously illustrated for* The Ubyssey.

ZUBAIR HIRJI

PUBLIC ART //

‘Symbols for Education’ mural to be removed and restored



Art historian Barbara Cole contemplating the mural. CAMILA CASTANEDA

Camila Castaneda
Contributor

The courtyard wall of the Brock Hall Annex has been the home of the artwork “Symbols of Education” ever since the work was created. Now, the annex will be demolished as part of the development of a new student housing complex Brock Commons.

Made by artist and former faculty member Lionel Thomas and his wife Patricia, the mural is a series of small mosaics representing faculties and departments at UBC. The technique of the murals is called Byzantine mosaic, which is made with small pieces of coloured glass laid in cement.

Born in 1915, Lionel Thomas was a professor at UBC from 1950 to 80, working in both the fine arts and architecture departments. Another one of his pieces is located on the south wall of St. Mark’s College, entitled “The Lion and St. Mark.”

“Symbols of Education” took two years to complete and it was installed in 1958.

A REPRESENTATION OF UBC

Each mosaic portrays a symbol that represents a different area of study in the university at the time it was created. Because it was made in 1958, some mosaics show departments that haven’t existed in decades, such as home economics. The icons were the product of the Thomas’ creativity, relying solely on their interpretation of the department or field of study.

“There are people in UBC who champion the work and will go to great lengths to support it. I think in part it’s because it’s one of the works that really speaks about education and its diversity of focus,” said Barbara Cole, curator of the outdoor art collection at UBC.

Nick Lowen, a master’s student in art history, says the work encapsulates much more meaning besides what education at the university looked like at the time.

“It’s one of the first works of the art collection that was partly done by a woman, it has a different kind of artistic source that is important to be represented,” Lowen said.

The work’s current location recalls a time when the area used to be more central to campus. The piece was installed when Brock Hall was the student union building, which would have been the heart of student life. But since then, the student population has naturally outgrown the space.

“That would’ve been where the student union gathered and where the students would be, much like how it is by the Nest,” said Lowen.

A COMPLICATED MOVE

Because of a lot of unknown factors about the art, it seems the removal of the work will be challenging.

“There isn’t a lot of information about how the work was actually constructed so we’ve had to speculate about that and we’ve hired a conservator to do an analysis of how it was made,” Cole said.

UBC then approached Sarah Spafford Ricci, a professional conservator, to do an analysis of the work in order to find the best way to bring it down and refurbish it. She has recently been given a few panels to decipher how they were made, a necessary step to understanding how to conserve it properly.

Detaching the whole piece will be tricky due to the weight of the body. The heavy structure involves a framing of a bronze U channel, which interconnects all the mosaics together. From a side view, one can see the grout that was pushed through a mesh on the underside of the work. As well, the glass tiles themselves add weight.

“It wasn’t a piece that was assembled in a studio somewhere else, but rather right on the situation itself. The hardware and the background was also kind of raised up, installed, and then the panels of the mosaics were applied to that, so it was never supposed to physically hold together,” said Cole.

The experts have developed a method to cut through the structure, build a framework in which the piece will be inserted to protect the work and finally transported to the shop where it will be restored. The team working on its conservation counts on the assistance of welders and glass tile experts.

It will also require several engineering changes before its re-installation due to its weight.

“We have been in early conversation with the architect of the new building, but they’re thinking that just because of the scale of it, there’s nothing in the design that can make it work,” said Cole.

Campus and Community Planning is also currently investigating other possibilities.

The expected time for refurbishment is two to three years. According to the report presented by the conservator, it will require multiple phases. The mesh in the back is made of a ferrous metal which is showing signs of wear and tear, and the grout seems to be breaking down. The bronze U channel framework shows its age and in some spaces the tiles have fallen and the frames are starting to separate.

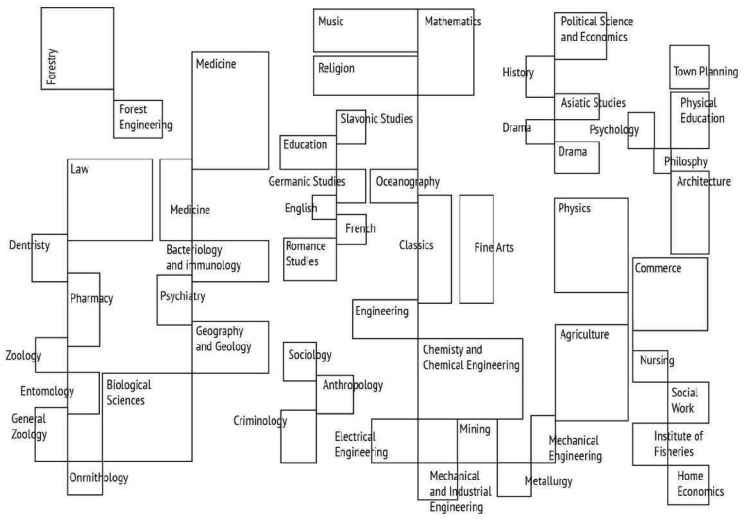
THE WISH OF ITS MAKERS

The graduating class of 1958 was the one who commissioned this work as a gift for the university. Cole observed that the art pieces of the collection created in that time were mostly donated by students.

All the efforts to accomplish this project are funded by the Impact Infrastructure Charge, which is formed by contributions made specifically for art on campus and the outdoor art collection.

After researching the possibility of removal, refurbishment and re-installation, the university is currently working with the Thomas’ estate executor to find out if there are any instructions on the fate of the work.

“We want to be able to better understand from their will what their feeling was about its future because its copyright falls to their executor,” said Cole.



CAMILA CASTANEDA

A guide of the mosaics based on material from the Belkin Gallery and the mosaics.

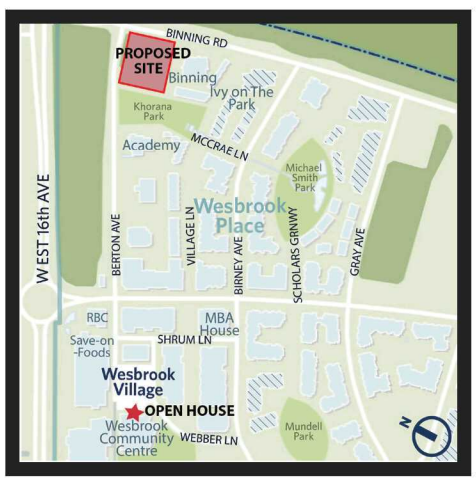
CAMILA CASTANEDA

Notice of Development Permit Application - DP 19036

Public Open House The Conservatory

Join us on **December 10, 2019** to review plans for **The Conservatory** - a proposed residential tower and townhouse development at the corner of Berton Avenue and Binning Road in Wesbrook Place.

Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 **Time:** 4:30 - 6:00 PM
Place: Multi-Purpose Room, Wesbrook Community Centre, 3335 Webber Lane



Plans will be displayed for a 20-storey market residential tower and 3-storey townhouse development with one level of underground parking and a courtyard amenity space.

Representatives from the project team and Campus & Community Planning will be available to provide information and respond to inquiries about this project.

For further information:

Please direct questions to
Karen Russell, Manager, Development Services
karen.russell@ubc.ca 604-822-1586

Can’t attend in person?
Online feedback on **The Conservatory** will be accepted until **December 17, 2019**.
To learn more or to comment on this project, please visit:
planning.ubc.ca/vancouver/projects-consultations

This notice contains important information which may affect you. Please ask someone to translate it for you.

此通告包含重要信息，这可能会影响你。请找人为你翻译。

이 통지는 영향을 미칠 수 있는 중요한 정보가 들어 있습니다. 당신을 위해 그 것을 번역하는 사람을 문의하시기 바랍니다.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Campus + Community Planning

MASS TRANSIT //

Letter: A subway to UBC will transform student life for the better

Elias Rieger
Contributor

It seems like a no-brainer that UBC needs a subway. Five of the top seven busiest bus lines in Metro Vancouver end at UBC, with all of these routes experiencing consistent overcrowding. Yet, some people say that this issue can be solved by building more dorms on campus.

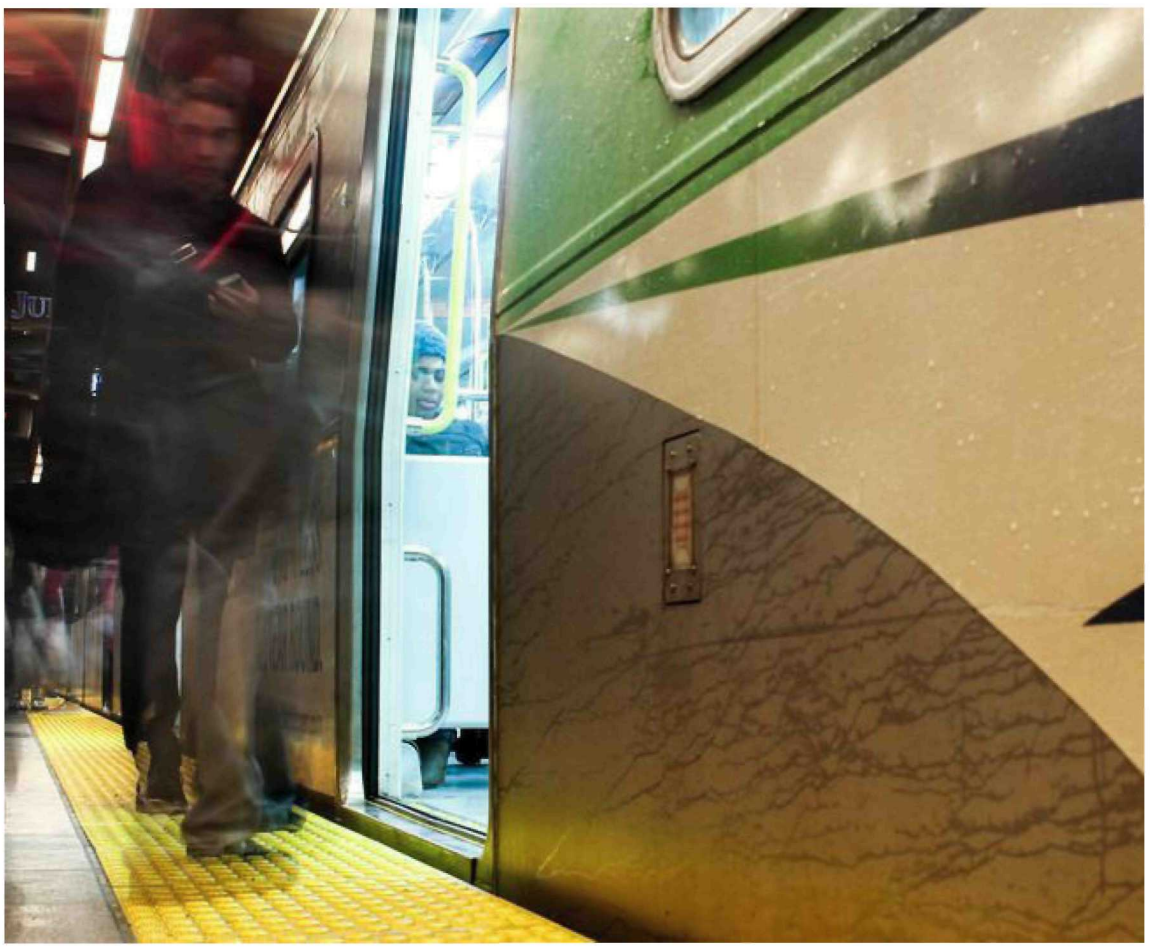
Is the solution really that simple? It is true that building more dorms will make life significantly easier for many future students, by cutting out long commute times. And this is exactly why UBC is planning to add another 2,700 beds by 2022, expanding what is already the largest stock of student housing in Canada.

But when you say that we should build dorms on campus rather than a subway to UBC, you are saying that you do not value students' participation in Vancouver's culture and economy. For those who may have forgotten about their university years, it may come as a surprise that students like to do things other than studying and sleeping. Some of us like to volunteer, some of us like to go out with our friends and some of us like to make art and participate in culture.

Right now, there are only a handful of vibrant areas within a reasonable distance (about a 30-minute bus ride) of campus, such as Kerrisdale and Kitsilano. These neighbourhoods offer many opportunities for students to participate in activities other than school. Not only do students benefit from this, but so do the neighbourhoods where they do these activities. Go to cities like Toronto or Montréal, where the university campuses are integrated into the urban fabric. You may notice a vibrancy there that we don't have in Vancouver.

A subway to UBC will vastly increase the amount of opportunities available to students. Not only will we be able to get downtown much easier, but we will have access to the array of diverse neighbourhoods Vancouver has to offer. UBC musicians will be able to play at venues on Commercial Drive. Students could volunteer for one of the many nonprofits in the Downtown Eastside. There may even be more internships and co-op jobs in Mount Pleasant's burgeoning tech cluster. This is just the tip of the iceberg of how the subway will transform student life.

