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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

UBC TENNIS SMASH 2019

5–9 P.M. @ UBC TENNIS CENTRE

This Thursday, treat yourself to four whole hours of lobbing, rallying and plenty of grunting at the annual Tennis Smash!



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY AT UBC

DOORS AT 10 A.M., CEREMONY AT 10:45 A.M.

@ WAR MEMORIAL GYM

A campus tradition since 1951, this year marks the 68th that UBC has held the ceremony. The event will feature many special guests and a performance by UBC Opera.

ON THE COVER

COVER BY

Elizabeth Wang



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THE UBYSSEY

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EDITORIAL

Coordinating Editor
Alex Nguyen
coordinating@ubyssey.ca

Visuals Editor
Lua Presidio
visuals@ubyssey.ca

News Editors
Henry Anderson and Emma Livingstone
news@ubyssey.ca

Culture Editor
Thomas O'Donnell
culture@ubyssey.ca

Sports + Rec Editor
Salomon Micko Benrimoh
sports@ubyssey.ca

Video Producer
Jack Bailey
video@ubyssey.ca

Opinion + Blog Editor
Tristan Wheeler
opinion@ubyssey.ca

Science Editor
James Vogl
science@ubyssey.ca

Photo Editor
Elizabeth Wang
photos@ubyssey.ca

Features Editor
Pawan Minhas
features@ubyssey.ca

STAFF

Zubair Hijri, Moe Kirkpatrick, Fariha Khan, Sammy Smart, Bill Huan, Brendan Smith, Diana Hong, Jordan-Elizabeth Liddell, Ryan Neale, Sarah Zhao, Charlotte Alden, Andrew Ha, Jasmine Eastmond, Tienne Jensen-Desjardins, Maya Rodrigo-Abdi, Chimedum Onaegbu, Riya Talitha, Sophie Galloway, Kevin Jiang, Bailey Martens, Sonia Pathak, Thea Udwardia, Kaila Johnson, Diego Lozano, Keegan Landrigan, Kaila Johnson, Maneevak Bajaj, Tait Gamble, Andy Phung, Mike Liu, Anupriya

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Editorials are chosen and written

Dasgupta, Danni Olusanya, Campbell Speezy, Marissa Birnie, Aman Sridhar, Negin Nia, Alex Vanderput, Tanner McGrath

BUSINESS

Business Manager
Douglas Baird
business@ubyssey.ca

Account Manager
Adam McQueen
adam@ubyssey.ca

Web Developer
Amelia He
amelia@ubyssey.ca

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Web Developer
Razvan Nesiu
razvan@ubyssey.ca

President
Ali Zahedi
president@ubyssey.ca

CONTACT
Editorial Office:
NEST 2208
604.283.2023

Business Office:
NEST 2209
604.283.2024
The Nest 6133 University
Boulevard
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

Online: ubyssey.ca
Twitter: @ubyssey
Instagram: @ubyssey

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OUR CAMPUS

Anna Tornros is fighting for change at the intersection of transit and disability



"I'm gonna keep following up until until I see results."

JACK BAILEY

Charlotte Alden
Senior Staff Writer

Anna Tornros's commuting experience is often unpleasant.

Whenever she boards a bus, Tornros beelines for the priority seats. Tornros has Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS) and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, both of which make transit difficult for her.

POTS is a condition that affects blood flow, with symptoms that come on when changing posture, according to the Cleveland Clinic. Those symptoms include lightheadedness, fainting and a rapid increase in heartbeat.

"I can faint [if I stand up too long]. I usually feel really sick and dizzy, and it's not something you can see," Tornros said.

When she sits, she hears whispers, gets dirty looks and even hears people cursing at her under their breath, especially when someone elderly, pregnant or with a visible disability boards the bus.

"Sometimes, even though I know I'll faint if I stand, I don't dare to sit in the priority seats because I know that if an old person gets on everyone's going to glare at me and expect me to get up for this person when I would probably have been more in danger of standing than they would," she said.

"It's just such an emotional burden that it's placed on you as someone with an invisible disability because you can't outwardly show how you're suffering."

Finally, Tornros had had enough. "After one big incident where I had tears streaming down my face as I ran off the bus, I was like, 'I can't believe nobody's talking about this or doing anything about this,'" Tornros said. "I don't want this burden every day. It's already enough to be disabled."

She sent off an email to the City of Vancouver, detailing her situation, her complaints and her demands for long-needed change

FIGHTING MISPERCEPTIONS

According to Tornros, her proposed changes are fairly small, but could have a large impact on people living with invisible disabilities.

Her first proposal was to update the decals adorning a bus's priority seating area.

The current decals on TransLink

buses have an image of someone in a wheelchair and an image of someone with a cane, which Tornros said isn't fully representative of people with disabilities.

"I feel like [the decals] just systematically incorporate the continued exclusion of the invisibly disabled," Tornros said. She also requested a change to the decals to include references to people with invisible disabilities, sending them examples from transit systems in Europe.

She cited the London Underground as a good example. According to her, there are decals on the trains that say, "You may be asked to stand by someone with an invisible illness. Please make sure to know that disability may not be apparent immediately."

"So it plants that seed in people's minds [...] to just be aware of it," Tornros said.

In response to her concerns, TransLink proposed an action plan.

"At this point [we had] been talking for over a year and the action plan that they sent me in the end [...] is a comprehensive, 'we're going to actually do this' thing," Tornros said.

In the action plan, TransLink outlined their goals based on Tornros's proposal, including updating the decals and putting together a promotional campaign on awareness of people with invisible disabilities on transit.

"[They said they were] committed to making these changes," Tornros said. "So I'm very happy about that."

INVISIBLE DISABILITY AT UBC

On transit, Tornros has had some bad days.

"I've had some [...] incidents where I've been cursed at to my face, and then I've left the bus crying," Tornros said.

While she hasn't had incidents like that on campus, Tornros did say there is work to be done in order to make UBC more accessible for people with both visible and invisible disabilities.

"UBC is doing okay. I mean, they're leagues ahead of a lot of other places when it comes to accessibility, and they're working on it," Tornros said. "I know they're working very hard on it."

She also criticized UBC's emphasis on banning straws.

"In the disabled community, it's

very controversial. I was surprised that a university as forward thinking as UBC would kind of buy into that," she said.

When UBC Food Services enacted the plastic straw ban in August 2018, it was criticized for disregarding the needs of those with mobility issues, as plastic straws prove more accessible to those with conditions such as Parkinson's. In response, Victoria Wakefield, purchasing manager for Student Housing and Hospitality Services, said at the time that they believed people with disabilities often come prepared.

"We were also told that people with severe mobility issues come prepared and have their own hardware," Wakefield said in an interview with *The Ubyyssey*.

"It is something that places the burden on disabled people," Tornros said.

As for invisible disabilities, Tornros noted the lack of conversation.

"It's very much something that I haven't heard talked about [on campus]. I don't see it mentioned a lot," she said.

WHAT ELSE CAN BE DONE?

As of now, no physical changes have been made to the priority seating areas.

But Tornros is determined to make TransLink follow through with what they proposed.

"Unfortunately, we're dealing with bureaucracy here and it is a bit slow," Tornros said. "But this is something I really care about, and I don't want them to just have sent me an action plan without showing how they're following up with it. So I'm gonna keep following up until until I see results."

Tornros also wants to get the word out about invisible disabilities in general.

"A lot of my friends have told me that before I spoke about this, nobody even knew that that was a thing," Tornros said. "I just want people to know that it's a thing."

"If you're suffering in some way, I really encourage you to take action into your own hands because nobody else is going to fight in your corner necessarily, especially if it's a problem that's not very visibly talked about." 🐼

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT //

Over a year after reversed cut, SASC workers unionize



For SASC workers, this four-year collective agreement is a big win.

ZUBAIR HIRJI

Alex Nguyen

Coordinating Editor

More than a year after a proposed cut to the Sexual Assault Support Centre's (SASC) support services was reversed, its six-person unit of support and outreach workers has unionized.

On June 22, 2018, the AMS announced that it would end all SASC support services by September 1 in favour of

concentrating support work around UBC's Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office.

The plan immediately drew intense backlash from the wider UBC community, including a petition by the Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Social Justice Undergraduate Association that garnered over 2,100 signatures in support of SASC. On June 25, the AMS walked back the decision and apologized.

But this event wasn't the starting point for the bargaining effort. In fact, the work around unionizing was already months in the making by then.

According to outreach workers Tintin Yang and Niki Najm-Abadi, the discussion had started in February 2018, with the unit voting to join Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 1936 on February 22.

"It was a matter of people being concerned for their job security and also wanting higher wages, considering we weren't being well compensated for the kind of work that we were doing," Yang said.

At this point, outreach workers received \$17 an hour and support workers \$20 an hour for work that — especially for support workers — involves "specialized knowledge of sexual assault and trauma-informed care" and "experience providing ... legal advocacy."

There were also concerns about support work being contracted out.

Still, bargaining talks continued to take place as the AMS announced and then reversed cutting SASC. CUPE 1936 President Sheryl Burns said the public outcry towards the society's plan provided SASC workers with an advantage during negotiations.

"The student body spoke and they spoke loudly and clearly and said that they value the services that SASC provides and that laid the groundwork for us being able to negotiate," she said.

AMS President Chris Hakim echoed the sentiment.

"I think it really played into some of the mindset that we went into, which was largely that we very much recognize the unique work that the staff over at SASC did," he said.

The AMS and SASC workers ratified the collective agreement by September 20, 2019. This makes the group one of only two unionized units within the society, with the other being the non-student administrative staff unit that is affiliated with MoveUP.

A NEW START

For SASC workers, this four-year collective agreement is a big win.

In response to the issue of job insecurity, the agreement prevents work from being contracted out "without prior negotiation with the Union." Support worker Nodi Yunus believes this will not only provide more stability for workers but also for survivors.

"I feel like that allows for a lot of employment security for the support team," she said.

"I feel like that will also lead to much higher quality support services because we've been dealing with a really high turnover and that article might mitigate that a little bit, which will make for a more consistent support experience for survivors."

The wages will also be increased by ten per cent over four years, which Burns said is "actually better" than the two per cent annual increase in the public sector. By the end of the four-year period, support workers will receive \$22.29 per hour and outreach workers \$18.94 per hour.

Since May 1, 2019 is set as the start of the first year of the agreement, the increase is going to be paid retroactively, according to Najm-Abadi.

Beyond addressing the primary concerns, the agreement also increases the stipend that SASC workers could put towards mental

health support from \$140 to \$250 per month — something that both Hakim and SASC workers highlighted.

"It's a very exciting clause for me," Yunus said.

"A lot of the time when we're dealing with support work, it's also intensely personal. There has to be a space where we can process a lot of traumatizing details that might be very similar to our own experiences. And so with that, being able to afford more frequent counselling can be very helpful."

