



THE UBYSSEY

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NEWS  
UBC rethinks  
undergraduate  
admission process

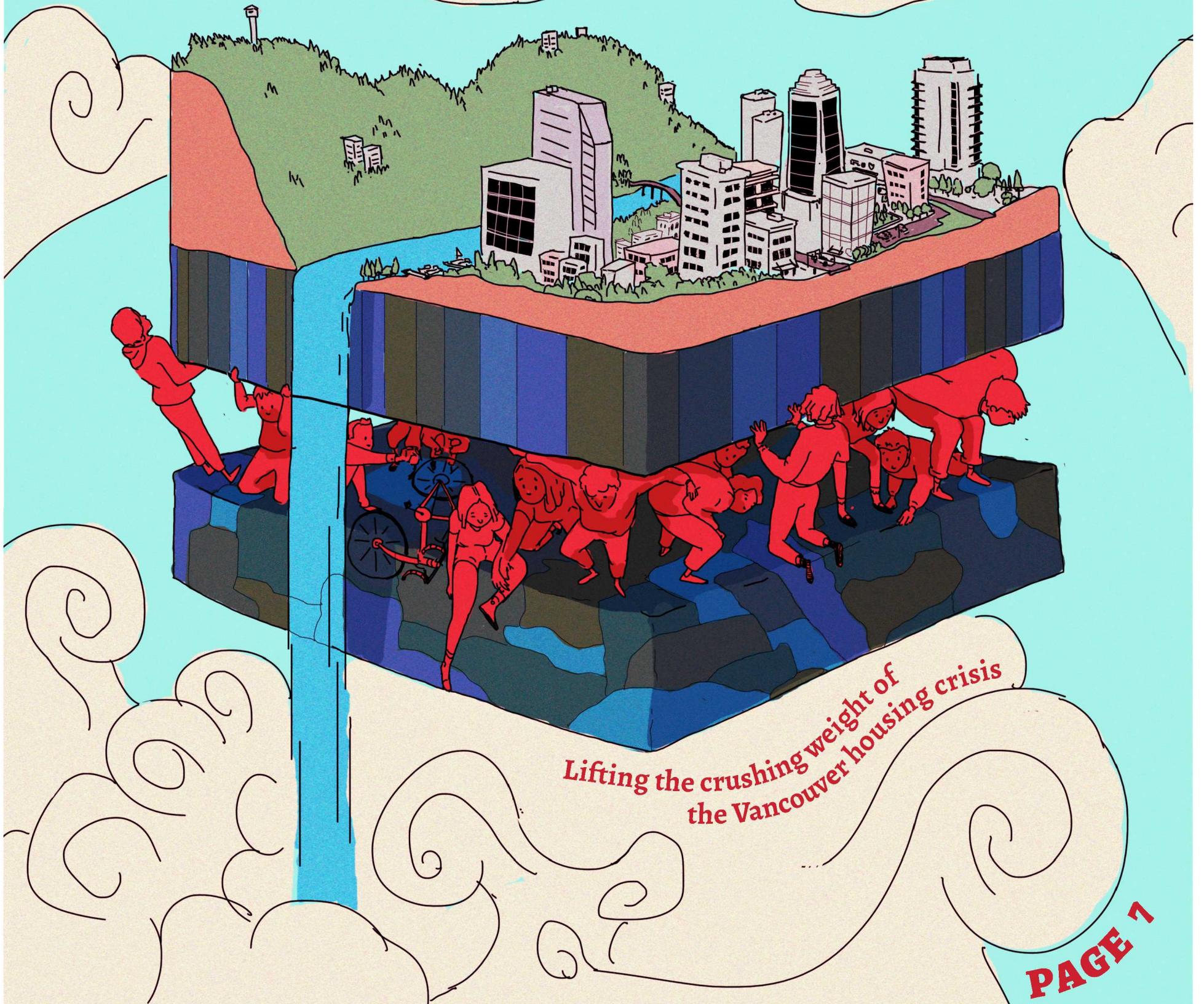
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CULTURE  
We need to  
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OPINIONS  
Seek support on  
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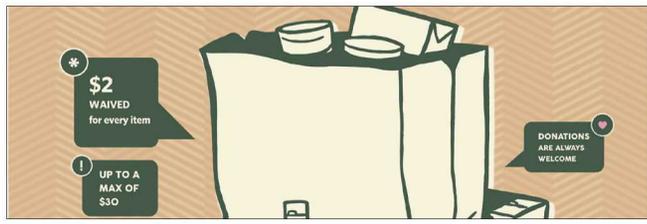
P/13  
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SCIENCE  
Mountain pine  
beetles plague  
BC forests

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SPORTS  
Student trainers are  
warriors behind-  
the-scenes

# Owl "Big One"



## EVENTS



OCTOBER 23 TO NOVEMBER 7

**FOOD FOR FINES** 4 P.M. @ UBC LIBRARIES

\$2 of late fees will be waived for every non-perishable food item (up to a max of \$30) which will be donated to local food banks.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

**DAY OF THE DEAD** 6 P.M. @ MOA

Join us for an immersive evening for this year's Day of the Dead festivities  
FREE FOR STUDENTS



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

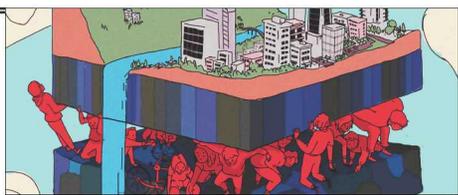
**UBC'S LARGEST ZUMBA** 12 P.M. @ UBC REC

Come wrap-up Thrive 2017 with UBC's Largest Zumba!  
This event is open to everyone.  
FREE

## ON THE COVER

**COVER BY**  
Jordan Byrum

Please don't leave me Jordan.



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[ubyssey.ca/events](http://ubyssey.ca/events)

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The Ubyyssey is a founding member of Canadian University Press (CUP) and adheres to CUP's guiding principles. The Ubyyssey accepts opinion articles on any topic related to the University of British Columbia (UBC) and/or topics relevant to students attending UBC. Submissions must be written by UBC students, professors, alumni, or those in a suitable position (as determined by the opinions editor) to speak on UBC-related matters. Submissions must not contain racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, harassment or discrimination. Authors and/or submissions will not be published from publication-based solely on association with particular ideologies or subject matter that some may find objectionable. Approval for publication is, however, dependent on the quality of the argument and the Ubyyssey editorial board's judgment of appropriate content. Submissions may be sent by email to [opinion@ubyssey.ca](mailto:opinion@ubyssey.ca). Please include your student number or other proof of identification. Anonymous submissions will be accepted on extremely rare occasions. Requests for anonymity will be granted upon agreement from four fifths of the editorial board. Full opinions policy may be found at [ubyssey.ca/submit-an-opinion](http://ubyssey.ca/submit-an-opinion). It is agreed by all persons placing display or classified advertising that if the Ubyyssey Publications Society fails to publish an advertisement or an error in the ad occurs the liability of the UPS will not be greater than the price paid for the ad. The UPS shall not be responsible for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value or the impact of the ads.

## OUR CAMPUS

# Our Campus: Peter Klein innovates international journalism with launch of Global Reporting Centre



COURTESY PETER KLEIN

Peter Klein is leveraging new forms of collaboration to innovate how journalism is done.

**David Nixon**  
Contributor

In the early 2000s, Peter Klein did something unusual for a journalist. He collaborated.

Klein was working on a story for *60 Minutes* that would expose CIA connections to the South African apartheid regime's bio warfare program. He had a problem, though — a *New York Times* reporter was on the same trail.

"We realized we had huge caches of information on two sides of the story," said Klein. "So we could either kill ourselves racing to break the story first, or we could share."

So they shared. Today, that's not out of the ordinary, but in 2002 it was almost unheard of — journalists were a competitive bunch.

"We had to do it totally on the down low," said Klein, likening it to dating when your parents wouldn't approve. "By the time we told our bosses, we made sure it was a fait accompli, so there wasn't much they could do."

Klein's collaboration was the first of many between the two media giants, and it's become a theme of his career ever since. Today at UBC, he's once again leveraging new forms of collaboration to innovate how journalism is done.

Klein is a three-time Emmy award-winning journalist and filmmaker. He's a long time producer for CBS's *60 Minutes*. His work has appeared on *PBS Frontline*, *ABC News*, *Al Jazeera*, *The New York Times* and the *Daily*

This has led to more "parachute journalism" — when a writer swoops in only for the negative stories that make flashy, scandalous headlines back home. The GRC's model sidesteps the high cost of bureaus while avoiding parachute journalism.

"The point is to challenge the foreign journalist parachute model by empowering journalists around the world, as well as non-journalist storytellers," said Klein. "This notion of empowerment journalism is a big part of what we're trying to do."

The centre's 18 projects include "America's Digital Dumping Ground" — which exposed the impact of North American digital waste being dumped in China — and *Alcoholics Unanonymous*, which is ongoing and aims to empower people in Indigenous communities to tell their own stories about alcohol dependence.

Despite this success, Klein and the GRC still face some key existential questions as the centre reaches its anniversary this month. They're operating through space cobbled together by the journalism school and the Liu Institute of Global Issues, and it's unclear if the GRC will be part of UBC or a stand-alone centre. He's also working on a replacement for the soon-to-expire IRP class, which may run via the GRC.

For Klein, running the centre is something new, though he's held managerial roles before. He feels stifled by the paperwork, but appreciates the flexibility it gives for choosing projects and for family time with his wife and four kids.

"I swore I'd never do management again," he said. "But I think I've come full circle a little bit and I'm doing ... the kinds of stories I want to do, with the people I want to work with. There's a sacrifice you make for that."

Klein's come full circle in more than one way. Today, a small musical keyboard looms large next to the desk in his office — one of the few constants in his life. Before becoming a journalist, Klein was a jazz musician. Music has been an influence on his life and career ever since.

He even submitted a symphony with his application to Penn State. You might assume this was for their music program, but it was not. He was applying to the agricultural school's wildlife sciences program, hoping to become a park ranger. It was as unusual as cooperating with competing journalists at the turn of the millennium.

No other genre of music provokes so much debate as jazz. Fans call it "defiant" and "inventive." It's a highly interactive genre known for creative collaboration. Miles Davis famously wrote in his autobiography, "I don't care if a dude is purple with green breath as long as he can swing."