But without faster and more reliable transit service, these opportunities will remain just too-far-away for the growing population of students living on campus. The subway to UBC will not only allow students to get to class faster, but it will also exponentially increase the amount of experiences, jobs and people that are within reach of a quick ride. This will better prepare UBC students for their lives ahead, while improving the culture and economy of our region.



"A subway to UBC will vastly increase the amount of opportunities available to students. " FILE T. GEORGE MCBURNEY-LIN

Elias Rieger is a third-year economics and urban studies major. He is also a volunteer for Abundant Transit BC.

SKYPING //

Mind Your Mind: How to maintain long-distance friendships

"I mean, who doesn't love to receive mail?" FILE STEPHANIE WU

Daphnée Lévesque
Mindfulness Columnist

I've lived in Vancouver for four years now and in the past year, a lot of the friends I initially made when I first came here have moved, most of them graduating school or returning home. Since I value close friendships, I make it a point to keep in touch with my long-distance friends. On some level, any kind of long-distance relationship can be both a challenge and a blessing. In a weird way, I've become closer to certain of my friends because now we have to be more mindful, invest time and effort into maintaining our relationship.

SCHEDULING

The golden rule for me is planning ahead. I find it sad how sometime, people will say, "Keep in touch!" and then never do. The trick is to schedule phone calls or Skype dates the same way you would schedule any other hangout. Since I personally have a busy schedule, sometimes.

I even have to say, "I can Skype you in two weeks this day and this time!" It sounds silly, but the truth is that without careful planning, it can be easy to prioritize other things. In the past, I've found myself cancelling phone calls and not returning them for weeks at a time. Those sorts of things definitely take a toll on any relationship.

SEND CARDS

I am a fan of cards. I mean, who doesn't love to receive mail? In order to maintain my friendships, I like to send card on holidays and birthdays.

This means that I have to make sure to add my loved ones' birthdays in my Google Calendar because it can be easy to forget. Sending a postcard may seem like a simple gesture at first, but it goes a long way. It's also the perfect opportunity to tell the other person how grateful you are to have them in your life.

SKYPE OR FACETIME

When I need to rant or have something to say, Skyping my best friend from home will be just as cathartic as seeing my therapist or talking to my Vancouver friends at a local coffee shop.

Video chatting is vastly different than texting and I definitely prefer phone calls over emails or texts — although you can seek emotional support through both, I suppose. You can get just as much support through video chatting than you would in person.

MANAGING A LARGE SOCIAL CIRCLE

This is a bit embarrassing to admit, but because I have collected a lot of friends over the years, it's hard to keep track sometimes. I was never particularly popular in high school, but I have always valued close relationships. Now, I have friends back home like my high school girlfriends and childhood friends.

I have friend overseas and I have friends here in Vancouver. I also have mentors and other individuals whom I consider part of my social support system. I mentally keep track of all of them and sometimes when I catch myself thinking, "Huh, I haven't heard from X person for a while," I will immediately contact them so we can plan a date and "catch up." It's the only way to keep friendships alive. You have to make an effort to keep in touch and it's hard work because it's so easy to drift apart. It's also super frustrating when you're always the one reaching out.

For example, I will meet up with a friend and they will be happy to see me. We have a great time, but unless I reach out a second or third time, I never hear from them again. I think it's because we live in a society where we're always "running out of time." I find it time consuming to invest in so many friendships, but I wouldn't have it any other way because I value my relationships so much. It has and will always be worth it.

The authors of this column are not mental health professionals. If you need additional support, please contact Student Health Services, Sexual Assault Support Centre and/or the Wellness Centre. In case of an emergency, call 911.

BABY ON BOARD:

THE EXPERIENCES OF STUDENT-PARENTS AT UBC

For Maxine Jackson, a fourth-year English literature and creative writing student and mother to a newborn daughter, one of the biggest challenges she faced upon returning to campus was finding on-campus breastfeeding spaces.

Sprawled across the university and often not open late at night, the spaces became a challenge to maneuver and soon an outright frustration.

Some consisted of hallways with doors propped open or multipurpose rooms used only on occasion. Others were bathrooms with walls to stand behind, giving a small semblance of privacy. One of the sticking points for Jackson was the absence of chairs in many of them.

> "Being a student-parent — especially at my age — it's very lonely."
>
> — MAXINE JACKSON

"[With] a lot of the spaces I have had to resort to pumping on the bathroom floor or in public, so people are walking by or laughing," she said.

Breast-pumping in a sanitary space is crucial for health reasons and doing so in the bathroom often meant Jackson could not use the milk at all.

"The fact that it's super unhygienic means I can't give it to my daughter. I can't give the milk to my daughter after I pump, so I'm just throwing it away," she said.

Estefanía Alejandra Milla-Moreno, a forestry PhD candidate and student-parent, said she's helped direct breastfeeding mothers to her faculty building's breastfeeding space, which can be difficult to find.

"I've seen breastfeeding mothers and I direct them to that room, but at the same time, I feel that I don't want to make them feel that they have to hide," she said.

On a campus of over 54,000 students, UBC's student-parents make up a relatively small group of people. But despite their small number, the experience of every parent is unique.

Balancing being a university student and parent means they have to search out resources that are usually created with another experience or type of person in mind — breastfeeding spaces being one of them.

According to Michelle Berner, a managing director with UBC Human Resources (HR), the decentralized structure of the university means most breastfeeding-friendly spaces are developed by faculties or departments on an as-needed basis, usually for faculty or staff.

"When people come [to HR] with questions we encourage them to have a conversation with their facility manager in the case of faculty and staff, or their administrator from their department. And then for students, it would be more their faculty advisors," Berner explained.

"And so it's quite need-specific, and then they would try to understand what the person's requirement is, where they're situated and then make a branch locally."

According to UBC HR's website, private breastfeeding spaces should be equipped with a chair, a garbage can and electrical outlets. Other 'semi-private' spaces are not designed as single-user spaces but are supposed to have similar amenities.

"But it's not a comprehensive list because we don't know what all of the arrangements are in the various departments and faculties because they're quite local," Berner said.

But breastfeeding spaces are just one drop in an ocean of challenges student-parents must maneuver. With the demands of parenthood and academia coming together all at once, some expressed a struggle to find people with similar experiences as their own.

FINDING COMMUNITY

For some student-parents, having peers with similar grievances is important for building support networks, but establishing those relationships proved challenging. The sheer amount of people on campus can make finding a community hard, especially in a group with so few members.

"One thing about being a student-parent — especially at my age — it's very lonely," said Jackson.