Previously, SASC had faced financial growing pains, as its operating costs outpaced the Sexual Assault Support Fund (SASF). But with the successful referendum in March to almost triple the annual SASF fee from \$3.65 to \$9.30, Hakim said this new level of funding will be able to cover the agreement's mandated wage increases and benefits.

"Any financial decisions made throughout this collective bargaining process was keeping in mind how much funding we had over the course of this agreement," he said.

Ultimately, over a year since the reversed cut, the AMS and SASC workers see the collective agreement as the start of a better working relationship.

"The AMS is very pleased to conclude an over-a-year long collective bargaining process with the staff over at the SASC with an agreement that recognizes the importance of sexual violence work at the centre and with an agreement that both parties are very happy with," Hakim said.

"[It's] quite positive," said Yang about the current dynamics, "... everyone seems very content with the outcome." 

President's Concert Series

Featuring on Kimura Parker and Desmond Hoebig.

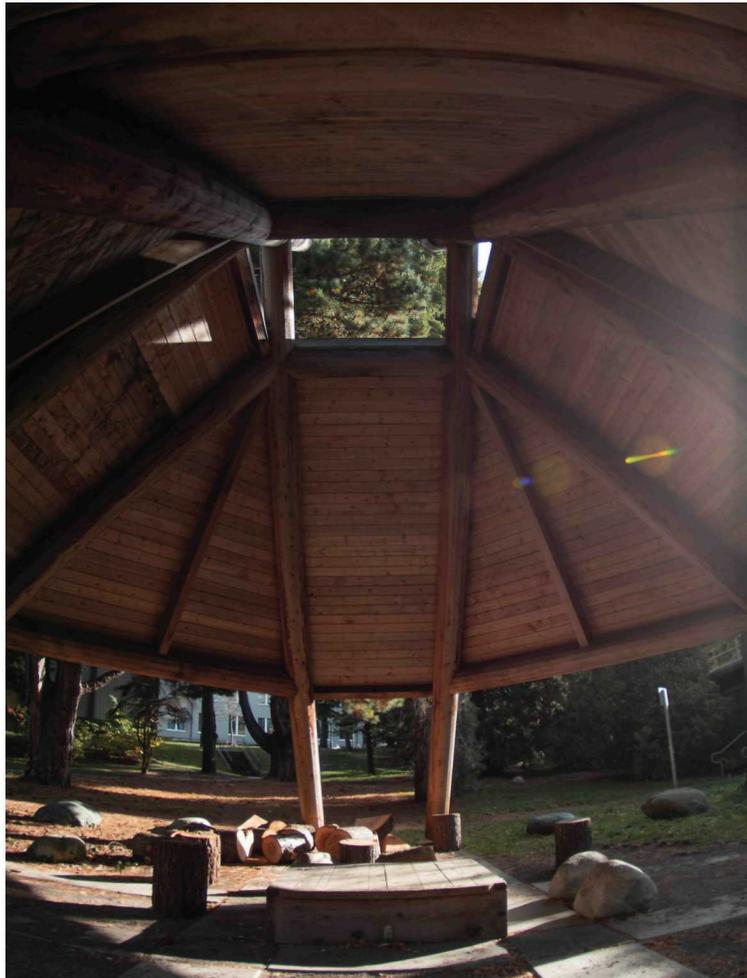
6:30pm | Tuesday, November 12, 2019
The Chan Centre for Performing Arts

Assigned seating: \$40
Limited free seating for UBC students

Tickets: ceremonies.ubc.ca/presidents-concert-series

LONGHOUSE //

First Nations House of Learning launches weekly smudging ceremonies



Smudging ceremonies involve prayer and the burning of sacred medicines such as sweetgrass, cedar, sage and tobacco. DIEGO LOZANO

Paige Mayo
Contributor

Beginning this year, UBC's First Nations House of Learning (FNHL) is facilitating smudging ceremonies for Indigenous students at the First Nations Longhouse.

With origins tracing back to different Nations across North America, smudging ceremonies combine prayer and the burning of sacred herbs like cedar, sage, tobacco and sweetgrass. The sacred medicines are first placed in a special container, often a shell, and burned in small amounts to create smoke that a person wafts over their face and body by eagle feather or hand. The ceremonies are often led by an elder, and the smoke from the sacred herbs purifies the body and soul.

Dr. Margaret Moss, the director of the FNHL, said she is trying to slowly reintroduce some things to the Longhouse in her process of taking over the role.

"One of the things I've heard from students, faculty and staff is that they would like to have the smudging started up again," said Moss. "I'm just responding to people asking for this, and I've heard it quite a bit even from faculty, even from staff and especially from students — graduate students, undergraduate students."

According to Moss, the ceremonies will be held "right outside of the Longhouse in the sacred circle" on Tuesdays at 3:15 p.m.

"It's specifically targeted towards the Indigenous students. However, we would also encourage Indigenous staff and faculty to come," said Moss. "Sometimes people might have a visitor ... but it's really a service for

[Indigenous] students."

Moss said that the ceremonies can help UBC's Indigenous community feel grounded and at peace as they navigate the stress of academics.

"We're offering the smudging for people who feel like they need some purification or cleansing," said Moss. "Just another way to help them cope with being a student and so forth, helping them to have a better day or better week and feel like they're cleansing."

But UBC is located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam people, who do not traditionally practice smudging. According to the FNHL's website, "while this ancient cleansing ritual is not customary to the Musqueam or other local Indigenous peoples, it is practiced by many others."

Moss initially contacted Leona Sparrow, representative of the Musqueam Band to the UBC Board of Governors, to inquire if smudging could be practiced at UBC.

"[We] came to an agreement that yes [we] could do it, as long as it was outside and as long as [we] didn't start any official ceremonies with this practice," said Moss. "Each time [we smudge] we're going to be saying, 'We recognize that we are on Musqueam territory and this is not one of their practices, they're allowing us to do this for others.'"

Above all for Moss, the ceremony is about ensuring that Indigenous people who don't practice smudging and those who do both feel respected.

"I know there's a lot of people here who would like it, and so I just wanted to make sure that we are doing it in a respectful way." ☺

VICTORIA TRIP //

AMS lobbies BC government on affordable education and sexual violence policies



RACHEL CHEANG

This trip was the second year in a row that the AMS collaborated with the SFSSS and BCFS to lobby the BC government.

Jasmine Foong
Contributor

Last week, representatives from the AMS went to Victoria for their annual provincial lobby trip where they met with government and opposition to discuss student issues.

This trip was the second year in a row that the AMS collaborated with the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) and British Columbia Federation of Students (BCFS) to lobby the BC government. The student groups advocated for three main priorities in Victoria: student grants, international student fees and sexual violence policies.

"The first [ask] was around getting a robust, up-front, needs-based grant system in BC because BC is the only province that doesn't have an up-front grant system or forgivable loans," said AMS VP External Cristina Initchi, speaking to *The Ubyssy* about the trip.

On their lobby trip to Victoria last year, the AMS, SFSS and BCFS also advocated for educational affordability. The provincial government has since eliminated interest on the provincial portion of student loans.

Initchi said up-front grants can help students who might otherwise not have the means to attend university.

"While there are some back-end grants at the end of a student's degree or at the end of a student's academic year, those aren't necessarily going to support a student who needs money up front at the beginning of their degree and at the beginning of the year when the costs are higher."

"Student financial aid is critically important to be able to support low- to middle-income students, to be able to get them through their post-secondary education," she said, adding that the student groups proposed a reallocation of resources to accommodate this up-front grant system.

Related to educational affordability, Initchi said the student groups also advocated for a

cap on international student tuition fee increases because international students should be able to predict the costs of their post-secondary education. They have not prescribed a number for that cap, however.

Universities and colleges in Canada independently determine their tuition fees, but the BC government passed a Tuition Limit Policy in 2005 that put a two per cent annual cap on domestic fee increases.

A similar tuition limit policy does not exist for international student fee increases.

International student fees at UBC have risen by about 12 per cent in the last academic year alone, with international students now paying seven times what domestic students pay for a single credit.

The final ask of the student groups on their lobby trip was around sexual violence policies on campuses and the implementation of these policies. Specifically, they want to see governments play a consistent, active role in reviewing these policies.

"When we say 'an active role,' we mean ... evaluating the policies and keeping stock of best practices, what the gaps and similarities between the policies are and being able to report back on that," she said.

Initchi also said that the student groups lobbied the government to provide resources for institutions that are unable to support sexual assault survivors.

"... once a review of policy is done, the government should undergo an assessment of financial need for institutions that have fewer resources and don't have the ability to support survivors to the extent that they would like because of financial constraints," she said.

The student groups also lobbied for a "strong external mechanism" to universities that oversee the implementation of these sexual violence policies, ultimately providing an outlet for students, faculty and staff to go to if sexual assault support services on campuses are not meeting their demands.

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

Initchi said the student groups based their priorities on the research that the AMS, SFSS and BCFS have done, what their collective goals are for this coming year and what the provincial government is already working on.

"Our considerations were: What advocacy is outstanding? What are ways and how does this lobby trip need to change compared to last year?" she said.

Initchi added there are a lot of topics on which they could not lobby in their single trip, including support for Indigenous students and access to Open Educational Resources.

"We've been having conversations with the Indigenous committee about different advocacy that we could be doing with the provincial government, with the federal government and local governments ... we haven't yet landed on for certain what that's going to be, but these conversations are happening and it's going to be a topic that's brought up in the second trip," Initchi said, referring to a lobby trip the AMS will be taking in the coming semester.

Brynn Joyce, secretary-treasurer of the BCFS, said the trip was a good opportunity to improve cooperation between various student advocacy groups and the province.

"This was a really, really positive week and I think that we have the opportunity to really strengthen our relationships with Simon Fraser and UBC and also to have great conversations with government," said Joyce.

Initchi added that the AMS is excited to see the changes the collaboration brings.

"We've had a lot of wind over the last year to support students and we want to continue working hard to ensure that these issues are addressed," she said. ☺

The BCFS is also an advertising client with The Ubyssy. The editorial and business offices are separate.

PLANES, CLIMATE PAINS AND CO2 DEALS //

Consumers more likely to pay carbon fee for air travel when labeled as an 'offset'

Vibhuti Wadhwa
Contributor

Flying is one of the single highest-emission activities most people engage in. A recent study from UBC's Sauder School of Business looked at how to make consumers amenable to an additional carbon fee for plane tickets.

Dr. David Hardisty, an assistant professor of marketing and behavioural science at the Sauder School, and Dr. Alec Beall, a postdoctoral researcher in the faculty of psychology, explored this concept in their study, "A carbon price by another name may seem sweeter: Consumers prefer upstream offsets to downstream taxes."

The study examined 1,800 American participants as they planned hypothetical purchases for flights.

Individuals who got a description of the carbon fee in their flight pricing details described as a "carbon offset on aviation fuel production and importation" consistently preferred to spend \$14 on carbon fees.