Klein brings the best of jazz to journalism.

*Show*, among others. He's been a professor at UBC's Graduate School of Journalism since 2005, where he served a term as its director from 2011 to 2015.

Klein is well known at the journalism school for founding its International Reporting Program (IRP) in 2008. Each year, 10 journalism students are chosen from a pool of applicants to report multimedia stories about an under-covered global issue. The IRP's funding expires in 2018, however, and so far the school has been unable to secure more.

"There wasn't much interest in funding a single class, and we always had so many more than just 10 students hoping to participate each year," said Klein. "So we realized maybe there's value in doing something bigger."

And so the Global Reporting Centre (GRC) was born in June of 2016 — a non-profit whose mission is to report the world's neglected stories and innovate how global journalism is done. Journalists and scholars partner with local journalists around the world to help them tell the stories important to their communities. Today, the centre's website features 18 projects, 30 staff, 33 collaborators and an advisory board of 25.

Like competition, foreign bureaus and correspondents have long been a staple of journalism — but they're expensive. As a result, they have been among the first casualties of the industry's collapsing print advertising revenue.

## HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINT //

# UBC denies discrimination in its handling of sexual assault reports

**Alex Nguyen**  
News Editor

As part of its response to alumna Glynnis Kirchmeier's human rights complaint, UBC denies any discrimination in how it handled sexual assault reports. The university said it "reserves the right to apply to dismiss the complainant without a hearing," but has not done so yet.

Filed in March 2016, Kirchmeier's complaint outlines the various cases of sexual assault or harassment of female students by alleged assailant Dmitry Mordvinov — a former PhD student who was expelled in 2015 — that were reported to UBC.

The complaint alleges that UBC responded to the complainants in an insufficient and untimely manner and silenced them, which resulted in "an unsafe environment" and "diminished equality."

Besides the Mordvinov cases, the complaint also represents any female students who communicated a concern about sexual misconduct by a male student or employee to a UBC's administrative staff or faculty between January 8, 2014 and November 16, 2015.

To address the different groups, UBC split its response into two sections. The first one

outlines the university's relevant policies and resources, including the university's sexual assault policy and its offices, which were not mandated and therefore did not exist during the handling of these cases.

"The policy section is kind of this dry, factual list that doesn't invite people to make inferences about why they would include it," said Kirchmeier. "They don't necessarily draw an explicit conclusion like, 'Because we have Policy 3 — [the discrimination and harassment policy] — such and such couldn't be true.'"

She also noted the exclusion of interim President Martha Piper's apology in acknowledgement of the CBC's investigation into the university's delayed actions, as well as the process review of UBC's response to sexual assault and harassment reports.

Conducted by barrister Paula Butler in late 2015 to early 2016, the review found that UBC lacked clarity around both its policy and processes due to too many contact points for complainants, lack of clarity within Policy 3, and complainant and staff's unfamiliarity with it.

The report says there were "clear delays" in the process, which were caused by the "absence of clear timelines" in Policy 3 and "human errors," which added to the perceived silencing.

"Rereading Butler's report, it seems that she directly identified some of the things that happened in the Mordvinov complaint process as problematic," Kirchmeier said. "It's interesting that [UBC] chose to pretend that Butler didn't make a conclusion like that."

Butler's review does not find "an abuse of process or failure of procedural fairness" in UBC's handling of the reports. Kirchmeier said the review was to measure whether UBC has followed its policies, and not whether discrimination has occurred.

The second section gives the university's account of how the Mordvinov cases were handled, which Kirchmeier disputed on various points.

While UBC claimed that she never contacted Director of Conflict Management Monica Kay to file a formal complaint, Kirchmeier recalled being told by Kay that it was not possible for her to do so because she was an alumna and also was not a "victim of the behaviour."

UBC claims in the response that that's untrue. Instead, they say, the issue was about the timeliness of Kirchmeier's information.

UBC also discusses Kirchmeier's allegation of silencing — which was in part attributed to Kay's comparison

of students telling people about Mordvinov to having "a snake in the room and turning out the lights."

"By her comments, Ms. Kay intended to caution the students against making serious allegations of [Mordvinov] as a perpetrator of sexual assault when those assaults are still unsubstantiated, and intended to convey the fear those allegations could cause," reads UBC's response.

"It was insulting to us because it made us seem like we are liars, running around, just spreading this," she said. "[They think] it's not discriminatory to tell women to be quiet if they try to warn each other about the allegation or warn each other about the experiences with the predator or talk about the university failing to deal properly with the predator ... It's just terribly sexist."

She expects the university to apply for a dismissal of her complaint.

If that doesn't happen, UBC and Kirchmeier will move forward to the disclosure period, where both sides are required to release documents that they will rely on to support their argument. Her deadline would be November 22, but it is unclear when the university's would be.

UBC has declined to comment on its response to Kirchmeier's human rights complaint. [T](#)

## TRIAL //

## Almestadi found not criminally responsible for attempted murder in UBC dorm attack



Almestadi, 19, in court.

FILE AIKEN LAO

**Samantha McCabe**  
News Editor

On October 26, Thamer Almestadi was found not criminally responsible due to mental disorder for attacking a fellow UBC student in her dorm room in October 2016. Almestadi, 19, had been charged with attempted murder, aggravated assault and assault with a weapon.

BC Supreme Court Judge Margot L. Fleming accepted that Almestadi was suffering from a mental disorder at the time of the offence.

"It is also clear to me that ... Mr. Almestadi's brief psychotic disorder rendered him incapable of knowing that attempting to kill [Mary] Hare was morally wrong," she told the court in her decision.

After the verdict, Crown Counsel Daniel Porte asked for a variation to the detention order, and for Almestadi to be put into a psychiatric hospital pending disposition by a specialized review board. Judge Fleming accepted this request — Almestadi will be transferred to the Forensic Psychiatric Hospital in Coquitlam.

Throughout the two weeks of proceedings, the court heard testimony from several witnesses on Almestadi's high stress levels during his first month as an engineering student at UBC, including from his roommate, residence advisor, acquaintances and Almestadi himself. The court also heard from Dr. Jeannette Smith, a psychiatrist called by the defence who testified that in her expert opinion, Almestadi had been suffering from a weeks-long brief psychotic episode (BPE).

According to Smith, the BPE caused paranoia and delusions that led to Almestadi's attack on victim Mary Hare — first violently cutting her throat and then trying to choke her, while believing that he was fulfilling the will of God.

Porte agreed that while Almestadi did attempt to murder Hare, he should be found not criminally responsible due to proven mental health issues. [T](#)



The report says there were "clear delays" in the process.

FILE JOSH MEDICOFF

## ADMISSION //

# UBC Vancouver Senate approves new academic approach to undergraduate admission process

Joshua Azizi  
Staff Writer

The UBC Vancouver Senate has recently approved a new, holistic approach to student admissions that will require applicants to submit the near-entirety of their grade 11 and 12 marks. It will also require students to submit a number of high school courses relevant to their program of interest.

In contrast, the former system only required them to submit their best academic grade 12 marks, though the number they were required to submit varied between provinces.

According to Andrew Arida, director of undergraduate admissions, what's changing is not what's required to get into UBC but the process that UBC will use to assess applicants.

"It's not going to be any harder to get in," he said. "You don't have to take any additional courses, and there aren't additional requirements. It's just [that] we're re-thinking the way we make competitive assessments."

## CHANGES TO THE PROCESS

This new approach to the application process will consist of four distinct student assessments.

In assessing their overall average, UBC will look at all of an applicant's grade 11 and 12 marks — with the exception of their lowest grade. Marks in applied design, skills and technology; physical and health education; as well as career and personal planning classes will also be excluded.

They will further submit a "core average," which is a set of courses that are relevant to the program that the applicant intends to go into. Likewise, minimum grade thresholds will be imposed on key courses that are critical to the program a student is applying to, such as pre-calculus 12 for the faculty of science.

Applicants are expected to submit a minimum of six grade 12 marks for their overall average and four grade 12 marks for their core average, although those who submit fewer will still be considered on a discretionary basis.

This new approach will also add an additional section to the personal profile, in which applicants will have to write a short paragraph explaining why they took the academic path that they did.

Although students will be primarily assessed on their grades, students who are closer to or just below the cut-off line for admissions will be assessed on various characteristics that can be determined from looking at several factors in their educational history. Examples include the amount and types of classes that a student took and the individual context of a student's educational situation.

For instance, a student who fell just below the cut-off line for admissions but was also enrolled in many classes or a number of



The chamber where Senate meetings take place.

ZUBAIR HIRJI

enriched classes will be recognized for taking those classes.

These new standards will first be put in place for students applying in 2018/19 school year. It is also important to note that the new standards are only approved in principle, and could still be substantially changed or even stopped.

## EXPECTED BENEFITS

Arida said that the idea of changing UBC's admission process was initially sparked by the upcoming changes to the high school curriculums of BC and the Yukon, which inspired them to review how they assess applicants in general.

He argued that by using a holistic approach to university admissions that analyzes all of a student's grades while also placing emphasis on courses that are relevant to their program of interest, UBC will be able to get a better grasp on the student's academic abilities.

"The idea here is to say, 'I have 100 students and I only have 50 spaces, I need to assess those students,'" he said. "I could assess them on things that are meaningful, I can assess those on things that are meaningless. I want to make sure that the assessments are on the most meaningful things possible."

"Now, in the end, it could be the same 50 who gets in, but I'll feel like I've done a better job of understanding."

As a result, Arida claimed that these new admission standards will bring in students who will perform better in their first year.

In an emailed statement, he explained that UBC tested this new admission process with

the students who entered UBC in 2016 and found that it had a higher statistical relationship with these students' first year grades than their current admissions process did.

Due to these changes, it's predicted that there will be fewer admission revocations.

"Something that we [currently] see is really high interim grades ... but then sometimes what happens is by the time it gets to the final, the grades drop," said Jaymi Booth, a student senator who sits on the Admissions Committee. "When we see appeals and the averages have dropped so significantly, we are able to look back at their high school history and see 'ok, they weren't doing competitively in grades 9, 10, 11 — why do we admit them?'"

By looking at almost all of their marks in grades 11 and 12, Booth argued that the new admissions process will be a better predictor of first year success. She also said that the process will be beneficial for students who are unable to take many grade 12 courses because the new section in the personal profile will let them further explain their educational history.