"When I was very upset with the whole fact that I had nowhere to pump. Nobody really got it, unless they've had a baby."

> "We feel so isolated and abandoned, we're trying to do our best, but we want to succeed just like anyone else."
>
> — AURELIA KINSLOW

Milla-Moreno specifically found a community of student-parents in the Acadia Park neighbourhood, UBC's student family residence.

"When I go to my house, and I see people like me coming from pharmacy, from medicine, from engineering, with the kids on the playground. We can all complain about our work or our whatever it is, and I'm not the only one I can see."

According to Managing Director of Student Housing and Hospitality Services Andrew Parr, Acadia Park is designed to try and foster a community for student-parents.

"You're part of a community where everybody's in a similar situation to you," said Parr. "They're doing the difficult work of studying, and the difficult work of parenting and doing those two things together, it is a lot to ask, for sure. It's a big, big, big responsibility."

According to Parr, the "impromptu support" that can be provided by a community of student families who can help with babysitting or just providing peer support makes the Acadia Park unique.

"Probably one of the biggest things is just having your peers here. That everybody will have conversations with other students that are in similar situations and [the] support that each ... family can bring to each other."

BUILDING SUPPORT

While there are very few students-parents at UBC, even fewer are single parents.

This is what Aurelia Kinslow discovered when she was trying to deal with the pressures of grad school and pregnancy after the death of both her father and her husband. Kinslow had originally started her PhD in curriculum and pedagogy in 2010 but took a leave of two years after her daughter was born in 2016.

In the wake of her personal tragedies, she found that despite UBC's offerings of concessions, leaves of absence and other general resources, it didn't have much in the way of specific resources to help her deal with the logistics of her new situation as a single parent.

To that end, Kinslow — who had previous experience teaching and working with the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in her home on Hawai'i Island — reached out to Vancouver's YWCA, which had a Single Mother's Support Group program in several locations across the city. But none were close to campus.

Kinslow lobbied with Janice Lee, the manager of the YWCA Single Moms Support Group program, and played a central role in getting the UBC chapter started.

Kinslow set up a meeting with YWCA and the University Neighbourhood Association of Acadia Park and ended up with a place and time for the support group sessions as well as a facilitator from the YWCA to lead them every two weeks. By January 2017, the initiative had kicked off in earnest.

The groups have low attendance — averaging just six to twelve people per session — but this is intentional, according to Kinslow. The YWCA aims to have consistency and build authentic community between the participants, and Kinslow believes they are hitting that target.

"I'm trying to get moms that I meet across campus who are having a horrible time trying to survive, letting them know that at the very least there's a group of people that will share their experiences and you don't feel isolated. Because that's the main thing — we feel so isolated and abandoned, we're trying to do our best, but we want to succeed just like anyone else," said Kinslow.

MAKING SPACE

Despite these campus services, some student-parents still found themselves slipping through gaps when trying to make space in settings where students aren't often considered as anything other than students.

Kinslow believes the reason the university doesn't have specific resources for student-parents, is because their version of a student is "typecast."

> "When I go to my house, and I see people like me ... we can all complain about our work or our whatever it is, and I'm not the only one I can see."
>
> — ESTEFANÍA ALEJANDRA MILLA-MORENO

"They're not thinking about a student who might be 45 years old, a student who might be from a very impoverished community ... [Or] about the fact that you may get married and have kids in the middle of your program ... None of this stuff is accounted for," said Kinslow.

"It's sort of treated as the students' problem."

Jackson, whose due date coincided with UBC's exam season, faced challenges getting academic concessions for an exam that was scheduled three days after her due date.

"Somebody told me that because I knew that I'd be giving birth around that time, I should have planned my classes better," she said.

"I was worried around that time I'd be giving birth and I'd be in labour. I didn't want to go do an exam. So that was kind of tough to schedule."

But when she returned to school in January after giving birth in December, she said most of her professors were willing to accomodate.

Milla-Moreno who is an international student from Chile, quickly realized the labs where she conducted her research were not built with pregnant women in mind and working in a male-oriented field added to that challenge. On research field trips, some of her professors and peers were unsympathetic to her accommodations, like needing to use the bathroom frequently.

But when she moved from Chile to Canada for graduate school, she found more support, especially from her supervisor.

"My professor was like, 'Well, you know, I cannot comment on your private life,'" she said.

Affordability was also an issue for student-parents who were adding the costs of raising a child onto already tight budgets.

According to data from the Graduate Student Society's (GSS) 2019 Student Satisfaction Survey, about 8.9 per cent of respondents said they were a parent or guardian for dependents. Among that group, additional support for student-parents was their number one priority tied with "stipends and scholarships."

GSS President Nicolas Romualdi said funding remains a number-one priority for most grad students. For students with dependents, the additional costs associated with childcare makes funding critical.

"The percentages change a little. Sixty-six per cent of graduate students with dependents choose ... funding as one of their top five priorities versus seventy-eight [per cent] in the general population, because healthcare and particular things like childcare rise up for them," he said.

The GSS also has an emergency fund which Milla-Moreno has accessed in the past, but she also would like to see more scholarships for parents pursuing their degrees.

"I do feel that we're lacking scholarships for pregnant, not only moms, but parents," Milla-Moreno said.

"The fertility age matches that for a master's and a PhD. And if you don't do your master's and a PhD soon, then you're too old. So I feel that we have to adjust the facilities and the protocols and the scholarships. So we can have pregnant mothers that are doing master's and PhDs."

—With files from Alex Nguyen

If you are a faculty or staff member who would like to share your experiences with UBC Childcare for an upcoming story, please reach out to features@ubyssey.ca.

Written by Emma Livingstone and Riya Talitha
Illustration by Alex Vanderput
Design by Lua Presidio

PERSONALITY TEST //

What your choice of pizza place on campus says about you

Harshit Kohli
Staff Writer

Imagine it was raining pizza slices in Vancouver instead of gloomy rain drops. Yeah, I know you're worried about your freshly conditioned hair — but hey, it's free food! Anyhow, the popular pizza places around campus are no less than those lovely pizza clouds, so here's what I think about which kinds of people stand in lines at each of them.

PIE R SQUARED

This person loves convenience. Like a lot. They're probably too lazy to even be bothered by food, to be honest. They'll feel like they want to eat something and Pie R Squared is likely to be the nearest pizza place. So, they'll go there and devour calories like Godzilla while dry crust scrapes the insides of their mouth — don't worry, you'll find them in line the next day, too. Or, they might just be afraid of change and something to complain about everyday gives them stability in life probably.