When it was described as a "carbon tax on airplane travel and cargo," however, consumers were

less likely to pay the \$14 fee. The subtle difference in descriptions in the two scenarios creates a sense of accountability for the source of services (the producers) versus the user of services (the consumers), respectively.

With climate concerns at an all time high, the aviation industry is brainstorming methodologies for mitigating climate damage in a way that their consumers would support. This study helps to shed light on the behavioural responses of consumers in reaction to carbon emission taxation.

The applications of the study become a little more complicated when expanded to the real world. Political implications and biases, notions of taxes or offset charges being a misuse of middle-class money and a general desire not to pay any extra fees all act as tentative roadblocks when transitioning the knowledge from the study into real-world policies.

According to the authors, the next step in refining the findings of this study would be to conduct it with the real purchase of tickets — not just a hypothetical set-up for a study — and within various countries to assess demographic behavioural responses.

When asked if the results of the study would hold in real life, Hardisty noted that "while there may be a main effect — i.e. fewer people overall choose the offset option — the 'offset' language would still be preferred over the 'tax' as it still appears to be the more positive effect-inducing, responsible option."

In the real world, cultural associations and popular political opinions of the demographic being analyzed might result in variations in the numerical results.

Regardless, the key point of this particular study is the distinction between upstream versus downstream. If offsetting is done right — without cutting corners and truly removing the amount of carbon one injects — consumers are very likely to support a concept which holds parties responsible and creates a notion of positive, forward-thinking solutions.

This idea of creative, sustainable consumer policy is expandable to nearly all existing industries and holds true potential in strengthening climate action and maximizing societal benefit — all through the power of positivity and language. [@](#)



The next step in refining the findings of the study would be to conduct it with the real purchase of tickets.

FILE CHARLES TO

BARRIERS TO CARE //

Urban data analysis sheds new light on challenges to healthcare accessibility



The results of the study were indicative of the importance of public transit in connecting urban environments.

DIANA HONG

Eashan Halbe
Contributor

A research group headed by Dr. Martino Tran of the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning has developed and used a data tool to analyze public access to

healthcare facilities in Vancouver, Seattle and Portland.

The data tool used computational and algorithmic methods to compare the population data of the three cities with the attributes of their public transit systems and healthcare

facilities such as hospitals. This allowed the researchers to uncover trends pertaining to the accessibility of such facilities.

"What motivated this line of inquiry is actually speaking with the municipalities themselves ... speaking with the people that are on

the front line and asking them what their challenges are," said Tran.

The study indicated that a significant proportion of low-income households and seniors have proportionally less access to healthcare services than households of middle to higher income. This disparity could be explained by a culmination of several factors.

Low-income households may not be able to afford the costs associated with private motoring, instead using public transit, which may take more transit time and energy for the purposes of schedule coordination.

Such households are also often unable to afford living close to the urban core of their city where healthcare facilities such as hospitals are more likely to be situated.

"Distance is often an issue," said Tran. "Middle- and higher-income households have less of an accessibility issue because they tend to use personal cars more often and can also afford to live in closer proximity to these services."

The study aimed to elucidate gaps in service delivery and "hopefully inform policy and decision makers to be able to respond to that," according to Tran. Some measures offered to improve universal access to healthcare included extending transit lines and increasing service frequencies as well

as ensuring a proportionate distribution of healthcare facilities throughout urban areas.

"There really needs to be more engagement between the research community and decision and policy makers. ... There is a high dependency and favouritism in terms of lifestyle in North America linked to private car use ... so popular politics may not be good enough and there needs to be much more targeted investment into public transit," said Tran.

The results of the study were indicative of the importance of public transit in connecting urban environments and in providing access to job sites and social activities. The tool also could be used to simulate population growth and anticipate future demand to provide solutions in terms of transit and healthcare facility placement.

"Big urban data is usually portrayed broadly in terms of its potential, but it can also be used specifically to find the many limitations that there are in urban systems and address them," said Tran.

"Billions of dollars are being invested around the world into new urban transportation systems or the revitalization of existing transport systems. ... Oftentimes, what is missed is how does this actually play out and benefit some of the most vulnerable citizens in the population." [@](#)

Places to Go:

Fact, fiction and farming in Spain

Words and photos by
Jasmine Foong

I went to Spain once and I can't shut up about it. But the experience doesn't sit in my head, romanticized as the perfect, momentary escape from real life many perceive it to be. In some ways, my time in Spain made my 'real life' feel a bit more real than it was before.

This past summer I worked for various small-scale organic farmers in exchange for food and housing, facilitated by the Spanish branch of an organization called World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms. This practice is also known as WWOOF-ing and its website says it's a "loose network" linking farmers with those interested in farming.

In the time between booking my ticket to Spain and arriving on my glamorously spartan aircraft, I had fantasized a great deal about what the country would be like.

To me, travel sat perfectly at the intersection between reality and fantasy. Going to a foreign country where no one knew my name seemed real enough that it was doable, but fantastical enough that I could venture beyond the mundane work-school routine.

I admit that pre-summer me imagined myself contentedly tending to vegetables and animals on the farm in the day, enlivened by the sun and grime. Then in the evenings I'd retire to an outdoor dining table for a Spanish meal (*vino* included) with my hosts as we'd tell each other stories and watch the sun go down — all with an inspiring instrumental backing track for theatrics!

Turns out that reality is profoundly unlike the movies, though I'd still choose it every single time.

A part of that reality I kept in my head was the privilege of being able to work while in school, being free of any responsibilities tying me down and having the choice to save up money specifically for traveling.

The months prior to my summer in Spain were spent juggling jobs, checking cheap flights, solving a load of logistical issues and wanting to back out of it all.

But I ultimately followed through, driven largely by that infamous romanticization of solo travel.

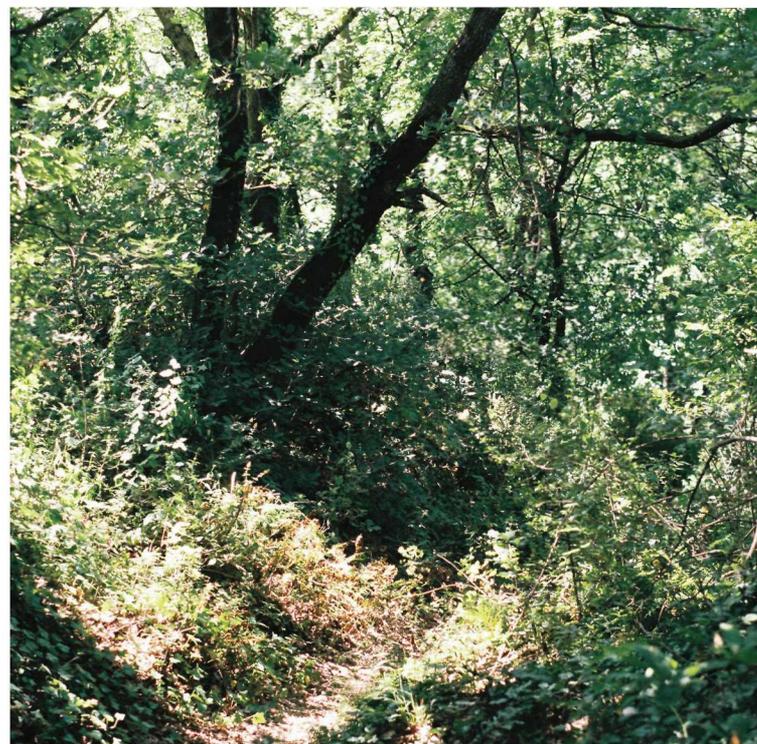
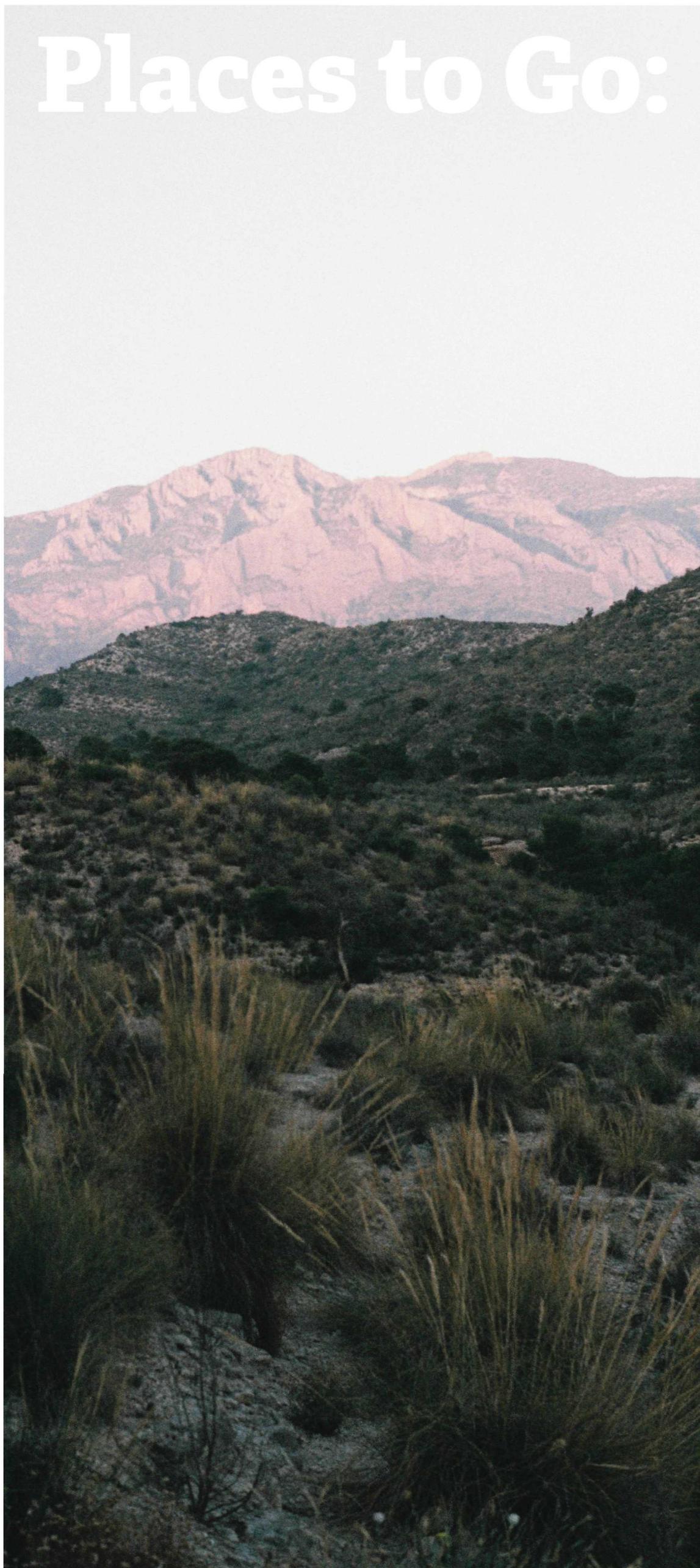
The types of farms I WWOOF-ed with varied, but most of my days were fundamentally the same. In the mornings or afternoons, I'd help out wherever the farm needed me. Sometimes the work was easy and, dare I say, educational. Other times, I'd spend hours forking hay or ploughing topsoil until every inch of my back would ache, with clothes soaked by unrelenting sweat and muscles fatigued by farm work my body didn't understand.