"If you're not able to meet that minimum of four grade 12's, you'll still be considered — at a slight disadvantage, of course — but you'll have a chance later on to explain yourself [and] why you chose your education path," Booth said. "Your school district might be in consideration because if you're in a more rural area, maybe there weren't enough courses to fill up those four in your core courses."

## CONCERNS IN THE SENATE

Although this new approach passed unanimously in the Senate,

there was a very long debate about it in which many senators raised concerns.

According to Qadeem Salehmohamed — a student senator who also sits on the Admissions Committee — one concern was about how the core average component would place pressure on students to know their exact academic path in high school.

"Students pick their courses at the end of grade 11 — maybe it's a lot to expect of a sixteen year old to know what they want to do with the rest of their life?" he said.

Another concern revolved around whether or not the new admission standards will benefit or hinder applicants from lower socio-economic communities or rural areas where applicants might not be able to take the requested amount of courses.

"It might be a lot easier for you to get eight classes in grade 12 if you go to a large school in an urban area than it would be for you to get that many classes than if you go to a smaller school that doesn't offer as much," said Arida, elaborating the concern. "Or if you have a part time job because you need to raise money to pay for your education."

In response to it, he then stated that the new section in the personal profile would serve as an equity measure by giving students with less courses the ability to explain their situation.

## IS IT MORE DIFFICULT?

When asked if the new admission processes would make getting into UBC more or less difficult, Salehmohamed hesitated to give a hard answer but eventually said that he would consider them more difficult if he had to choose.

"They're looking at more courses, so no longer are you able to work really hard in the four courses that UBC is going to look at and ignore everything else and do just okay at everything," he said. "Now they're looking at more courses, they're looking at your overall academic performance. So I think yeah, they may be a little bit more difficult in that way because you have to perform well all around in more courses."

Likewise, Booth acknowledged that it would require grade 11 students to put more thought into their path out of high school.

"There's a bigger decision at hand in terms of knowing what you want to study so that you're meeting those core courses," she said. "But at the end of the day, I think that that is a good thing — as a student, I put that much thought into it and I think it's important to think about what you're doing when you're going into university."

In contrast, Arida doesn't think they would be more difficult because the same number of students will be admitted anyways.

"All this is going to do is it's going to change the way we do the assessments," he said.

Nonetheless, he acknowledged that students with a high number of courses in a field that they don't want to study will be at a disadvantage.

"If you have nothing but science courses and you want to get into arts, I'd rather see somebody who's really interested in arts," said Arida. "Now does that mean you can't have anything but arts courses? Absolutely not ... [but] what we want to put in place puts an appropriate amount of emphasis on certain courses." 

## MONEY //

## UBC employees owed millions in unsent paycheques from 1992 to 2016

**Jack Hauen**  
Coordinating Editor

If you worked for UBC sometime in the past 25 years, you might be missing a cheque. The good news is that if you are, it's easy to find — and it's accumulated interest.

The university noticed in the summer of 2016 that thousands of paycheques, dating back to 1992, hadn't been paid to their intended recipients.

After conducting a payroll review, UBC paid all 1,431 current employees the \$981,000 they were owed. The remaining 13,395 cheques — worth a total of \$3.47 million — were transferred to the BC Unclaimed Properties Society (BCUPS), where former employees can enter their name to see if they're owed money.

A packet of background information on key issues in BC higher learning, given to *The Ubyesey* by Vancouver journalist Stanley Tromp, prepares incoming BC NDP Minister of Advanced Education Melanie Mark to talk to the media about the missing money.

"If Pressed: The University of British Columbia has many visiting scholars, sessional instructors, student employees and other part-time temporary workers who may be unaware a cheque is missing," it reads.

Mark's office declined to comment.

Trish Pekeles, UBC's executive director of financial operations since June 2016, came across the missing cheques, which were sitting in locked cabinets, just after she started.

"As I looked at this I realized ... that something was wrong," she said.

Pekeles said most of the cheques were the first that employees would have received — they were written for those who didn't fill out their direct deposit forms in time. She isn't sure why the cheques weren't picked up.

When asked for an interview, VP Finance Andrew Simpson referred questions to Pekeles. Pierre Ouillet, UBC's VP Finance from 2009 to 2014, did not respond to a request for comment.

"We did phone, we did try and email, we did contact departments," Pekeles said. "We made every effort we could."

Everything, she said, except mailing them out. Pekeles has since introduced a new policy where cheques are now sent to employees if they're not picked up within two weeks.

The government document says UBC's review found that cheques were "stored improperly," a comment Pekeles took issue with.

"I can assure employees that the cheques were properly stored in locked cabinets and kept in a secure location to ensure

employees could be duly paid when they came to claim their cheques," she wrote in an emailed statement. "Having said that, we agree with the ministry's note that storing paper cheques for that length of time is not good practice."

Pekeles said she is working with faculties to ensure new employees are signed up with direct deposit as soon as possible, which has resulted in a "dramatic reduction" in the number of cheques sent out during UBC's September hiring wave, according to her.

The BCUPS is sending letters to former employees who are owed money.

Martin Livingston, who manages communications for the society, said he couldn't provide an update on how the search was going because UBC transferred the money to the BCUPS through the Employment Standards Branch (ESB) of the provincial government — meaning UBC's unclaimed cheques were lumped in with the rest of the money that the BCUPS receives from the ESB.

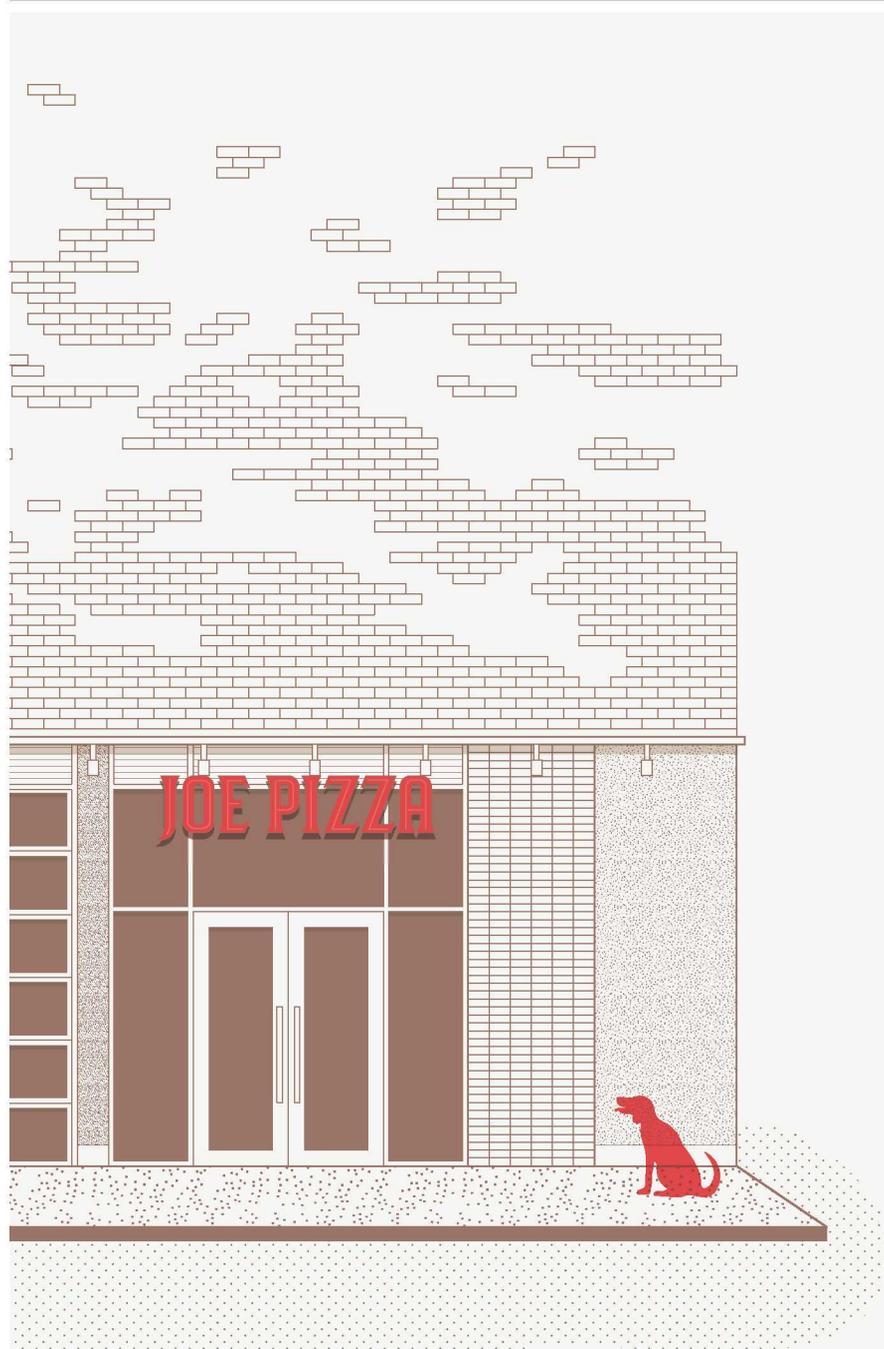
Most cheques were under \$500, according to the document, but Pekeles said UBC added interest, compounded annually using the Bank of Canada's rate.

"We wanted to make sure not only did we get people their money, but that we made them whole," she said. 



Most cheques were under \$500, according to the document.

PATRICK GILLIN



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WELLNESS //

# Mind your mind: Seek help from peer support groups on campus

**Daphnée Lévesque**  
Contributor

During my first few years at university, I felt incredibly lonely and disconnected from the people around me. Having been diagnosed with a mental illness, I struggled with managing both my symptoms and academic responsibilities. I felt like I had no one to turn to and oftentimes felt as though my friends and family didn't understand me.

Luckily, I ended up getting mental health support by reaching out to the different resources offered on campus. Through that process, I discovered that in addition to the services on campus, there are also several peer support groups hosted at UBC. I started attending them regularly, and eventually I made some close friends and became a peer facilitator myself.

It's been almost a year since I became a mental health peer facilitator, and I want to let people know that there is help available out there. Even though it can be hard to find, it still exists — I promise you.