UNCLE FATIH'S

Okay, well, the people you'll find here care about their food experience more. They've tried out all the pizzas and have made a conscious choice to walk to Uncle Fatih's. This person is likely to be the one to tell you it's not Uncle Fatty's or Faith's and trust me, they do care about what they eat. If they're a first year, they hate the dining halls more than any other person and probably don't even eat pizza very often either. You'll find them dining at fancy restaurants over the weekend and see them wearing the latest fashion.

They care about everything that involves them and they'll publicly shame you if you dare to speak of Pie R Squared because that's how much they hate it.

MERCANTE

For those who live in Ponderosa Commons, it's just a matter of doing something different without spending too much time because they're feeling their lives being sucked up by their courses. But others. Oh... the others. They come here for an experience of the senses — only they feel like they're actually getting one though. They get judged by others daily for a multitude of reasons and they constantly judge other people for everything too. Most people here will probably be students struggling with their workload and trying to keep it together. On the other hand, people at a loud table here don't care about grades at all and their sole purpose in life is to be a constant nuisance to everyone.

Pizza, pizza and more pizza to you. Cheers.

They have tried out all the pizzas and have made a conscious choice to walk to Uncle Fatih's.

FILE SAM MCCABE

NO BUSES //

I walked 13 km to campus to see what it will be like when the buses strike

The city is full of fun secrets waiting to be unmasked.

ELIZABETH WANG

Jonathan Harris
Staff Writer

When Unifor — the union that represents bus, SeaBus and maintenance workers in Vancouver — announced the strike, the city entered a state of panic.

When we found out the bus drivers would just stop wearing uniforms, the general reaction was along the lines of "Oh, that's it?" But the strike is ramping up in scale.

At the time of writing, buses are set to cease working on the upcoming Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Students have come to rely on public transit so much it is hard to imagine what will happen without it. Some can drive, some can bike, some live on a residence, but most of those options can be expensive and dangerous.

On the other hand, walking is reliable. Walking is never cancelled. People have been walking for thousands of years.

I walked to school and wrote down some tips so you can too.

MAKE SURE TO PLAN

UBC is remote from basically every home in the city, so it is improbable that you can pull off a walking commute without ample preparation.

I calculated the distance of my commute to be around 13 kilometres, which is 160 minutes of walking. I would have to wake up at 6:15 to arrive at my class on time. Unfortunately, my alarm clock was not plugged in, but miraculously I still woke up on time. This stroke of luck is an auspicious omen that walking to school is what we are truly built for.

For a trek like this, it is key to bring not just school supplies, but also survival supplies. I'd recommend bear spray, a flare gun, a tent and an axe. I departed at 6:50. The sky was still a navy blue. All I could hear were the cars whirring by and my teeth chattering

STAY ON TRACK

It is crucial to know your route and stick to it. I didn't even bring a map. Google Maps could go on strike too, it is best to not rely on anyone.

Initially, you can navigate yourself. You can walk confidently in your neighbourhood. Everyone has a sense of where UBC is, but actually getting there is a different animal. In my hubris, I decided to walk from King Edward Street to 10th Avenue. I thought it would be simpler since 10th Street goes all the way to campus. Foolish. The area between those streets is cursed. The wealthy warped the streets into a perverse labyrinth to taunt the common folk. I arrived at my lecture 94-minutes late, the next class was already in full swing. I wasn't interested in sticking around in a class I wasn't in just to learn about tectonic plates. After walking for 3 hours and 56 minutes, I ended up empty-handed. I could only blame myself, "Maybe if I didn't stop for coffee, maybe if I asked for that muffin to go, maybe if I brought a walking stick."

My inattention cost me — don't let that be you, stay on track.

ENJOY THE SCENERY

After a couple hours, the lustre of independent transportation wears off, maybe you even get lost. All of that is okay. You will get there. If you're going to walk a couple of hours, you might as well enjoy the view. It feels strange to watch the city change as you walk. Vancouver feels different when it is stretched before your feet.

Two hours into my expedition, I found a Port-a-Potty with "bird" on it in hot pink spray paint. It could have said "bulb" actually, it was not very clear. The city is full of fun secrets waiting to be unmasked.

MOTIVATE YOURSELF

According to Google Maps's departed bus history, seventy-nine 99 B-Line buses passed me by during my stroll to school. Each of those 79 buses tempted me with a promise of warmth, of comfort and of getting to class on time, but I refused each. I got sick of seeing buses. I hated them. I was glad to be walking, alone, free.

You need something to keep you moving forward, something bigger than just going to class.

My rage towards TransLink kept me moving, but there are a lot of options. You can be driven by a friend needing your help, by wanting to see a cute classmate or even by a gentle reminder for how much you're paying for this class.

The road is long and hard, but you can make it. Good luck.

GENETIC ENGINEERING //

UBC iGem wins gold at MIT competition

Meriwether Morris
Contributor

A competition designed by MIT, international genetically engineered machinery (iGEM) is where teams across the globe develop a biosensor to solve modern issues from scratch over the summer. At iGEM's Giant Jamboree in Boston that ran from October 31 to November 4, UBC's team won two golds for their Paralyte-STX project.

"It felt surreal to actually get the news," said Ariel Qi, a third-year physiology student.

Running in UBC's Halem labs since 2009, the UBC iGEM team is annually given a kit of biological parts to modify and experiment with. The multidisciplinary team confronts this challenge from multiple perspectives, with students studying science, engineering, computer science, commerce and arts, working with supervision of PhD students.

"[iGEM]'s actually a combination of computer science and engineering and biology and I said 'Oh, that's a perfect match for me!'" said Emilia Chen — a third-year microbiology and combined computer science major. "I basically spent my whole summer in the lab."

The lab work, though vital, turned out to be only one component of the project. Teams wanting to win gold have to meet specific criteria for the experimental process, modeling and human practices. This year, the UBC team's topic of choice was reducing paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) along BC's coast. Contaminated shellfish has become a recent issue due to the climate crisis causing an increase in algae blooms that produce saxitoxin, a potent neurotoxin.

"There is a huge problem in the shellfish industry," said Samuel King — a third-year honours biology student. "Some smaller fishing communities don't have easy access to shellfish testing. The amount of poisoning cases have increased in recent years, so we wanted to come up with a solution ... that was our vision: a device that people could just take straight to the shoreline and test onsite."

Their project, Paralyte-STX, focused on understanding how their biosensor adapts with different toxin amounts or how strong the biosensor is. The purpose of their experiment was to check DNA extracted from organisms living with harmful algal blooms for parts that respond to the toxin.