But my work never lasted more than six hours a day — and however demanding I thought my labour to be, my hosts would always power through even after I went off duty, robbing me of reason to ever feel sorry for myself.

That said, where I found myself needing to adapt most was not the intensity of the work, but being in a stranger's home where the closest city was hours away on foot. Plenty of farms with WWOOF take more than one volunteer at a time but factors like timing, dietary requirements and location had me working at many farms where I was the only WWOOF-er.

Although I was lucky in that none of my hosts were particularly malicious, many of them had house rules, expectations and mannerisms that differed from mine, something which often left me on edge.

It wasn't that I couldn't follow rules as simple as taking quick showers or closing the door behind me as I entered and exited the house. It was that I sometimes felt I had to prove myself to be normal and trustworthy, else I'd be greeted with eye-rolls, dramatic sighs or condescending





remarks when asking about work on the farm or about my hosts' lives in general.

It was that they had worldviews that clashed with mine and that I would sometimes be spoken to like I was an uneducated tourist from a developing country who could never live up to their progressive standards.

The hardest part though, was probably the nerves and loneliness that inevitably comes with long-term, solo travel.

I think a lot of people imagine stumbling into their soulmate the moment they touch down at their travel destination. Of course, you meet enough people and you'll end up forming special bonds with some, but what I didn't realize was the depths of loneliness that would consume me, days at a time.

Sure, I could chat with my hosts and their visiting friends. I even had some very meaningful

conversations with people I'd met on transit between farms. But anyone who has moved to an entirely new place on their own will know the feeling of not having 'your people' — the excitement over all the new relationships you will build momentarily displaced by a longing for your comfort zone.

I think the worst of solo travel ends at nerves and loneliness, but the two can be reinforced by things like missed flights and airport sleepovers, belongings stolen or rummaged through and the numerous uncomfortable interactions with men I faced as a young woman traveling alone.

So even while surrounded by landscapes more beautiful than my wildest dreams, I found myself missing my home, the people I've known for years and even the routine of work and school and the sense of purpose that came with it. While I felt guilty for feeling this way, it

made me realize the falsehood in glorifying solo travel.

My point is this: a lot of things can go wrong and many of them probably will.

Despite being on this 'only something I could dream of type' adventure, there were days where all I wanted was to get away from it all and hit pause on life. I'd imagined I would be living off the land, free of the stress and responsibility that comes with urban living, but WWOOF-ing isn't equivalent to going off the grid. Living on a farm didn't mean the regular stressors like money and negative relationships go away.

But even in saying that, there were so many more days where I was overjoyed by the euphoric sense of freedom I had from travelling.

Simple things like feeding the horses every morning and staking row after row of tomato plants were enough to make my day. I'd go on hikes in the surrounding

forests and stand four feet away from wild deer — that would be enough to overwhelm me with joy for the rest of the evening. Despite my clumsy Spanish, I had shared life stories with so many of the people I'd met, giving me newfound respect for the particularity of each person's story — where they'd been and how they'd come to be where they are.

These experiences were why I'd choose real life over the movies every single time. Like any experience, solo travelling is what you make of it, but it will always trump movie magic because it is yours.

Just because I was in Spain didn't mean that real life was paused. The people I'd met and the things I'd done differed from the life I was used to, but that didn't mean it had to be a separate part of my life — a section of my life that was fictional and perfect. In fact, even though there wasn't a neat narrative structure to my travels or

uplifting background music at the end of my trip, the best part was that there was no happy ending.

Just as real life didn't stop when I left for Spain, the same applied when I came home. I came back to all the familiarities but experienced them anew with everything I picked up in Spain.

I'm not saying I am a changed person. I am still who I was before I left, but I am more at ease than I have ever been simply because I now know that even the solo travelling I've romanticized for years comes with its own set of challenges.

I met so many people along the way, people of all ages and backgrounds, to learn that above all we are human. We crave companionship and human interaction, and good Spanish food doesn't hurt either. But these realizations have changed the way I live my regular days and interact with the people around me, and I could not be more grateful. [T](#)





Finding conn

with Timothy

How do we retain our humanity in the middle of war? How do we find light when darkness envelops us and hold on to each other when chaos is everywhere?

These are a few of the questions that UBC Theatre is trying to answer in their production of Timothy Findley's *The Wars*, adapted by Dennis Garnhum. The play is set during World War I and follows Robert Ross, a young Canadian who sets off to war after a family tragedy. Robert trades his comfortable life at home in Toronto for the trenches of France and the audience follows his slow unravelling over the course of the play.

The play is adapted from Timothy Findley's *The Wars*, a 1977 novel that won the Governor General's Award for English Language Fiction. Adapted by UBC Theatre alum Dennis Garnhum, the play was originally co-produced between Theatre Calgary and the Playhouse Theatre Company of Vancouver in 2007.

MOMENTS OF CONNECTION

Though set in a time that can seem far away, the play continues to be relevant through its themes.

According to director Lois Anderson, as our world becomes increasingly chaotic, the group of young actors performing *The Wars* echoes the story of young people in 1914 navigating the chaos of WWI. The parallel is part of the reason she suggested this play to the graduating class, along with the fact that the source material is well-known in Canadian literature.

The central idea of the play is connection — between the character themselves and the animals who appear throughout the story. That concept comes out of the novel and its author, Timothy Findley, who Anderson said describes connection in terms of the different types of love.

"What he seems to be saying in the book is that ultimately what [are] left in a world that has gone mad [are] those moments of connection.... That is actually what is left of life, when everything else is stripped away," she said.

These connections are formed not only in the middle of the war, but in spite of it.

"These are characters who actually seek out love and affection, even when their survival is [in] jeopardy," said actor David Volpov, who plays Robert Ross.

Throughout the show, the animals are one of many points of connection — Robert empathizes with the horses caught in the middle of the war and he strives to protect them, along with the various other animals in the story. The animals are given a presence through lighting.

"It's a way that they connect to those animals without [the animals] physically being present because we can't put 130 horses on [the stage]," said lighting designer Matthew Piton.

FROM THE SEA TO THE FIELDS

Without a massive budget or some sort of virtual reality technology, the main challenge of the production was a familiar one to the theatre: how to bring an audience to World War I and immerse them in the experience with "minimal and elegant design," as Anderson put it.

"How can you journey people ... to various locations, to the ocean, to a ship, to the fields of France, to England," said Anderson. "That is actually art, is taking an audience somewhere with a few pieces of something

Connection through chaos

Findley's *The Wars*, adapted by Dennis Garnhum

and evoking the emotion of a place."

To Anderson, art is more interesting without an enormous budget—that's what allows the creativity of the designers to shine through.

"The audience's imagination meets what the actors are offering and the design team is offering. The audience has to bring their imagination to the dialogue and they are part of it," she said. "They go, 'Oh yes we're going to go. We're going to go there with you because you're inviting us to go there.'"

Piton echoed the sentiment of moving away from realism to focus on the emotion of the piece.

"Trying to make the floor look exactly like mud with light is impossible without a million dollar budget," he said, "But you can still give the audience that feeling."

When it came to the set, designer Cecilia Vadala was inspired by the fluidity in a script that moves from Toronto to Alberta to the other side of the Atlantic Ocean with a kind of elegance. Working with Anderson and the other designers in a collaborative manner also helped drive home the idea of connection, where everyone is responsible for bringing the different locations to life together.

"All these locations are connected and brought together by the actors and the characters, so we really see in every aspect of the idea of coming together to make something happen," she said.

To facilitate this fluidity, Piton decided to minimize the use of blackouts as much as possible and to use the lighting to draw all the moving pieces of the play together.

"The scenes flow together and as the actors are manipulating the set, it becomes something else. ... The lights are flowing us through that," he said. "It's not like 'Okay, we're stopping here, we're changing everything and then we're going back up again.' It's one piece."

The production design is constantly changing, particularly as the actors start to rehearse. The designers incorporate the actors' performances into their vision of what the production will look like.

"It's always a true inspiration because I really like to see the actors on their journey," said Vadala. "I'm gonna always add and tweak my set till the very end to make them feel like it's their world because that's what really means the most to me: seeing their connection to the world and have them represented in there."

"Just in this last week when our elements have finally come together on the stage in reality—it's so incredibly rewarding to see," said Piton.

EYES WIDE OPEN

This production of this play is unique in that it is being staged as a play within a play.

The play space of the characters' journeys will be at the very front of the stage, but if we look past that area, we'll also see the actors walking around backstage with some in their street clothes and others in costume. They'll be preparing to go onstage, putting on costumes and makeup, but there will also be actors simply watching.

To actor Ava Safai, that element of watching adds an important dimension to the production.

"[This story] is an important piece of history and it should be watched and it should be observed ... because you don't want this kind of thing to repeat again. And there are so many connections that happen and a lot of

them you will notice are happening kind of behind the scenes, behind the curtains."

At its core, Robert's story is about a journey as he moves from "one extreme to another," as Volpov put it. He's thrown into a war as a lieutenant and needs to learn very quickly how to take on responsibility for the lives of the men who follow him.

On this theme, Anderson and the actors emphasized the ensemble aspect of this story. The bulk of the story following Robert features the group of soldiers that coalesces around him and the camaraderie that forms. Here, art imitates life, as the actors reiterated the collaborative process as much as the designers.

"We're all learning from each other and we're watching each other go through the same processes of getting damaged night after night by this war," said Volpov. "In a way, we take the energy from each other, all the soldiers, and that's kind of how we find [energy] every night."

The trenches and the horror within them, according to Safai, are not the only parts to this story. Between the soldiers in the trenches, the horses in the mud and the family back home, all the characters bring different elements to the stage that come together to tell a broader story.

Though this play is set during World War I, that broader story is not about the war, according to actor Hayden Davies. The story is about the "the humans and the people that are there, and the relationships that they have."

"The struggles and the trauma aren't exclusive to World War I. ... It's a story about young people and everyone can relate to that," he said.

Anderson's sentiments echoed that of the actors.

"[The play] affirms life. We're staging moments of connection inside of horrific situations. ... Look here, someone has connected to someone, someone has had a conversation, someone has fallen in love. ... That allows the audience to feel hope," said Anderson.

"It's actually a hopeful piece [where] we can affirm life, that life is worth choosing."

Davies pointed out a line in the book and the play that epitomizes the grand message of the story—the connections, the moments of light that shine through in times of darkness. It's said by Coté, a soldier in Robert's company.