There are three main peer support groups on campus that meet on a weekly or bi-weekly basis — Kaleidoscope, S.H.A.R.E and VICE. Before going into details, here's a few things to keep in mind:

The groups are student-run and operate on a peer-to-peer, drop-in basis.



There are several peer support groups hosted at UBC.

FILE STEPHANIE WU

They are not replacements for other forms of treatment, such as counselling, and facilitators are not mental health professionals.

The groups are confidential and based on active listening, rather than unsolicited advice giving.

The groups aim to provide attendees with a safe, inclusive, stigma free and non-judgmental space.

## KALEIDOSCOPE

Kaleidoscope was the first mental health support group at

UBC. Their primary goal is to provide an environment where individuals who identify as having lived experience with a mental illness, or who struggle with other mental health issues, can share their experiences and support each other in the process.

Through open dialogue, Kaleidoscope members have the opportunity to share their stories without fearing discrimination. At the same time, connections are often formed, in the hopes that people feel less isolated and alone in their struggle.

You may want to give this resource a try if you are facing a mental health challenge or have concerns relating to your mental well-being.

**When/Where:** Tuesdays 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in BUCH B307 and Thursdays 5 to 6 p.m. in IBLC 157

## S.H.A.R.E (SELF-HARM ANONYMOUS RECOVERY AND EDUCATION)

Often called the “sister group” of Kaleidoscope, S.H.A.R.E operates using similar guidelines. S.H.A.R.E promotes self-care and aims to provide support to those directly or indirectly affected by self-harm. The group is recovery-oriented, aims to create a positive space and respects that each person brings a unique perspective or experience.

You may want to give this resource a try if you struggle with any type of self-harm behaviour or unhealthy coping mechanism, including but not limited to: physical self-injury, reckless driving, risky sexual behaviours, binge-drinking and so on.

**When/Where:** Mondays 6 to 7 p.m. in IBLC 157

## VICE

VICE is an AMS service that provides peer dialogue, education and mentorship relating to

substance use patterns. Every two weeks, VICE collaborates with Kaleidoscope in hosting group peer support sessions. Anyone looking for support regarding addictive substances is welcome.

You may want to give this resource a try if you have concerns with alcohol, drugs, technology or other addictive substances or behaviours.

**When/Where:** Every second Wednesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Nest, room 2508

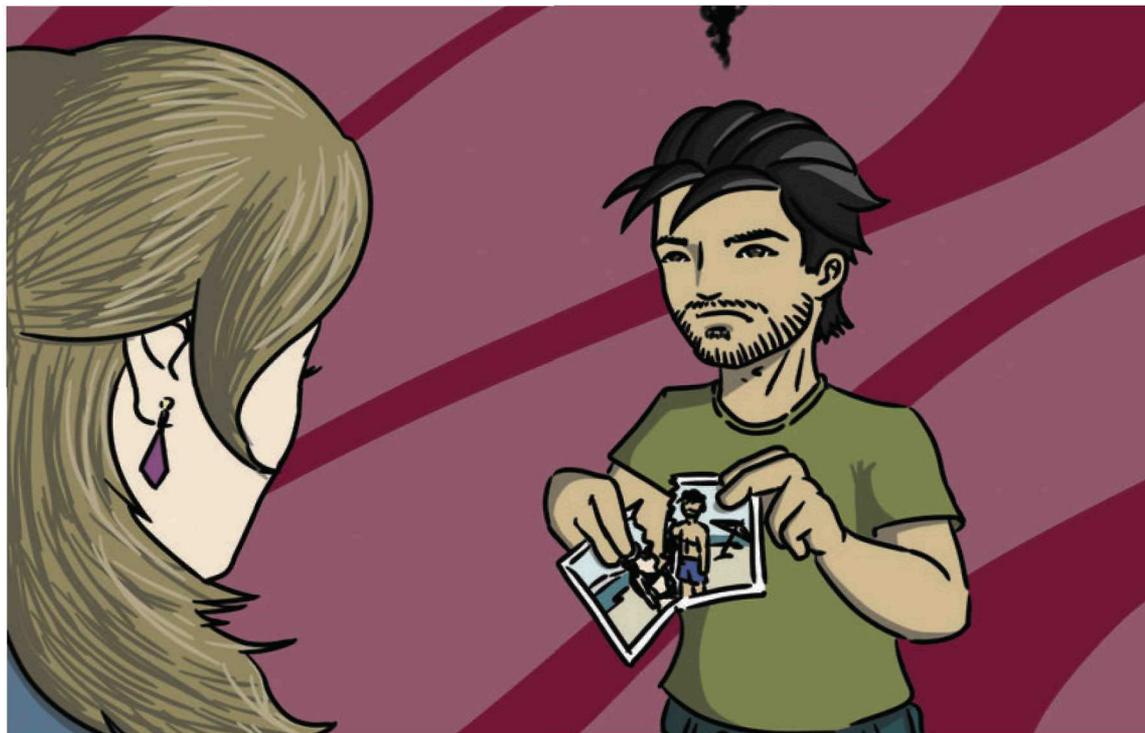
At first, I was reluctant to join any kind of support group. I can acknowledge the fact that showing up in the first place can be terrifying — oftentimes, it's the hardest part. But I also wholeheartedly believe that these support groups are filled with people who are genuine, caring and empathetic.

Every day, I am inspired by their resilience. They offer well-intended guidance and you will often hear them say two simple, powerful words — “me too.” They are proof that we are all in this together, and that you are never alone. 📧

*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 an emergency, please call 911.*

ADVICE //

# Ask Natalie: Bite the bullet and block him



“Don't lie and don't beat around the bush.”

FILE JULIAN YU

**Natalie Morris**  
Design Editor

“Dear Natalie,

A few weeks ago I went on a date with this guy, and it mostly went pretty well except for a few things he said on the date that kind of irked me. For the most part, we had a good time chatting, but these red flags keep popping up in my mind. He asked me if I want to have kids and I said no, and he tried

to persuade me that I should. It was a brief conversation, but afterwards it left a bit of a mark. The next day, he sent me a text asking what I thought about being in a committed relationship with him. I said that these things take time, and I wasn't going to jump to any conclusions after one date. The next few days, he texted me repeatedly talking about how he fantasizes about me and our life together, married and with kids, and at that point, I

was kind of freaked out. I went from vague, chilly responses to just not responding to his texts. He continued to contact me, asking if I'm okay, asking if I want to go on another date, and it was clear he hasn't gotten the message. Do I continue to ghost him or let him know that he scared me away with his over-eagerness?”

Oh, I had one of these guys once. It took a series of texts of me trying to end things “nicely,”

becoming less friendly with each text, before I just told him I didn't feel like we were working out. He texted me a month or so later, asking for another chance. I blocked him.

If he's not getting the ghosting, then you just have to bite the bullet and tell him you're not interested in seeing him anymore. You don't need an excuse — in fact I would advise against an excuse because that leaves you open to him picking it apart. It can get messy. Don't lie and don't beat around the bush.

Send him something like, “I've been thinking and I don't think we should see each other anymore.” If he presses you for a reason, which judging this guy from here he probably will, tell him some version of the truth. “I'm sure I don't want kids and I don't feel comfortable entering something serious with someone who doesn't feel the same,” or “I think we're looking for different things. I need to feel compatible with my partners.” Make it about you rather than him. It's a cop-out, but it's one that will make things a lot easier.

And then block him and get ice cream or something. If you want, you can wait for a reply, but block him right after that. Don't give him a chance to make you regret ending things.

I know it might feel shitty but you're worth more than some guy who won't take a hint, respect you or be a good partner. You're worth more than that. You just have to believe it.

“Natalie,

**How do I overcome the mid-semester slump? I started the semester really strong, but the past week or so I've been becoming more and more tired, bored and unmotivated, and like I need some time to refresh and refocus.**

**I'm used to having fall breaks, but since that's not an option, is there any way I can get recharge my batteries without my grades suffering and within the confines of university life?”**

Take a break. Give yourself a weekend where you don't do any school work. Don't let the weekend waste away. Don't just lay in bed, watching Netflix. Do something your heart enjoys — painting, Granville Island, shopping downtown, going to the main branch of the Vancouver Public Library and reading all day. Do something that will make you feel like you again.

Midterms are rough on everyone but it's important to give yourself some breathing room. Try to get your work done before the weekend and then make sure you don't touch your school work. Mental health is important. You are important. Good grades are nice, but you need to make sure you don't lose yourself in the meantime. 📧

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

I have friends who are second- or third-year, and they've been on waitlists for a studio in Ponderosa for eight months or something crazy like that," said first-year student Nicholas Rahming.

"I'm in the department where we are losing young people ... and we can't hire new people once they see the price of housing," said mathematics professor Dr. Nassif Ghossoub.

"I simply could not continue commuting for so many hours per day, particularly with a young son," said former Associate Dean in the faculty of graduate studies Thomas Pedersen about his three-and-a-half hour commute between Bowen Island and UBC, in a previous interview with *The Ubysey*.

From students' housing insecurity to the university's loss of talent, the diverse and far-reaching impacts of Vancouver's expensive housing market on UBC are clear.

Yet these are just three stories within a multitude of housing struggles that have been extensively documented by *The Georgia Straight's* Renters of Vancouver series and past coverage by *The Ubysey* and other media outlets.

And there doesn't seem to be an end in sight for this issue — this year alone, UBC "reached an all-time

high of 6,000 [waitlisted] students," according to reporting by CBC, and the average rental rate for a one-bedroom apartment in the city surpassed \$2,000 in 2017. According to the 2017 Student Issues Survey, students in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver who don't live with family now pay, on average, \$999.29 per month for rent.

With much attention already given to the problems, *The Ubysey* instead examined the solutions this time: what are UBC and the AMS doing to mitigate the effects of the Vancouver housing crisis on students, staff and faculty? As the 2012 Housing Action Plan comes under review in December, what tangible solutions can UBC community members facing increasing financial burdens expect?

#### SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Evident by the number of times that UBC has been referred to as the "University of Building Construction" by students and the number of detours on campus, it is building constantly.

Since 2011, the number of beds in student residence has increased from just under 9,000 to 11,796 according to a media backgrounder, making UBC the largest provider of on-campus housing in Canada. This increase was brought

about by an investment of \$419.5 million into several projects, with Orchard Commons and Ponderosa Commons being the most significant at \$127.5 million and \$165.5 million respectively.