As part of their research, the team reached out to those currently dealing with the PSP concerns.

This year, the UBC team's topic of choice was reducing paralytic shellfish poisoning along BC's coast. ELIZABETH WANG

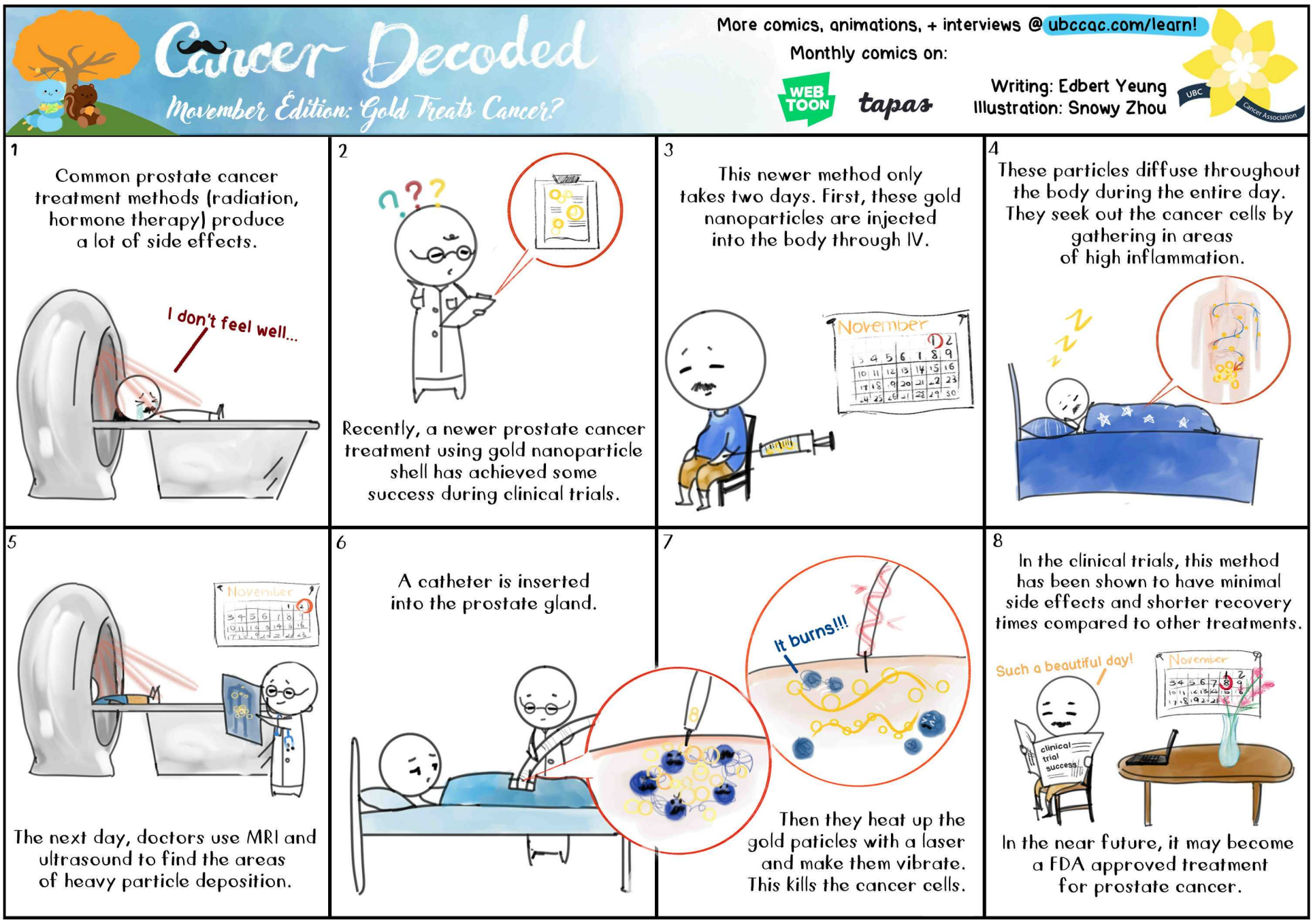
After talking to Dr. Reza Afshari of BC Centre for Disease Control, the team visited the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and sea shore residents.

"We actually talked to local Indigenous communities about their food safety issues in their local areas and what it means for them to have that testing device. Instead of having to send their samples to the CFIA, which takes a long time, it would be more helpful if they had something to give them a result in thirty minutes," said Qi.

While the team relishes their victory, the end of the Giant Jamboree has not quelled the team's passion. Though the club plans to submit a new project with new members next year, they hope to continue with the Paralyte-STX as they approach a new discovery.

"We still have yet to annotate the actual gene sequence we got back," King said. "... But we believe due to our experiences that we almost definitely discovered something that actually responds to the toxin — likely brand new and never seen in [the] literature before. So that's cool."

Ariel Qi has previously contributed to The Ubyssey.



BIG CROWD, BIG UPSET //

Thunderous crowd pushes T-Birds past WolfPack

Brendan Smith
Senior Staff Writer

With the WolfPack nationally ranked for the first time in their history, Friday night's win was a huge upset for the Thunderbirds. SALOMON MICKO BENRIMOH

This year's Thunderstruck volleyball festival game was a success for women in sport and the UBC women's volleyball team.

Heading into this weekend's matchup, the Thompson Rivers University WolfPack women's volleyball team was riding high.

Sporting a 7–1 record, the team was ranked nationally for the first time in their history and was looking to continue building momentum for a potential U Sports championship run.

Then they were struck by lightning at War Memorial Gymnasium on Friday night.

Caught off guard by the raucous atmosphere from the Thunderbird faithful, the WolfPack could not get into a sustained rhythm in the hostile environment. This left the door open for the UBC women's volleyball team to set the tone, and they were able to keep a solid beat throughout the game.

"I was really pleased with how we came out," said UBC head coach Doug Reimer after the game. "[Thompson Rivers had] only lost one match so far this year [and] they have some very experienced players.

"The way we won those close, tight sets [in the] first and second was really good."

The first two sets of the games were definitely tight battles, which was expected considering the talent on both teams. But UBC was able to pull away towards the end of both sets, riding the electric energy from the crowd, winning them 25–23 and 25–21.

In the third set, however, the WolfPack showed why they should be considered a threat for the Canada West crown. The WolfPack overwhelmed UBC early on, getting out to a 7–0 lead, and never looked back en route to an emphatic 25–10 set win.

Yet just when it seemed as though the WolfPack were poised to make a comeback, UBC regained composure and the home crowd started to play a factor once again.