"I doubt we'll ever be forgiven. All I hope is—they'll remember we were human beings." 

Timothy Findley's The Wars adapted by Dennis Garnhum runs November 7 to 23.

Words by Sarah Zhao
Photos by Elizabeth Wang
Design by Lua Presidio



CASH COWS //

Letter: Tuition increases unfairly target international students



UBC sees international students as cash cows.

FILE MACKENZIE WALKER

Marcella Muse
Contributor

The disproportionate share of tuition increases that new international students carry (four per cent compared to two per cent for domestic students) is further evidence that UBC sees international students as cash cows.

The proposal notes that “A four per cent increase in new international student tuition results in a \$1,521.90 increase over 30 credits.” \$1,500 is substantial and could wipe out any earnings a student makes from a part-time job. It could be the difference between a student being able to afford housing, next year’s tuition, a flight home

to see family at Christmas, etc. Obviously, domestic students are also impacted, but only face an additional “\$107.70 increase over 30 credits.” The idea that all international students are wealthy and can take the hit is, as we know, just a generalization.

When the 2015 tuition increase was proposed and then approved, there was outrage from student groups and the AMS. While the jump in fees was more dramatic — “Most programs will see an increase of 15 per cent in 2016-2017, an additional 15 per cent the following year and 11 per cent in the third year,” — the four per cent increase that new international students face is also substantial. Particularly since this is four per cent of an already

dramatically inflated tuition.

I worry that we are in a “frog in boiling water” situation, where this fee proposal is slipping through the cracks because the impact is somewhat obscured. The administration has done its due diligence in the sense that we received an email and there’s an alert on the UBC website, but you have to click through the actual proposal to understand the impact — which I doubt many students have done.

There was recently a federal election in Canada, one which received broad coverage in *The Ubyyssey* and warranted several emails from Dr. Santa Ono and Dr. Ainsley Carry, extolling the virtues of civic engagement. I think it’s fantastic that there’s been such a powerful push to encourage voting and engage students in politics.

I just wish that push extended to our local politics at UBC.

The unfortunate reality is that, while we’re often more impacted by local politics, we tend to focus more on the glitz and glamour of national campaigns. The good news is that we can decide to be civically engaged at all levels, regardless of whether the administration seeks out student engagement in UBC politics in the same way it encourages participation in national elections.

According to the

administration’s script, the reason international students pay so much more in tuition than their domestic counterparts (roughly six times as much), is because the Canadian government subsidizes higher education for its citizens. But this still doesn’t answer the question of why new international students face double the percentage increase as new domestic students.

Being slightly more affordable than American universities is not something to gloat about.

Emulating the financial models of for-profit American universities leads UBC down a slippery slope of becoming a for-profit university. After all, for-profit universities are simply institutions that have decided to make money off of their students/customers. When an organization becomes for-profit, they become a business. When in 2015, UBC decided to raise international tuition by 45 per cent, they made a decision to capitalize on a growing segment of international students.

And how, one might ask, are these future international students supposed to advocate for themselves when they’re at least a year away from stepping onto campus?

They can’t. And that’s the point. At risk of portraying UBC’s administration as sinister, I do believe that this decision was politically strategic. Current international students are already

settled into life on campus and the three per cent increase — one per cent less for them — will be annoying in most cases, but not substantial enough to prompt a transfer to another institution

The other 74 per cent of UBC undergraduate students are domestic who would face relatively minimal increases of less than \$200. That leaves exactly no one on campus who would face the \$1,500 increase in the 2020/21 school year.

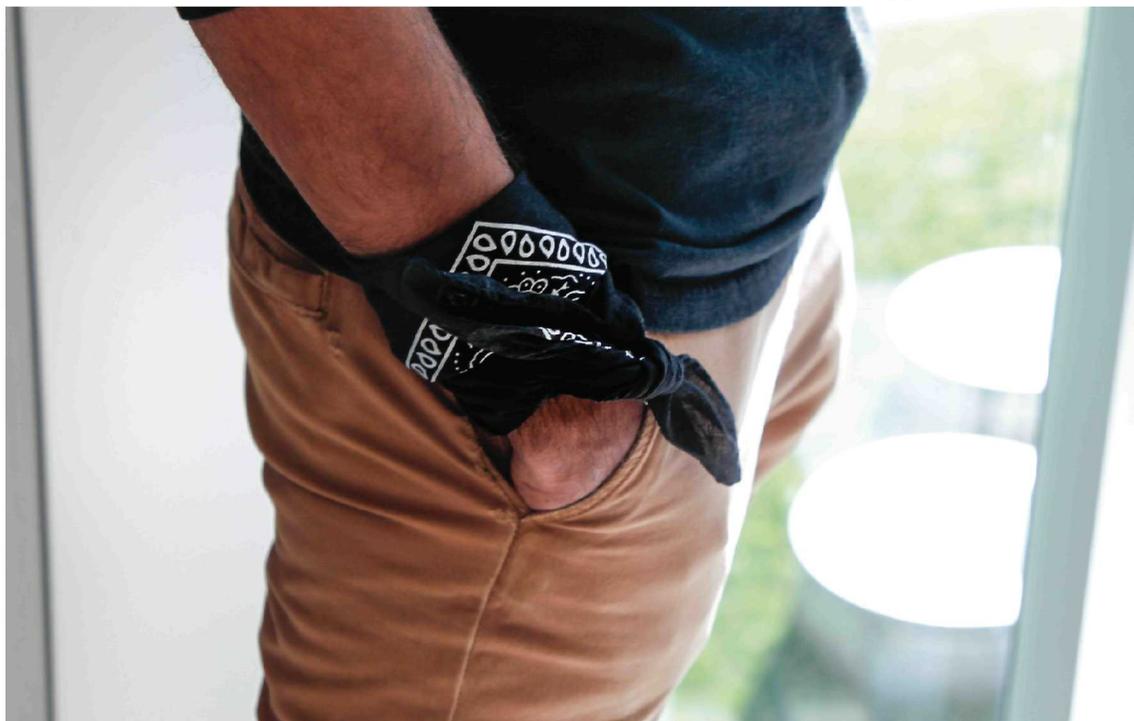
The very people impacted by the decision do not have a voice. At the very least, I think they’re entitled to representation. This responsibility should probably fall on the shoulders of our elected and paid student representatives in the AMS, but I’ve yet to see any activism on this issue. It’s great that the AMS runs a textbook affordability campaign every fall, and I don’t know about you, but my textbooks have never cost more than a fraction of \$1,521.

At what point did the administration start prioritizing the accumulation of wealth over the maintenance of affordable access to education? And at what point did our elected student representatives give up the fight for our ever-inflating cost of attendance? 🙄

Marcella Muse is a sixth-year international relations student currently on exchange.

SEXUAL ASSAULT //

Letter: UBC needs to finally hold fraternities accountable



We cannot continue to turn a blind eye to these realities on campus

ELIZABETH WANG

Lisa Basil
Contributor

When it comes to sexual assault allegations against Greek life, the University of British Columbia is not doing enough to dismantle the structures that hold a toxic rape culture in place. The university cannot expect change to come without policy and real, substantive action. UBC needs to start holding fraternities accountable.

In early October, a UBC professor posted on Twitter claiming that there were six students in the ER who had been drugged at fraternity parties. The professor, Dr. Marina

Adshade, also mentioned that one of her students had allegedly been drugged at a bar when she posted her livid response.

Adshade tweeted: “One of my students spent the weekend in the hospital after being drugged in a Vancouver bar on Friday night. On Saturday morning there were six (6!!) women with her who had been drugged in the fraternities on UBC campus.

“And people ask me why I am opposed to the frat houses?”

Her vocal criticisms were met with responses from the AMS, the Fraternity Council and UBC, but they all sang a similar tune. While all

of the public statements highlighted how “seriously” these issues are taken on the UBC campus, the incident highlights a deeper issue of the way these realities are so often swept under the rug.

While this is by no means the first time a similar incident has been reported at a UBC fraternity event, the course of action has previously been to introduce mandatory sexual consent seminars — an approach that allowed fraternities to continue to host their parties while remaining minimally accountable as an institution. While there have been instances of individual members being charged, not enough has been

done in terms of punishing the fraternities themselves.

The way the university handles issues of sexual assault on campus is too often to make a public statement condoning the event, with the Sexual Assault Support Centre setting up a few “sexual consent seminars” and to continue on as if nothing had happened. This approach however does more to boost an image than to implement any real change to keep students safe.

UBC’s problem in handling these sexual assault cases can be traced all the way back to their sexual assault policy. UBC’s policy 131 has been widely criticized for its lack of comprehensiveness and implementation. While the policy is in the process of being reviewed and revamped this year, we have yet to see substantial changes with the way sexual assault is dealt with on campus.

In addition, changes in policy regarding fraternity life generally fall to the Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC) — not the university. This means that it’s the responsibility of the council of Greek life members to make decisions regarding changes and disciplinary action. UBC effectively does very little in terms of punishment and policy change regarding UBC fraternities.

In the case of these recent allegations, it was the IFC who called for the indefinite suspension of social functions and it is the council who can make contradictory decisions going forward. The irony of expecting fraternities to police themselves is that there ends up being very little room for third-party accountability. Change can’t be made from relying on problematic

institutions to self-police. The university needs to step up and hold these institutions accountable.

However, the university has not done nothing in response to this case. UBC has asked the university RCMP to open an investigation, which is an important start to dealing with the allegations.

But what if the action taken stops there? Fraternities would be able make the decision to keep parties again and a toxic culture will continue to persevere at UBC.

Some people argue that fraternity parties aren’t the problem at all — that it is not the fault of the fraternity that a few ‘bad apples’ commit sexual assault. We cannot hold fraternities as a whole responsible and it’s not fair to punish them as an entirety.