Two developments worth "close to half a billion dollars" are also underway for 2021 — Gage South Student Residence that is being built in conjunction with the new bus loop and one that is still in development. Together, these two developments are expected to create 1,300 new beds and bring the total to 13,100.

More importantly, these numbers are reaching toward an objective set by UBC's 2014 Vancouver Campus Plan and 2015-amended Land Use Plan: building enough on-campus accommodation for 50 per cent of the 2010 full-time student population, or approximately 16,000 beds. While this goal is subject to available resources, UBC has stated in its 2017 backgrounder that there is "land set aside to build up to 17,000 beds."

Demand is also a deciding variable, but it is unlikely to slow down enough to hinder development.

"Student demand for on-campus housing has expanded significantly since [2010]. Updating this commitment to reflect current demand and ensure that

we continue to add beds past the 2010 targets is important," said student member of the UBC Board of Governors Kevin Doering in an emailed statement.

According to AMS President Alan Ehrenholz, the desire to live on campus goes beyond wanting a quick commute — it's about students taking advantage of things they can't with so much time spent in traffic or the financial pressure of finding a place in the expensive neighbouring areas.

"You see 6,000 students on the waitlist and you kind of think, 'Holy man, that's a lot of students who are looking for a place to stay.' Where are those students going?" said Ehrenholz. "Maybe they're going back home, maybe they're finding a place in Kits, but there is a desire to live on campus because it puts you so much closer and more central to the campus and the campus community.

"[The AMS is] looking to advocate to the university for affordability of course, but also for accessibility. And accessibility means more beds — more beds for students to sleep in."

For staff and faculty who often want more permanent solutions than September-through-April leases, the solution goes beyond increasing the general supply of housing.

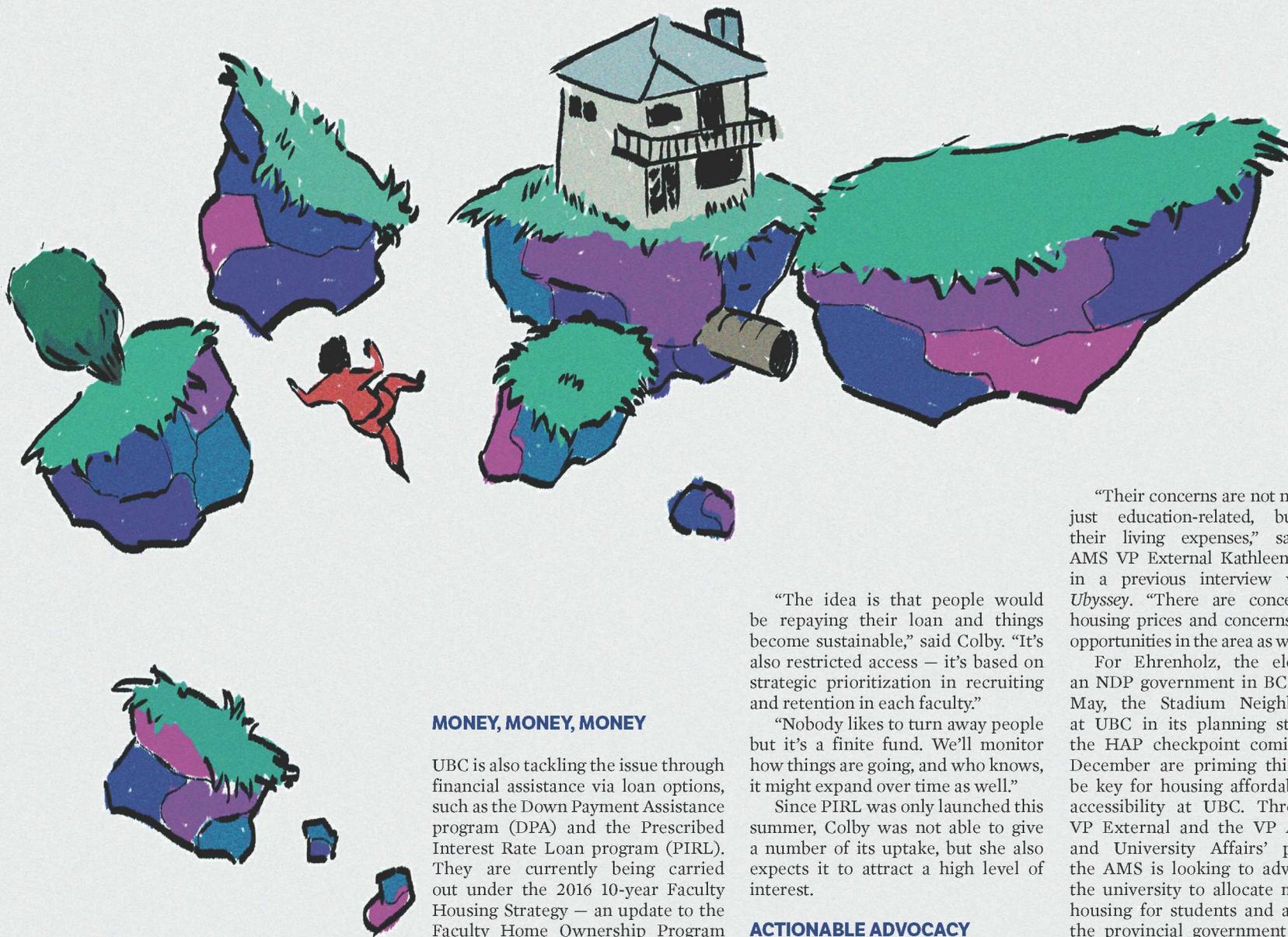
# Ow! "Big One"

The Vancouver housing crisis is creating a crushing pressure even UBC doesn't know how to fully solve.

Words by Alex Nguyen, Moira Wyton & Emma Hicks

Art by Jordan Byrum





### MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

UBC is also tackling the issue through financial assistance via loan options, such as the Down Payment Assistance program (DPA) and the Prescribed Interest Rate Loan program (PIRL). They are currently being carried out under the 2016 10-year Faculty Housing Strategy — an update to the Faculty Home Ownership Program (FHOP) that was introduced in 2014. Both plans operate under HAP.

These offers are also only available to faculty — especially those with tenure or tenure-track — as part of UBC's recruitment and retention strategy.

First introduced in 2009, DPA offers an annual \$45,000 forgivable loan over five years with no interest to members who wish to buy a house in Metro Vancouver and Bowen Island. For faculty who joined after July 1, 2017, this amount has been increased to adjust for inflation.

When asked if faculty find this level of assistance to be sufficient given Vancouver's skyrocketing housing prices, Colby acknowledged the challenge.

"All of these programs are evolving. For recruitment and retention [reasons], we want to help mitigate this problem for people. These are things that we may modify as we realize that they need to be modified," she said.

According to her, it is also "very popular" — on average, approximately 50 people have taken advantage of the program per year since its start.

In contrast, PIRL offers a one-time but larger loan between \$50,000 and \$500,000 for home purchase in Metro Vancouver and UBC. Recipients would be chosen by the Provost's or Dean's Allocation Committee based on merit.

Since this program is funded by the Faculty Housing Assistance Financing Endowment — a new \$10.4 million fund that partly derives from UBC Properties Trust's (UBCPT) land lease proceeds to the university — its capacity is limited.

"The idea is that people would be repaying their loan and things become sustainable," said Colby. "It's also restricted access — it's based on strategic prioritization in recruiting and retention in each faculty."

"Nobody likes to turn away people but it's a finite fund. We'll monitor how things are going, and who knows, it might expand over time as well."

Since PIRL was only launched this summer, Colby was not able to give a number of its uptake, but she also expects it to attract a high level of interest.

### ACTIONABLE ADVOCACY

Housing affordability in the abstract is a complex issue, but at the individual student level it takes on new implications for what UBC can reasonably offer its students — and what it can expect them to be able to take advantage of.

The AMS, which has housing advocacy as a key priority in multiple portfolios, sees the direct impacts that affordability of housing and consequently the cost of living has on the students it represents. In particular, the 2017 AMS Academic Experience Survey showed that 19 per cent of undergraduates lacked a dependable nighttime residence at least once during their degree.

"Affordability touches so many different aspects of [students'] lives, not just in housing but in the food they eat, in their transportation to and from campus [and] so on and so forth," said Ehrenholz. "It's very important to them and it does play a large role in their ability to engage with this campus, to be an active member of the campus community and affordability really can affect their degree overall."

Last spring, the AMS conducted the Student Issue Survey (SIS) in partnership with nine other post-secondary institutions in the Lower Mainland and Victoria in order to get a better understanding of where students see the price of housing, among other factors, impacting their educational and professional decisions in Vancouver. According to the SIS, 49 per cent of students are not planning to stay in Vancouver after graduation, and of those 49 per cent cite the high cost of living as their primary reason.

"Their concerns are not necessarily just education-related, but about their living expenses," said then-AMS VP External Kathleen Simpson in a previous interview with *The Ubyssy*. "There are concerns over housing prices and concerns over job opportunities in the area as well."

For Ehrenholz, the election of an NDP government in BC this past May, the Stadium Neighbourhood at UBC in its planning stages and the HAP checkpoint coming up in December are priming this year to be key for housing affordability and accessibility at UBC. Through the VP External and the VP Academic and University Affairs' portfolios, the AMS is looking to advocate for the university to allocate more new housing for students and also lobby the provincial government to allow the university to borrow externally to fund student housing instead of only from its own endowment.

"A new government is always an exciting time period because new government means new promises [and] new opportunities for both the AMS and UBC to advocate for things ... not just about affordability and accessibility but with Rent with Rights and the legal rights of students living on campus," said Ehrenholz.

Students living in university residences lack the rights of tenants in private accommodation because residences are exempt from the BC Residential Tenancy Act. Ehrenholz noted that educating students both on and off-campus through the upcoming edition of the Rent with Rights campaign will be essential to ensuring students can advocate for themselves under current legislation, but that changing that legislation is the ultimate priority to ensure long-term protection in an increasingly pressured market.

"It's a campaign from our VP External to go to government and say, 'can we add more to [the Residential Tenancy Act] so that students who are living off-campus have the same rights as students living on campus?'"