Although down 0–3 to begin the fourth set, the T-Birds did not go away this time. A kill by outside hitter Cara Kovacs tied the set at 8–8. After an attack error from the WolfPack, another kill — this time from middle Gabrielle Attieh — caused an uproar inside War Memorial as fans began to realize their team was seizing control.

From that point onward, UBC would never trail, taking the set by a score of 25–15.

"The biggest compliment to the team is how we rebounded in that fourth set," said Reimer, adding that the third set was an example of how things could have gone the other way.

But besides the final outcome, the night was also a celebration for women in sport.

Three players from the UBC women's field hockey team were cheered during one intermission for their individual achievements this past season and quotes as well as statistics regarding the challenges facing women in sport were displayed on the scoreboards at game breaks.

After the game, dozens of students also stayed around to get signatures from the UBC women's volleyball players.

"I think it's a great night," said Reimer when describing the event. "I really want to thank UBC for how they put this on, and all departments that helped get people here, and run just a really good event for women.

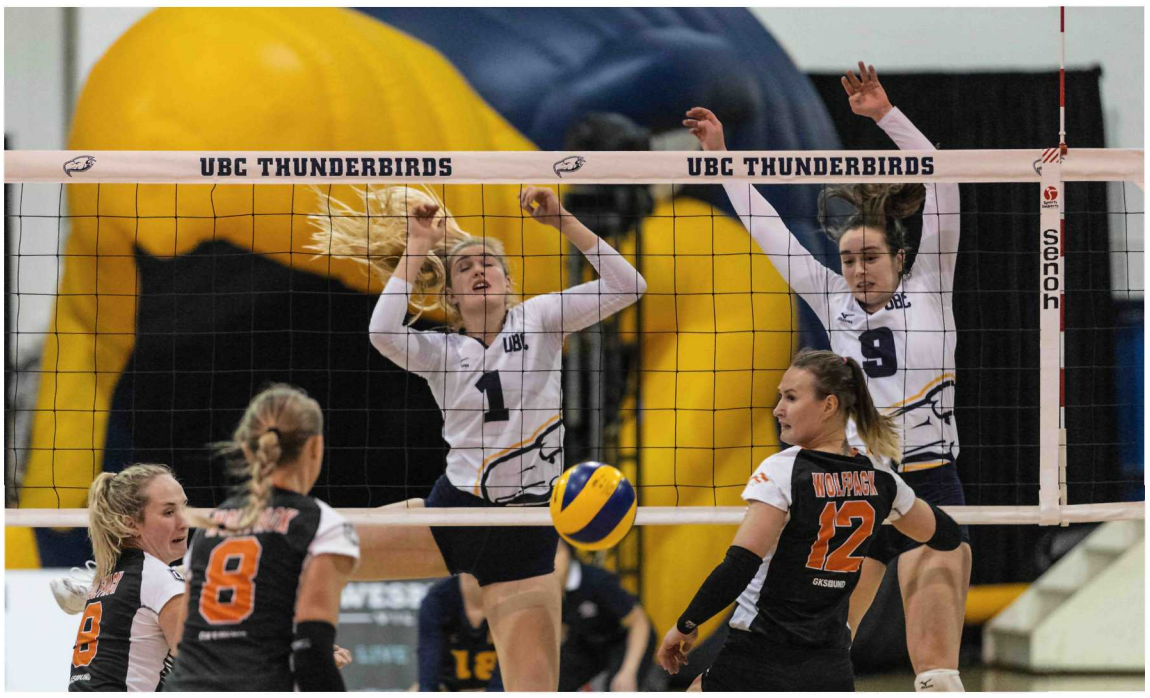
"[Thunderstruck] is achieving what it wants to do and I'm just thankful we played well enough to make it entertaining."

The Thunderbirds weren't able to carry the momentum of Friday's game, which had a final attendance of 872, into Saturday's game as they fell to the WolfPack 3–1 with set scores of 23–25, 15–25, 25–21 and 14–25.

The team will travel to Edmonton this weekend for another doubleheader series against the University of Alberta Pandas, who sit a few spots behind UBC with a 5–5 record.

SALOMON MICKO BENRIMOH
Outside hitter Jayde Robertsen had a big game with eight kills.

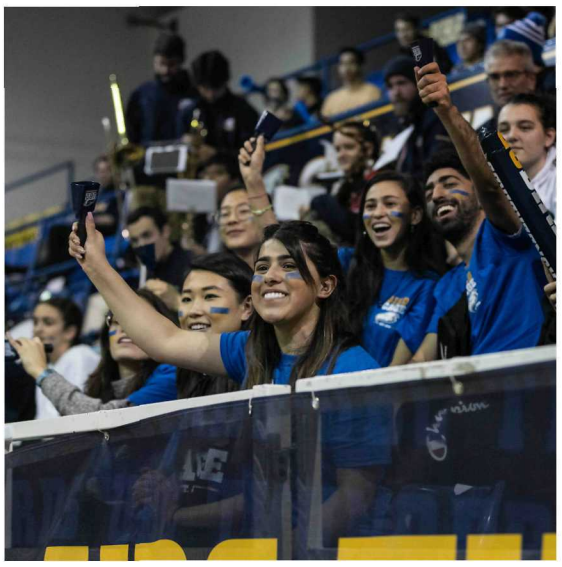
PHOTOS BY SALOMON MICKO BENRIMOH



Welcome to
MEMORIAL GYM

UBC THUNDERBIRDS
UBC THUNDERBIRDS
THUNDERBIRDS

THUNDERBIRDS NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS
THUNDER
1



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WESBROOK
VILLAGE

UBC THUNDERBIRDS
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9
WOLFPACK
4