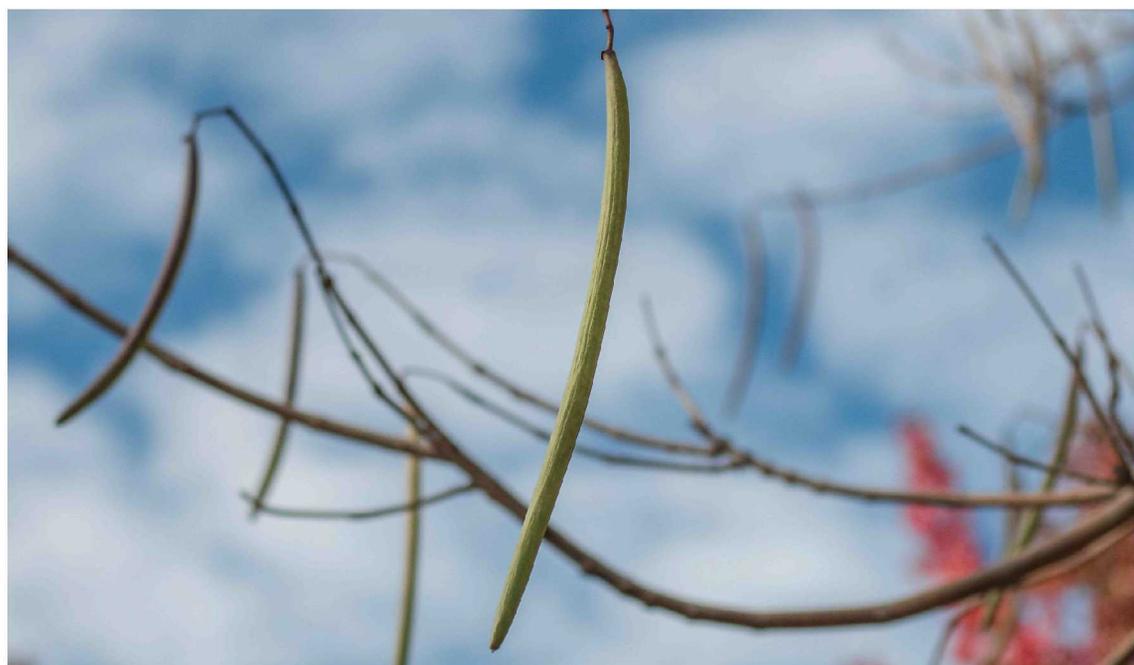
But the prevalence of sexual assault at fraternity parties paints a picture where these acts are not the fault of a few ‘bad apples,’ but rather of the structures of a culture that allows this reality to develop unimpeded. Studies have found that people in fraternities are three times more likely to commit sexual assault than their non-fraternity counterparts. The widespread prevalence of sexual assault within Greek life demonstrates a fault of more than single individuals. Fraternities are breeding grounds for toxic masculinity.

If UBC really wants to fight sexual assault in Greek life, the university needs to begin to hold fraternities accountable. We cannot continue to turn a blind eye to these realities on campus. 🙄

Lisa Basil is a third-year political science student.

POISON? //

How to prepare, cook and eat the allegedly 'inedible' Buchanan Beans



The UBC archivists advised me that the beans of the western catalpa are "not edible."

ZUBAIR HIRJI

Thomas O'Donnell
Culture Editor

So it's November and you've already blown through your meal budget. It turns out Jamjar every day is an uneconomical way to live. For

those looking to get more into meal prepping, here are some recipes for you.

I came up with these recipes in my most desperate time, last September. I had blown through all my student loan money on one

stupid purchase — tuition. The little money I had left I spent on cheques to pay rent and I then had no monies.

To pass my classes I needed energy, energy that could be gained by eating "food." Because I had no

money I had to turn to the natural resources around me. Dirt was out of the question, as worms have already eaten it. I was intrigued by the trees in between Buchanan B and IKB, as they grew something that looked like beans, which are a food.

The UBC archivists advised me that the beans of the western catalpa are "not edible" and also "not beans." "Not edible as in will kill me?" I said. "Well they're not poisonous but you shouldn't—" and I didn't catch what they said as I had heard all that I needed and was gleefully thinking of how to prepare something with these long beans.

BOILED BUCHANAN BEANS, BOILED

4 beans
1 tablespoon of salt
3 litres of water

This recipe came to me first as my body was shutting down from a lack of vitamins. First boil a pot of water. Then salt the water. Then put the beans in the water.

The best way to describe this meal is that it is kind of sorta legally food. Actually it is the only way to describe this meal.

BOILED BUCHANAN BEANS, FRIED

The 3 beans from before
1/4 cup of butter
1 teaspoon of salt

So immediately after throwing up, take the remaining beans and fry them in butter. Hope for the best.

FRIED BOILED BUCHANAN BEANS, MAGIC BULLETT-ED

The 2 beans left
Any liquid?

Smoothies just slide down your throat, you don't really have to taste it or put it on your tongue.

SMOOTHIED FRIED BOILED BUCHANAN BEANS, FROZEN

1 beans worth of bean puree

Leave this in your freezer for your roommates to find. Try to forget what you have done.

As you may have guessed, these recipes work best when you literally have no other choice. These all pair well with the pasta sticks from Ike's Cafe. [👉](#)

TRANSPORTATION //

How to get to campus in case of a full transit strike



Here's a list of the best alternative modes of transit.

FILE YIYANG WANG

Campbell Speedy
Contributor

Vancouver's bus drivers have gone on strike after giving a 72-hour notice. While it has not fully affected service, there may be a reality where there is a full transit strike. But there's no need to Panic! at the Bus Stop yet, as you've come to the right place. Here's a list of the best alternative modes of transit to get you to class on time and in style.

CARPPOOLING

What better excuse is there to pull up to school in your new Mercedes-Benz than carpooling? This is the

University of Beautiful Cars, after all. Not only can you flex on your fellow students with your sweet ride, but you can also have your passengers help alleviate some of the gas and parking costs. Bonus points if you turn your N sideways and make it a Z.

CYCLING

Whether you own a bicycle or use a bike share service such as Mobi, this option is perfect for those who want to get to class fast and stay fit. As a cyclist, feel free to subtly mention in every conversation that you bike to UBC. Shoutout to ex-Mayor Gregor Robertson for those bike lanes.

WALKING

This method is probably best suited for those who live "close" to campus. Like cycling, walking will help you stay in shape, plus it's free! You already walk from Buchanan D to the Forestry building for class, so what's another 10 kilometres home?

GETTING CARRIED

Since Lyft hasn't made it to Vancouver quite yet, why not get someone to actually lift you to the university? Not only will you save energy, but you can also haggle over the price at your own

discretion. It's like Vancouver's taxi services, but faster.

RAZOR-SOOTERING

It's time to bring out these bad boys again. Although you probably didn't think you would ever need your scooter after turning 12, the ankle-destroying Razor Scooters present a retro way to glide to campus. If you're looking for something more bougie, electric skateboards and hoverboards run over people's feet just as effectively.

PADDLING

If Day of the LongBoat wasn't

enough boat for you, then you've got options! Kayak, canoe and dragon boat rentals are available from Jericho Beach, Kitsilano Beach, Granville Island and False Creek. Whether with friends or by yourself, you're bound to discover a new side of you as you're paddling out on the water and then bound to forget it when you dock on Wreck Beach while being stared down by the nudists.

No matter how you're getting to campus, make sure to check out the Transit Strike Megathread on r/UBC for updates on the situation and to find other carpoolers. Good luck and happy commuting! [👉](#)

30
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READY

TO

START

YOUR

CAREER

Half of all students graduate in the red. How do you get ahead with debt dragging you down? It's time to demand financial aid that actually helps us succeed.

**STUDENTS NEED
GRANTS
NOT LOANS**

wearebcstudents.ca/grantsnotloans

bcfs | british columbia
federation of students

\$30,000

IN DEBT?



HALF-TERM REPORT

WORDS BY SPORTS STAFF
LAYOUT BY LUA PRESIDIO

WOMEN'S SOCCER

The Thunderbirds women's soccer team has had a stellar season so far, as they made it all the way to the Canada West final. The team was dominant all throughout the regular season, losing only two games in the process. Defence was the Thunderbirds' calling card, as they had a whopping eight clean sheets in only 14 regular season games. A lot of praise should be given to fourth-year goalkeeper Emily Moore, as she was undoubtedly the backbone of the team by providing stability in net. Although the Thunderbirds ultimately lost to Calgary in the finals, the team will still travel to Victoria to play in the U Sports National Championships as the Canada West second seed.

A-

MEN'S SOCCER

It's been a season to remember so far for the UBC men's soccer team. The T-Birds' high-tempo and direct attacking style propelled them to first place in the Pacific Division of Canada West, with a stunning record of 10-2-3. The team won their third consecutive Canada West championship, without conceding a goal during the final four weekend. Forward Victory Shumbusho made constant use of his bag of tricks and scored 11 goals, including the opening goal in the Canada West final against the University of Calgary. Veteran wingback Jordan Haynes's crossing abilities spelled trouble for opponents too, as he registered eight assists. Head coach Mike Mosher can only be very proud of his collective.

A+

MEN'S HOCKEY

UBC did not pick up their first win of the season until October 19, a 4-1 win against the University of Regina. Compared to last season, where the T-Birds went 5-3-0 by the end of October, they've managed to remain competitive in Canada West. The Thunderbirds are only two points behind fourth place University of Manitoba and six points away from Mount Royal University in third. UBC has had a very balanced offence and will have to continue to do so if they stand any chance in clawing back up the standings. The first line of Tyler Sandhu, Austin Vetterl and Austin Glover have combined for 17 points through 8 games. They'll be relied upon heavily as UBC seeks to rebound and make the postseason this year.

C+

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

The UBC women's hockey team appears to be gaining momentum as they enter a challenging part of their schedule. Although the T-Birds are currently tied for third in the Canada West, they will face the top two teams in the conference on the road before returning home to play Mount Royal and Alberta to end November. UBC goaltender Tory Micklash has managed to recover after a rough opening weekend, allowing only one goal in regulation over the past six games. If UBC is to come out of the month with a winning record, it will largely depend on whether Micklash can continue to build on her solid play.

B+

FOOTBALL

Through September, the men's football team was historically bad. They started the season with five straight losses, getting outscored 210-56 by their opponents. And despite their late-season push, they still posted Canada West's worst overall offence and defence. However, not all was lost for Coach Blake Nill, as his young team began to blossom towards the end. The obvious turning point was the mid-season quarterback change. Once he was named the starter, Gabe Olivares shined under centre and led his team to back-to-back wins in October, including a shocking upset against the Saskatchewan Huskies. You won't see it in their record, but there were a lot of positives for the Thunderbirds football team at the end. Expect them to build on those positives and, hopefully, return to the playoffs next year.

C-

WOMEN'S FIELD HOCKEY

Realistically, finishing the regular season as Canada West runner-ups isn't all bad. But with the UBC women's field hockey squad, we've gotten used to expecting more. The team won seven straight U Sports National titles from 2011 to 2017 and posted an undefeated streak that stretched over two seasons. Their 2-1-5 Canada West record this year was just not enough to unseat fierce rivals University of Victoria for the Canada West title and the rights to host this year's national championships. But the team is young, with most players still in their first or second seasons with the T-Birds. It means that if the team is going to rebuild, it shouldn't take too long.

B-

MEN'S RUGBY

The men's rugby team has had an amazing year so far. As of yet, they've posted a 6-1 record in the BC Premier League, their only loss coming in the season opener against Burnaby Lake Rugby Club. Their last two games saw the team outscore their opponents by a whopping 130-38. The team took their dominant play to the international level, competing in the World University Rugby Invitational Tournament, where the T-Birds came away with big wins against the Siberian Federal University of Russia and a conglomerate team of New Zealand universities. The T-Birds also beat rivals University of Victoria to take a 1-0 series lead for the annual Wightman Boot cup, with the second leg to be played in March.