Accordingly, Kate Wilson — the person behind Renters of Vancouver — advised everyone to have a good understanding of the Residential Tenancy Act in order to survive the Vancouver housing market.

"It's important to know what your rights are so read the Tenancy Act," she said. "Don't be afraid of fighting something at the tenancy board because it can definitely go in your favour."

As mandated by the 2012 Housing Action Plan (HAP), 30 per cent of future housing — mainly in the south campus neighbourhood — will be rentals and 20 per cent will be restricted to staff and faculty at a lower price.

According to Lisa Colby, managing director of faculty staff housing and relocation services, these policies increased the number of discounted rental units for faculty and staff to 511 units this year and are expected to create another 214 units next year. By the end of the implementation of HAP — when the south campus neighbourhood is fully developed — there will be approximately 1,800 discounted rental units and an additional 900 units at market price.

Non-profit rental was also advocated for by HAP, and is now being implemented through a rent-geared-to-income program. Expected to launch in Spring 2018, it allows staff making less than \$64,500 to rent 100 units at 30 per cent of their household income for 10 years. The recipients will be chosen via lottery.

While UBC has yet to start accepting applications, Colby already expects the project to be "very popular."

"We suspect that [we've] got a pretty sizeable group that will be below the threshold income of this program," she said. "It is currently set at 100 pilot units. It makes sense to start off at that scale and there's definitely the possibility that it would expand after that."

Despite efforts to improve conditions within the current policy framework, Ehrenholz stressed that the AMS sees increasing accessible and affordable housing under the HAP is essential to students' basic well-being and their experience at UBC as a whole.

"At the university level, the Housing Action Plan obviously provides a platform to push all of the needs, the desires of our students in terms of affordability, accessibility and the Rent with Rights aspects here on the campus," said Ehrenholz. "The opportunity to have affordable and accessible housing here on campus can facilitate better social interaction, allow students to participate in clubs and different activities on campus [and] really feel a part of that campus community.

"We know that students, once they feel they're part of the campus community, can succeed in their degrees and can really step out and enjoy their degrees and take advantage of what this campus and this university has to offer."

According to Doering, defining affordability is also a priority for the student members of the Board, particularly regarding HAP's Policy 11 which makes a commitment to keeping rents in student housing at or below market rates.

"The definition of market rates and how this ties into the purpose of student housing is something we feel is important to discuss. I know this is also something that has been a point of contention for students during past increases to rent," wrote Doering.

"Defining affordability outside the context of the Vancouver housing market would be ideal."

Advocacy is not students' exclusive domain — UBC also played a part in advocating for a greater shelter allowance in BC's student loan program, according to Managing Director of Student Housing and Hospitality Services Andrew Parr.

In 2013, the shelter allowance for BC student loans was \$592 per month before being increased to \$733 for the 2014/15 school year. Now, the allowance is at \$851 per month.

"That partly had to do with advocacy from UBC and students at the time," said Parr. "I think there was a series of conversations with the government about the unreasonably low allowance given to shelter in the calculation of the overall student loan formula."

He also noted that only 23 per cent of UBC's housing units were below the \$592 mark — this share jumped up to 64 per cent when the \$733 level was introduced.

"It's a good leap," Parr said.

### IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Aside from these three large umbrellas, there are also smaller strategies that UBC and the AMS are pursuing to mitigate the effects of the Vancouver housing crisis on students, staff and faculty. Still, much remains to be done, and there are also valid criticisms from the community of the current structure and solutions.

Based on the interviews with students for this piece, one issue that stood out due to its previous lack of coverage is the revocation of guaranteed accommodation for first-year students if a housing offer is not accepted by June 1.

For those whose admission applications were waitlisted past this deadline, the criterion becomes impossible to meet. They would then have to find a place on their own or join the waitlist, adding more pressure and vulnerability to an already stressful transition — especially for international students.

"I came here as a first-year, but I wasn't guaranteed housing because my offer [to UBC] came after the date," said Rahming, a first-year student from the Bahamas. "I actually came to Vancouver not knowing where I was going to live.

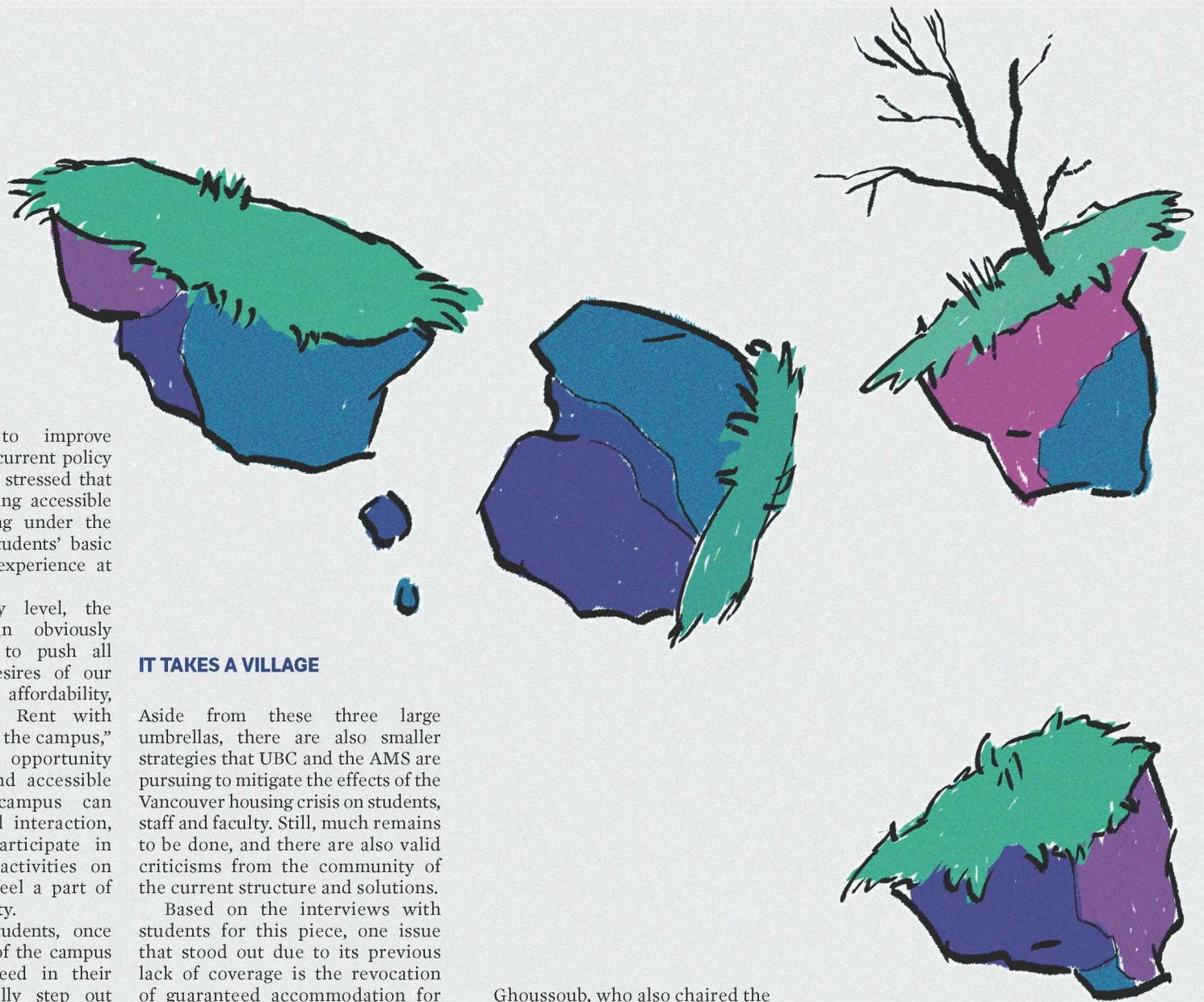
"I was so stressed. I was like [number] 3,000 on the waitlist."

Kate Sensenig, a second-year student, further highlighted the difficulties for international students regardless of their year level.

"We have no family here, we're already paying way more for tuition and a lot of [us] may not speak fluent English," she said. "I wasn't in Vancouver this summer, so no one [off campus] was interested in getting back to me because I couldn't actually go and see the house. And that was really tricky."

Concern also exists within HAP itself — since its approval by the Board of Governors in 2012, its first policy regarding restricted homeownership for faculty still has yet to be implemented.

This policy would mandate that 10 per cent of new campus housing units be restricted to ownership by tenured or tenure-track faculty. Their price would also be discounted at 33 per cent below the market value.



Ghousoub, who also chaired the Community Planning Task Group that developed HAP, recalled that it was not even in place after the plan has already been approved for a year. Later in 2014, the Restricted Resale Capped Appreciation Program was developed under FHOP to carry out the mandate, but was cancelled in 2015.

According to previous coverage by *The Ubysey*, no units were sold under this option.

Colby attributed this cancellation to tax benefits and provincial regulations related to the Real Estate Development Marketing Act (REDMA). Under REDMA, UBC would be considered a "developer," which would expose the university and its board members to a certain level of liability.

"These two things combined in a such a way that the model we hoped to use to deliver that program was no longer viable," she said. "We have introduced some loan programs to give faculty financial support to buy homes off campus in the interim, and we're still working on other ways to hopefully bring in a model that does what the original one was trying to do.

"The policy's not cancelled by any stretch."

When asked if this policy faced any pushback from UBCPT since its realization would lower the profit margin on the sale of certain housing units, Colby refused to give a comment but went on to add that "UBC's relationship with UBCPT is absolutely fine."

"It's a challenge with bringing forward a model that works and they have nothing to do with that," she said. "The problem is technical. We're really committed to doing more."

### IN THE MEANTIME

Along with doing more to spread awareness of resources about off-campus housing, some students noted that there is no major solution for UBC to pursue "except for more construction."

As construction and advocacy take time to come to fruition, housing woes continue to be a part of many students, staff and faculty's Vancouver experience. They can even be an occupational hazard of pursuing an education or career at UBC. The impacts this pressure could have on future staff and faculty attraction and retention are difficult to measure, but when housing instability comes in a package deal with UBC's "place of mind," it becomes an even more difficult sell to potential students and faculty — if they consider coming to UBC at all.

Colby acknowledged the core struggle UBC faces to insulate itself from the housing crisis — as long as people want to live and invest in Vancouver, it can't do anything to solve the underlying problem. Instead, it focuses on treating the symptoms.