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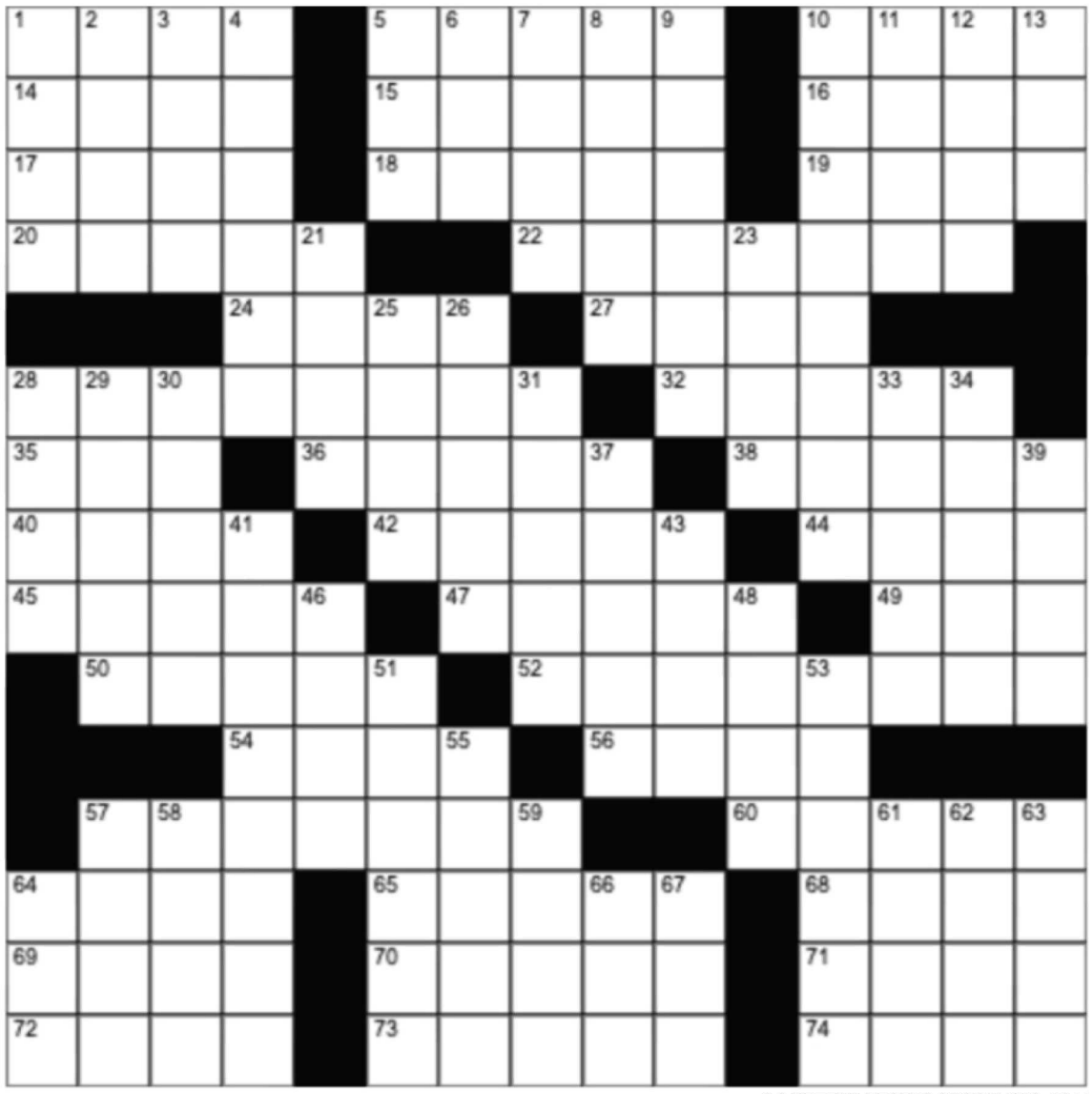

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Flaw, so to speak
5. Smart guy
10. Concert halls
14. End in ___ (draw)
15. Embankment
16. "Unforgettable" singer
17. Oil.rich Islamic theocracy neighboring Iraq
18. Black.wooded tree
19. "Power Lunch" network
20. ___ mignon
22. Marry
24. Polynesian carved image
27. O.K. Corral figure
28. Makeup item
32. ___ of a Salesman
35. Palindromic preposition
36. In the red
38. Curl the lip
40. DEA agent
42. Like some gases
44. Bangkok tongue
45. Dined at home
47. V.formation fliers
49. Hosp. areas
50. ___ Park, CO
52. Frenzied rush
54. Pronto!
56. "Tosca" tune
57. Random criticism
60. Cave.dwelling dwarf
64. Where heroes are made
65. Cognizant
68. A Great Lake
69. Creme.filled cookie
70. Get back to even
71. Emperor of Rome 54.68
72. English public school
73. Bad lighting?
74. Fed

DOWN

1. Homeless child
2. Longfellow's bell town
3. 100 dinars
4. Beliefs
5. Toby filler
6. Isr. neighbor
7. Bacchanalian cry
8. Perfume
9. Number entering device
10. Resident
11. Puts on
12. Dresden's river
13. Former nuclear agcy.
21. One of the Jackson 5
23. Minerals
25. New Zealander
26. Frosting
28. Musical Horne
29. Teed off
30. Israel's Shimon
31. They may buckle
33. Snickering sound
34. Got wind of
37. Actress Scacchi
39. Get up
41. Ticket
43. Former Russian ruler
46. Stack role
48. Throw off
51. North African desert
53. Father or mother
55. Might
57. Saucy
58. Butter alternative
59. Makes lace
61. City near Provo
62. Currency of Turkey, and formerly of Italy
63. Boxer Spinks
64. Female rabbit
66. Ipanema's city
67. Velvet add.on

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did you know that . . .

The International Space Station is the most expensive thing humanity has ever made, costing over $150 billion.

— Pawan M.

Send your best facts to visuals@ubyssey.ca to be featured in next week's issue!

Notice to UBC food and beverage businesses and customers

NEW Food Ware Requirements at UBC

Beginning **January 2020** UBC's new campus-wide **Zero Waste Food Ware Strategy** in support of the **Zero Waste Action Plan** will be implemented at all food and beverage businesses, outlets and caterers.

Businesses are required to reduce single-use item waste. Are you prepared?

Each year the Vancouver campus community disposes millions of coffee cups, plastic cutlery and other food ware items that are only used once. The Zero Waste Food Ware Strategy will help address this by requiring businesses to discontinue offering certain single-use items and to charge a fee for others.

Beginning January 2020, businesses will be required to:

1. Charge a minimum separate fee of $0.25 for a single use cup if provided when selling hot drinks.
2. No longer provide plastic cutlery. If a business chooses to provide single use cutlery, only sustainable options such as wooden cutlery will be offered upon request.
3. No longer offer plastic straws, unless the straws are needed for accessibility purposes. Please note: UBC's Centre for Accessibility is being consulted to help inform this strategy.

For detailed information about the Strategy: Please visit **planning.ubc.ca/foodware**

Need support preparing your business for the new requirements?
Campus and Community Planning's Zero Waste Coordinator is available to help businesses prepare for the changes. To set up a meeting please email: zerowaste.coordinator@ubc.ca

This notice contains important information which may affect you. Please ask someone to translate it for you.

此通告包含重要信息，这可能会影响你。请找人为你翻译。

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