A+

WOMEN'S RUGBY

UBC Thunderbirds started off the Canada West playoff poorly with two consecutive losses. However, after their win against the Alberta Pandas, UBC Thunderbirds was able to carry the momentum, winning five consecutive games including their first Canada West title in over a decade. In addition to the conference crown, the T-Birds booked a trip to the U Sports National Championships. Unfortunately, they finished off the championships with two losses. Nonetheless, the chemistry of the team was demonstrated by Shoshanah Seumanutafa, who was the dominant offensive force throughout the season and named 2019's player of the year. In addition to improved defensive play, the T-Birds appear to be poised to turn the program around.

A-

WE THE NORTH //

Recreating Recess: Is basketball the new northern pastime?

Brendan Smith
Senior Staff Writer

Rarely do sports produce that moment where you feel yourself overcome with such catharsis and emotion. Fewer do those iconic moments involve Canadian teams.

Yet last spring, it seemed as though one team, the Toronto Raptors, created one memorable moment after another in their rollercoaster ride through the playoffs before eventually capturing the NBA championship and becoming the first team north of the border to do so.

As a Canadian sports fan, it was difficult not to feel patriotic when the Raptors beat the Golden State Warriors in the Finals, a result that few saw coming.

It made you feel that the trophy was the ultimate prize given to a country united under the slogan “We the North.”

That slogan intended to reference the Raptors, and Canada in general, as an outsider on the basketball landscape of North America.

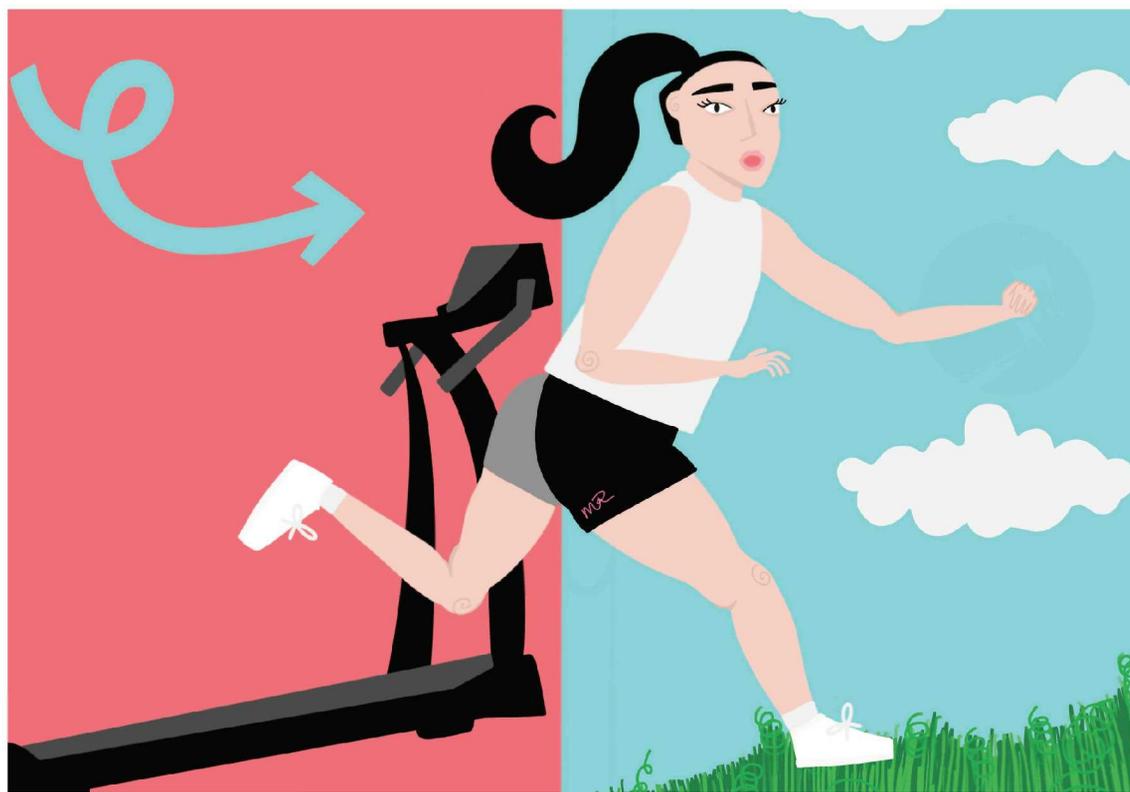
However, you could argue that basketball had never been as popular as it is now in Canada, even before last spring.

So why is it that basketball has gained such prominence in the Great White North?

Of course, there are many reasons. One could be that the game of basketball does not require a lot of equipment.

All you need to play is a ball and something that can act as a basket to shoot on. In fact, peach baskets were commonly used when basketball was in its developmental stages.

Another contributing factor could



Canadians may have invented basketball, but it's taken a while for the sport to reach the popularity it now holds. FILE MAYA RODRIGO-ABDI

also be the seasonal independence of basketball. Basketball is a sport that can be played year-round, as you can play outside in the summer and then move indoors during the winter. By comparison, other sports are associated with a certain time of year which makes it hard to play when they are not in season.

One last reason could be the prevalence of basketball courts in urban areas. Think about it: what other sport has as many public spaces as basketball courts?

Whenever you walk around campus, there appears to be a

basketball court near every public park or student residence.

It is only fitting that they should be used. If you do not know how to play basketball, here is a quick summary of the game.

The main objective is to score a basket in the hoop, which earns your team a certain number of points. The winning team is the one with the most points at the end of the game.

Baskets that are scored behind a line, called the three-point line, are worth three points and any basket scored in front of this line is worth two points.

When you are not on offence, you are defending your own basket and usually you will be matched up with someone who you will “guard.”

When you are guarding, you are allowed to try and steal the ball but cannot physically touch the person too hard. Otherwise you will receive a foul, which will have various consequences depending on the play.

Basketball can also be played individually or without the rules and people needed for a typical game.

Personally, this is quite relaxing, as there was a basketball hoop

outside my driveway so growing up I would go outside and shoot around after I got home from school or during a study break as a way to clear my head.

If you choose to play by yourself, there are a variety of games you can play.

One game I play is called “range finder” where you start by shooting the ball right in front of the basket and take a step back after each shot you make.

If you are in need of a workout, then you can try shooting for 20 minutes continuously without letting the ball hit the ground more than three times.

As mentioned earlier, there are a lot of outdoor basketball courts on campus so there should not be an issue finding somewhere to play. Of them all, the court outside the Nest is best for playing an actual game while the courts near student residences are better for shooting around on your own.

There are also drop-in games played at the Student Recreation Centre available for those who would like to play a bit more competitively and meet new people.

In fact, the social aspect of basketball is arguably the best part. I met most of my friends in grade school by playing basketball during recess and even initiated new relationships through basketball.

So for those looking to make new friendships, get a ball and go shoot around outside because you never know who will want to join you.

And if you need any additional evidence to the social power of this game, then look no further than what happened in this country last spring. 🏀

PREVIEW //

High hopes for UBC basketball as new season gets underway

Tanner McGrath
Staff Writer

Canada West conference play began for the Thunderbirds men's and women's basketball teams this past weekend, as both teams swept their doubleheaders against the University of Regina Rams.

In Canada West's preseason polls, the Saskatchewan Huskies were the unanimous pick to repeat as women's conference champions, with the Thunderbirds being the third-most popular pick. The Alberta Golden Bears just edged out our Thunderbirds as the favourite to win the men's conference championship, and Calgary finished with the third-most votes.

It would be a mistake to count out the Thunderbirds basketball teams this season. Both the women's and men's rosters are talented, well-coached and feature experienced players coming off very good seasons.

The men's team is bringing back a core of players that led them to the Canada West championship game last year. Despite losing that championship game, it was still a great season for the team that earned a berth in the U Sports National Championships hosted by the Dalhousie Tigers in Halifax. They posted Canada West's number two



Fifth-year Jadon Cohee will be a player to watch this season on the men's side. FILE SALOMON MICKO BENRIMOH

offence and number three defence on their way to a 17-3 overall record, including winning 10 of their 11 home games.

Coach Kevin Hanson will see his top six rotation return, all of them upperclassmen. Some of those returning include fifth-years Jadon Cohee and Manroop Clair.

Cohee already has two impressive performances under his belt, as he scored a combined 40 points on 52 per cent shooting in the doubleheader at Regina.

The women's team wasn't quite

as successful last season, as they lost a heartbreaking Canada West play-in against the University of Winnipeg to end their season early. However, Coach Deb Hubman is also seeing the majority of her roster returning — a roster that had an impressive run in the second half of last season. In mid-November of last year, the women's team lost a low-scoring affair against Thompson Rivers University, which dropped their conference record to a disappointing 3-4. The team then ripped off nine

straight wins and after two more

wins ended conference play with a 14-6 record.

Players to watch this season include fifth-year Keylyn Filewich, who led the league in field goal percentage and was fourth in Canada West scoring. Fifth-year Jessica Hanson, who recorded 21 points and 10 rebounds in the win Friday, is also a player to keep an eye on.

The women's team's strengths include efficiency, as they were second in the league in shooting percentage. They also rebounded the ball very well, finishing with the

second-most rebounds in Canada West, and their 17 assists per game is a testament to how well they move across the court. Success in these areas led to general offensive success, as the women's team scored 78 points a game which was good for second in the conference.

The women's biggest question is their defence. They barely cracked the top 10 in points allowed per game, and they often gave up 70 or more. However, they had a few great defensive performances, at one point holding back-to-back opponents to fewer than 50 points. They finished with the fifth best regular season record last season and if they want to break into that top tier of teams, they'll have to address inconsistency on that side of their game.

The men are looking very strong. There is no reason to expect regression from last season, and the expectation should be that their two all-stars, Cohee and Grant Shephard, will lead them on a deep playoff run. They will be tested this weekend with two revenge games against the defending champs Calgary, but the rest of their conference schedule looks very manageable.

Make sure you follow the undefeated 'Birds this season, both teams play their home opener this Friday night against the University of Calgary at the War Memorial Gym. 🏀

WEEKEND RUNDOWN

Men's volleyball earn first back-to-back wins

Mike Liu
Staff Writer

The UBC men's volleyball team kicked their home stand off with a bang, sweeping the series against the Mount Royal Cougars in convincing fashion with back-to-back 3-1 victories this weekend.

Returning home to War Memorial Gym after a 1-3 start to the season, the Thunderbirds came out of the gates ready to play Saturday, trading hard-hitting blows with the Cougars in a tight first set. Middle blocker Jordan

Deshane led the charge with three kills, while outside hitter Coltyn Liu continued his strong play with three aces.

The set went to deuce, but the T-Birds were able to come out on top 28-26.