"The housing market is definitely a challenge. All our programs are designed to mitigate things, but they can't fully solve the problem," she said.

"We do what we can and what we could afford to do." 🍵

VIFF //

# Call Me By Your Name is beautifully subtle

Rebecca Peng  
Contributor

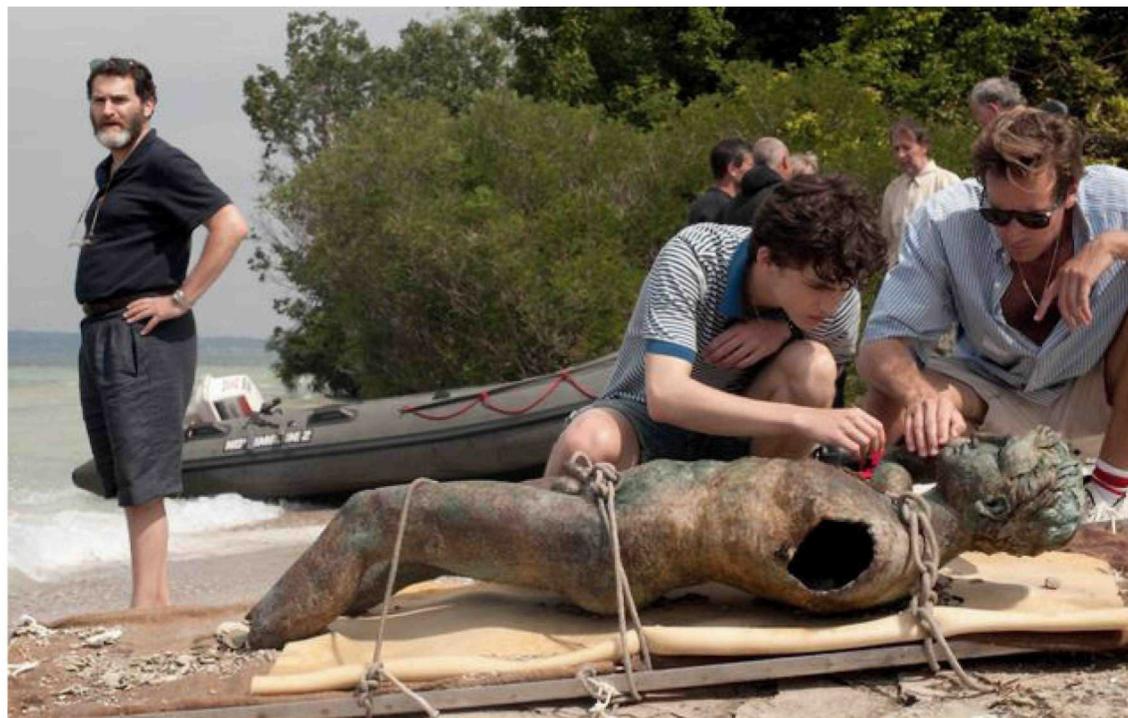
With accuracy and great beauty, *Call Me By Your Name* captures the experience of a languid, over-long summer.

It's the 1980s, somewhere in idyllic Northern Italy. Oliver (Armie Hammer) is an American academic and guest in Elio Perlman's (Timothée Chalamet) home, having come to assist Elio's father — a professor — for the season.

Most of the film's shots are filled with bright, warm light. Elio rides his bike through the picturesque countryside. He goes swimming. He reads. He composes music. There are family guests that talk too much, others that he must dutifully entertain and, of course, there's summer romance to occupy his time. Elio has the attention of a neighbouring girl, Marzia, whom he woos through novels and friendly teasing, but it's his desire for Oliver that deeply changes him.

With a screenplay adapted by James Ivory, an acclaimed director with a keen eye for depictions of longing, *Call Me By Your Name* features not only nuanced depictions of pining but also the youthful lust of Elio.

Luca Guadagnino directs the most intimate scenes in a manner



Luca Guadagnino directs the most intimate scenes in a manner that feels authentic.

COURTESY VIFF

that feels authentic rather than fetishistic. Moments between Oliver and Elio simmer with an extra layer of tension, as they attempt to convey emotions they cannot speak outright.

There's a conversation here about passing time, about the ways certain identities can

surface or be consciously hidden and submerged. Oliver wears a Star of David around his neck, allowing Elio to immediately identify Oliver as Jewish, like him. There's something too about the ways a conflation of two separate identities — exchanging names and clothing — becomes a secret

language of intimacy that can't otherwise be expressed.

Elio's Italy is, in many ways, refreshingly utopic. Oliver and Elio don't face any immediate threats because of their identity, only a lingering sense of restriction from their peripheries. *Call Me By Your Name* is more interested in

studying displays of intimacy than presenting a specific message. One of Guadagnino's defining strengths throughout this film is his attention to the smallest of details. In one scene, we watch Elio's foot creep slowly towards Oliver's until he covered Oliver's foot with his own. They laugh. The action is ordinary and playful. It's not a grand, romantic gesture, but it empathically captures the nervous, tentative energy of new love.

As the lead, Timothée Chalamet excels. His performance rivets until the very last, potent scene and the physicality between Elio and Oliver is natural and compelling.

There's room for improvement. Certain tracks by Sufjan Stevens, however pretty, are a bit too on the nose and the pacing could be more refined. *Call Me By Your Name* is just over two hours, but feels longer — both to its credit and its occasional detriment. It's a summer that drags on in places, but then feels too fleeting once it's over.

Small flaws aside, the attention to the texture of both summer and first love makes the film more than a simple summer romance. It gives substance to a relationship genre that might otherwise be written off as trivial. Grounded in pointed observations, Elio and Oliver's connection feels believably, beautifully life-changing. [T](#)

VIFF //

# The Florida Project, or how I learned to stop worrying and love the r/Floridaman



Left to right: Moonie (Brooklyn Prince) and her mother Halley (Bria Vinaite).

COURTESY CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

Zachary Kourgialis  
Staff Writer

Two years ago, Sean Baker broke out of the indie scene into the mainstream spotlight with *Tangerine* — a dirty, abrasive and hilarious quest through the streets of West Hollywood's red-light district. Starring two transgender women, made on a shoe string budget and shot on an iPhone 5, *Tangerine* faced an uphill battle. Yet through a combination of its untraditional characters and breakneck pace, it angrily shoved and slapped its way into our collective consciousness.

We laughed, gawked and eventually empathized with people whose lives sheltered suburbanite white boys like myself could never imagine.

Now, with a new 35mm camera, a gaudy motel monstrosity to serve as his playground and Willem Dafoe as his champion of the human spirit, Sean Baker has pivoted to a more accessible and universal story — a day in the life a little girl.

His new film *The Florida Project*, is set in Kissimmee, among the dilapidated motels that your parents double booked at the last minute for your trip to Disney World. We are introduced to our protagonist

Moonie (Brooklyn Prince), a precocious six-year-old girl, as she stomps around town with her friend Scooty (Christopher Rivera). Both are devilish pranksters on the prowl. They spit on people's cars, cop money for ice cream and flip off passing helicopters with adorable irreverence.

Even when they get caught during the aforementioned spitting, they use it as an opportunity to make new friends with the owner's shy daughter Jancy (Valeria Cotto), who joins them on future adventures and learns how to be a sassy street kid in her own right.

Whereas *Tangerine* was a day-long, jealousy-fuelled rampage across West Hollywood, *The Florida Project* is more like a slow but steady odyssey through childhood — an adventure where every day there's someplace new to explore and have fun.

In *Tangerine*, the camera follows our protagonist, whose strutting down the street is accentuated by speeding drone shots, creating a fast-paced cinematic verve. But in *The Florida Project*, the camera is often times locked and set. Gorgeous wide shots and slow-moving pans layer the movie, immersing the audience in this poverty-stricken tropical environment. We absorb the sumptuous yellow of the sun and the vibrant purple of the pauper's palace our characters call home.

There is no real plot, only a series of vignettes and changing relationships. Such structureless storytelling is difficult to pull off but Baker nails it. I doubt everyone will be suited to this slice-of-life style, but in my mind there was not a wasted scene. The movie glides by and feels realistic in ways that are truly rare today. The motels, shops and attractions of Kissimmee's lower class feel like a living, breathing ecosystem, constantly swapping in new arrivals while others do their laundry or hang things to dry on the railing outside their room.

Still, despite all the beauty and fun to be had, the harsher reality of these kids' lives is ever-present.

The threat of their unsupervised antics and obliviousness to the adult world had me constantly alternating between laughing and holding my breath out of fear. Fights break out outside Moonee's room, suspected pedophiles are run off the lot and Moonee's mother Halley (Bria Vinaite) struggles to pay rent.

Young, head-strong and vindictive, Halley's most redeeming quality is her undeniable love for her daughter, even if she does let her run wild in way that would cause my own mom to have a heart attack. She spends her days avoiding security while she hawks cheap perfume outside hotels. At night, she takes selfies with Moonee until her daughter falls asleep.

Then there's Bobby, the stern but caring manager, played by Willem Dafoe. Bobby's been around, seen every manner of people pass through his motel — enough to know that Halley isn't good news. Still, he gives her breaks when rent is due and is a constant presence throughout the film.

All of the performances are done with organic love and energy; even with Dafoe, the film's most recognizable face, I only saw the characters, never the actors.

Ultimately, *The Florida Project* culminates in a simultaneously heartbreaking and nail-biting climax that somehow manages to be both a homage and a middle finger to Francois Truffaut's *The 400 Blows*. It's a must-see film from one of the best working directors today. [T](#)

## ART //



All of the photos are lo-fi in a way that suggests laziness or incompetence, rather than intent.

IYANU OWOLABI

## Hatch gallery is unrelentingly mediocre, but so is the UBC photography scene

**Patrick Gillin**  
Photo Editor

Let's talk about the Hatch.

It hasn't changed names multiple times or closed down, so it's doing better than most AMS organizations in the Nest. But much like their food outlets, it manages to serve up a dazzlingly monotonous array of bland, uninteresting items. If you're like me, you've managed to walk by its space multiple times each week without really noticing their exhibitions.

To quote one of my associates, "It looks like they printed a bunch of someone's iPhone photos and hung them up."