The second set saw the Thunderbirds seize the initiative and never look back, building up a massive lead over the Cougars. With a red card issued to the Cougars' bench at 22-13, the T-Birds didn't let up and finished them off 25-12 in the second set.

It was the Cougars that jumped out to a lead in the third set, but UBC fought back to tie it at 15-15. After the technical timeout called by Mount Royal, the Cougars brought it to the Thunderbirds and took the third set 25-20.

With the Cougars looking to tie the game up, the fourth set was neck and neck, with neither team yielding an inch.

Trading leads multiple times, it was the Thunderbirds that stood firm and took home the win with a score of 25-22, a final kill by Coltyn Liu sealing the deal. Outside hitter Michael Dowhaniuk was particularly impressive this game, finishing with a team high 15 kills to accompany his three service aces.

The Thunderbirds have a bye week before they return to action on November 15 for a back-to-back series against the University of Calgary Dinos.

With their sweep, the T-Birds improved to 3-3 and look to build on their momentum at home.



The Thunderbirds are back to their winning ways.

ELIZABETH WANG

Thunderbird soccer squads off to U Sports National Championships

Salomon Micko Benrimoh & Andy Phung

Sports Editor & Staff Writer

Both the UBC men's and women's soccer teams are heading to the U Sports National Championships after taking gold and silver respectively in the Canada West finals over the weekend.

The women's team beat fierce rivals Trinity Western 1-0 to open their Canada West final four. A late goal from Nisa Reehal in the 77th minute gave the 'Birds the win over the Spartans, who finished first in Canada West with a 12-1-1 overall record.

The win guaranteed them a spot in the national championships as either first or second seed from the conference, which meant that

bragging rights were the only real thing on the line during the final against the University of Calgary Dinos.

After a goalless first half, the Dinos managed to beat star UBC goalkeeper Emily Moore and take a 1-0 lead, something they would hold onto for the rest of the game.

While it's the second season in a row that the Thunderbirds have fallen to the Dinos, the team is finally returning to nationals for the first time since 2016, when they were runner-ups in the national final against the University of Laval Rouge et Or.

The men's side had a tumultuous time in their Canada West final four. After a rough first half in the opening game with two major injuries, the Thunderbirds

roared back to score two goals against the visiting University of Saskatchewan Huskies to triumphantly head to the Canada West final, also against Calgary. The win also guarantees the men's team a spot in the U Sports National Championships next week in Montréal, Quebec.

Luck wasn't on the side of the T-Birds in the first half. UBC midfielder Mackenzie Cole was injured in the 13th minute after contesting the ball in the Huskies' box.

UBC defender Daniel Kaiser was the next to be hurt by Saskatchewan's tough defense, coming off the field in the 34th minute with a shoulder injury.

Despite these setbacks, the T-Birds still dominated the Huskies, but the first half ended goalless.

Patience has always been the key to victory for the T-Birds, and the game against the Huskies was

no exception. In the 54th minute, Cole's substitute, Kerman Pannu, scored the first goal after receiving star wingback Jordan Haynes's signature long ball.

In the 82nd minute, a breakthrough from speedy winger Victory Shumbusho created a messy situation in Saskatchewan's end of the field. Amidst the confusion, midfielder Sean Einarsson passed the ball to midfielder Thomas Gardner, who then scored his first goal of the postseason from a long shot outside the penalty box. The game ended 2-0 for the T-Birds.

"We've got a hugely deep team," remarked head coach Mike Mosher about UBC's injury issues. "I've got full confidence for the players who came into the game that we can still play well and play the game. If we gotta make changes, we make changes. That's okay."

In the final against Calgary, there was no doubt that the

Thunderbirds were the better team on the field.

The 'Birds absolutely smothered the Dinos on both the offensive and defensive ends, getting a 1-0 lead off a Shumbusho penalty kick in the 26th minute and doubling down just before the end of the first half, courtesy of another goal from midfielder Thomas Gardner.

"I think right now all the boys, we are clicking and I think that's very important. We all now have chemistry [and] I think we are one of the deepest teams in the country as well," said Shumbusho, who was the T-Birds' leading scorer in the regular season.

The men's team will face the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières Patriotes in the opening round of the U Sports National Championships Thursday, while the women's side will face a strong and well-organized Université de Montréal Carabins side on the same day in Victoria.

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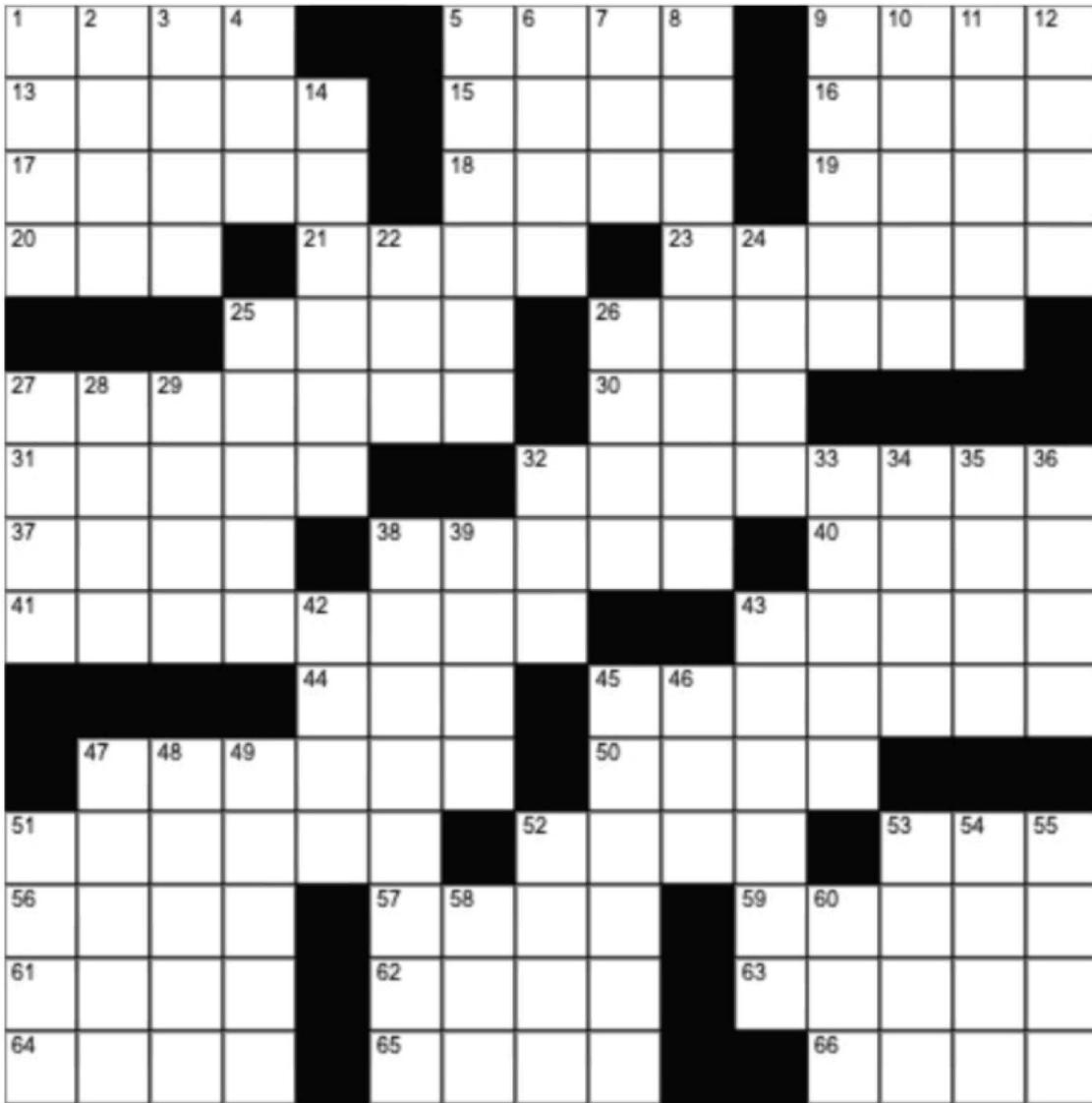
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The Thunderbirds soccer teams will strive for national glory on both ends of the country this weekend.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1. Section
- 5. Encounter
- 9. Soon
- 13. North Dakota city
- 15. Sheltered, at sea
- 16. Novelist Jaffe
- 17. Implements
- 18. Capital of Latvia
- 19. Person who is liable to tell untruths
- 20. NL cap monogram
- 21. Greasy spoon sign
- 23. Man of the cloth
- 25. Work with acid
- 26. Black eye
- 27. Salty Mideastern body
- 30. Peg used on the first in golf
- 31. "Dallas" matriarch
- 32. Wages
- 37. Fuel source
- 38. Golf clubs
- 40. Shrivelled, without moisture
- 41. Communicating corridors
- 43. Dry stalks
- 44. B and B
- 45. Puzzled
- 47. Black magic
- 50. Broad valley
- 51. Capital of Colorado
- 52. Head and shoulders sculpture
- 53. Addams Family cousin
- 56. I could ___ horse!
- 57. Indigo plant
- 59. Pillow filler
- 61. Ink spot
- 62. Fastidious
- 63. Honeybee
- 64. Sort
- 65. Tracy's Trueheart
- 66. What ___ is new?

DOWN

- 1. Tsp. and tbsp.
- 2. Prison uprising
- 3. Chemical suffix
- 4. "You've got mail" co.
- 5. Stewart of home tips
- 6. Some Ivy Leaguers
- 7. Hosp. readout
- 8. Tutors
- 9. Senator Specter
- 10. Boîte ___
- 11. Broadcasting
- 12. DEA agent
- 14. Fly over the equator?
- 22. King beater
- 24. Bank holding
- 25. Prepares for publication
- 26. Laurel or Kenton
- 27. "Pirates of the Caribbean" star
- 28. Zeno's home
- 29. [sigh]
- 32. Greek goddess of the dawn
- 33. Cordage fiber
- 34. Octavia's husband
- 35. Mardi ___
- 36. Puts in stitches
- 38. Unlearned
- 39. Janet of Justice
- 42. West Wing worker
- 43. Cured, in a way
- 45. Grownups
- 46. Univ. aides
- 47. Resembling baby beef
- 48. Dominant
- 49. Egg-shaped
- 51. It's outstanding
- 52. Diagonal
- 53. Billy ___ had a hit song with "White Wedding"
- 54. Change for a fifty
- 55. Woody plant
- 58. Society page word
- 60. Strong feeling of anger

A

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Ubysey's annual Creative Non-Fiction supplement is back and we want you to send us submissions on the topic of **Family ... whatever that means**. Deadline for submissions is **November 10**, check out all the details online at bit.ly/UbyseyCNF

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8					3			
4			1		2	8		
		1	8	3		2	4	9
	8		9	6	4		5	

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did you know that . . .

If human's eyes had the same proportions as owl eyes, they would be the size of softballs.

— James V.

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