### SO, WHERE ARE THEY GOING OFF THE RAILS?

For starters, the print quality is atrocious. You might be tempted to write this off as lo-fi aesthetic, but you'd be wrong. It's even more important to keep the printing quality high when the work isn't technically impeccable — whether you want to call it lo-fi, areh-bureh-bokeh, or lomography — because it proves that the author made a deliberate choice and not a technical mistake.

In the Hatch, I couldn't tell if the photos of Nitobe by J.N. Tse were low resolution and blown out because of the printer's incompetence or the artist's choice. With the door open to questioning intent versus accident, I couldn't be sure why one of the other pieces — a staircase with a blue railing by L. Bulk — was upside down.

Takuma Nakahira was quite insistent on exceedingly high print quality even when working with Daido Moriyama, one of the godfathers of the rough, grainy, aesthetic. The curators of the Hatch should take note of that.

There's also the title, *Our UBC*:

*Insights unseen & unheard* which suggests the exhibition is focused on something new, something being revealed. It isn't. There are familiar views of campus shown in mediocre, repetitive and almost anonymous slices. We're all familiar with the blue construction fences and the Nitobe garden and even the shitty corporate art plaque with a poem about walking alone that J. Watt included in one of their images.

By the way, including a poem about walking alone in a photo with a single figure has to be about the height of cliché, on-the-nose photography.

The works presented lack authorial voice and blur together easily, only adding up to banal fragments of an average day arranged on the walls.

Delving deeper into a blow-by-blow of the camera work, the composition and the technical aspects of the images at this point wouldn't be very engaging, and one of my main complaints with the Hatch is that it fails to be engaging. Over the course of their two most recent shows I've heard a string of complaints and shade, but I still want to defend the Hatch.

The overall photography scene on this campus hovers somewhere between unrelentingly shit and nonexistent. The Hatch could be a great place to start building one, being the only dedicated gallery for students.

### WHERE IS THE ART GOING WRONG?

Essentially, the photo scene on campus is split into camps: you're either a visual arts student with your nose so far into theory that you haven't looked through a viewfinder in weeks, a rich kid with three Leicas and a 5d MkVIII bought

by daddy (complete with an inability to do anything other than pixel peep), a newspaper hack that rushes through everything and occasionally sends web files to print (see page 11 in the October 17 issue of *The Ubysey*) or an Instagram goon, etc., and none of us talk. So we all go about our work, continuing to be comfortable, mediocre, incomplete photographers.

The Hatch falls firmly into the first camp and it's believable that the current show is a part of some conversation that's unfolding in a visual arts course. While that may be valuable on a theoretical level, it sinks the show into a brand of elitism that requires a theoretical knowledge which the average student doesn't have, making it hard for them to engage at all, much less meaningfully, with the works.

It is important to avoid getting hung up on discussing execution over idea. The interview between Kaneko Ryuichi and Matthew Witkovsky for Steidl's compilation on *Provoke* shows how long-standing, deep-seated and problematic this trope is, especially among photography clubs and students.

However, the execution here is so lacking that it overshadows the lofty intention of presenting new views of our campus. One might expect something subversive or at least innovative from the show's title. They would be disappointed. Eduardo Momeñe, an excellent critic, posits that the best photographers are aware of the artistic realities of photography without descending into imitation of other graphic arts and without losing sight of the form's inherent documentary capacity.

The lack of a clear thematic or documentary focus combined with weak technical quality leaves *Our UBC: Insights unseen & unheard* directionless. 📷

## COMICS //

## Vancouver comic jam takes over 12 Kings Pub



LUA PRESIDIO

The comics turn into surreal mishmashes of different styles and ideas.

**Katherine Dornian**  
Contributor

There are about 10 people lurking in the corner of 12 Kings Pub, a no-nonsense sports bar on Kingsway just off Main. Each one has a sheet of paper, on which they draw one panel of a comic strip. When they're done, they swap sheets, so that the next person continues the comic in the next panel, and so forth.

The result is a lot of non-sequiturs, surreal humour and clashing art styles. But according to the artists, that's what makes it fun.

"I've tried lots of different styles, learned new techniques," said Jeff Ellis, "It's nice to exercise your art without a lot of judgement."

This is what attracts artists to the Vancouver Comic Jam. It takes place at the 12 Kings on the third weekend of every month and is open to artists of all abilities and levels of experience.

"We have a mix of talents that show up," said Jason Turner, who's been organizing the events since 2012. "Sometimes there are about two dozen people here."

Comic jams are pretty common worldwide. Vancouver's group was started back in 2005 and has comprised of a dynamic, shifting cast of characters ever since. Amateurs mingle easily with professional artists like Ellis, the assistant director of Vancouver-based comic studio Cloudscape Comics, and Julian Lawrence, a professor at Emily Carr University. It's a close-knit community where people can play off each other's art in a relaxed and familiar way.

There's a sort of intimacy here. Many say that this is where they come to break out of the isolation inherent in a career as an artist. It's a regular thing they can look forward to and it forces them from an insulating world into an environment of communal creation.

"I'm in my head a lot," said Klara Woldenga. The desire for a place where she can get out of her head and come interact with other artists is echoed by almost everyone present. The creation of comics is secondary to just enjoying time out with their peers.

None of them seem concerned if the stories turn out to be a mess. Some of the artists make an effort to tie their art style and their story ideas into the panel before them. Others go out of their way to make sure they're as nonsensical as possible.

One sheet passes by with the first panel containing a massive

foot coming down from the sky, with ominous text talking about the internet's carbon footprint. The next panel is a man happily exclaiming, "I like having teeth!"

"The comics aren't very serious," said Turner. "Sometimes they're specific to the night — we'll be talking about something and someone will draw it in. It really reflects on who's here."

They follow their whims. Some of them like to draw differently than how they normally would. Others like to stick with what they know. Occasionally at the end of a comic that seems to have gone completely off the rails, the whole thing will be brought back around and make sense again.

The mixing — sometimes warring — of stories and styles speaks to how individual a pursuit comic drawing usually is. The weaving together of different comic communities, across different experience levels and generations, shows up on the page in wildly different perspectives and narrative goals. It's a challenge that all are keen to tackle.

"This kind of art is about communicating," says Colin Upton, a veteran of Vancouver's comic scene. "It's not about hiding, or metaphors."

He was once hired by UBC Rare Books and Special Collections to compile local comics that represent the community's efforts over the decades, since, in his words, "what's more rare than small press?"

He's not wrong — it's surprising to learn that local anthologies and zines are still being printed at all. Most of the younger artists seem to focus their efforts online through art sharing sites, where they can have a more widespread impact.

"It's easier when you're starting out to get noticed on DeviantArt or Redbubble," said artist Matthew Nielsen. "You can find the people who are interested in the same stuff."

Some insist that people still like physical comics and online followers aren't as loyal, but that's the expected generational bias. For most up-and-comers, the transition to primarily online work feels natural. There are even online comic jams now, which link artists across wider gulfs.

But those lack the impact and excitement of meeting in person, where sometimes the table is bustling with conversation and drink, and other times falls completely silent. The artists come out of their heads and fall back in again, bringing each other along for the ride. 📷

## MENTAL WELL-BEING //

## Thrive is back on campus



Thrive on campus.

ZUBAIR HIRJI

## Emma Hicks

Opinion &amp; Blog Editor

This week marks the ninth annual Thrive Week at UBC.

From October 30 to November 3, various events are being held at both the Vancouver and Okanagan campuses to promote mental well-being. From yoga classes to multiple workshops to suicide prevention training, Thrive has set up a packed schedule that ensures everyone who wants to participate is able to.

According to their website, “Thrive is a mindset and a week-long series of events focused on building positive mental health for everyone at UBC” that is open to students, staff and faculty.

Thrive Week falls halfway between the start of school and the end of exams — a time when students are particularly vulnerable in their mental health. With midterms, term papers and the never-ending rain on our minds, it’s easy to forget to take care of ourselves — whether that’s taking a night off from studying or cooking a healthy meal.

Thrive aims to remind students they can still maintain a positive mental health during busy times.

Thrive Week kicks off on Monday, October 30 at 8:30 a.m. outside the bookstore. There will be free coffee and snacks, but more importantly, there will be members of the UBC community ready to start the discussion of mental health — something we should never shy away from.

Thrive is partnered with the Wellness Centre and additional support can be found there. [@](#)



COURTESY UBC THRIVE

Thrive aims to remind students they can still maintain a positive mental health.

## GET INVOLVED //

## Club profiles: Clubs for all of our inner nerds

## Joshua Azizi

Staff Writer

Back when I was eleven, I was terrified of the idea of being labelled a nerd. Like every other worry I’ve ever had, I’ve come to realize that I was scared over nothing — but at that young age, I was petrified that my love of Nintendo games would earn me a label that my sensitive self didn’t want to wear.

Fast forward to 2017 and all of a sudden it’s cool to be a nerd! Dungeons and Dragons is once again popular, comic book franchises are universally beloved, Silicon Valley start-ups are perpetually the “next big thing” and “nerd chic” has become a fashion category of its own. I barely touch my Nintendo 64 these days, but it appears that the rest of the world has hopped on the nerd train. So for all of you poindexters out there, here’s some particularly nerdy clubs on campus.

## UBC SCI-FI AND FANTASY SOCIETY

As their name suggests, this club is a space for sci-fi and fantasy fans to come together and bond over their common interests. What’s particularly notable about it is its gigantic library — it’s stacked with over 2,400 items, most of which are old-school sci-fi/fantasy books with beautifully cheesy covers.

## UBC WARGAMERS

UBC Wargamers is a club dedicated to tabletop board games, collectible card games and role-playing games (RPG’s). Think Dungeons and Dragons, Magic the Gathering, obscure fantasy games with plenty of characters, etc. — not the likes of Monopoly and Uno. They host weekly board game nights on Wednesday nights and have a big library full of board games and RPG books that members can check out items on their own. Many of these games are quite dense, but the club often hosts introductory events to introduce newcomers to them.

## UBC ESPORTS ASSOCIATION

This one should be a no-brainer. The UBC eSports Association started out as Starcraft club, but over the years they’ve evolved into a large community of gamers that host plenty of local events and crush it in competitive tournaments. Seriously, these gamers are a big deal — they’ve been hailed the best League of Legends university team in North America not once but twice in a row. And what have you done with your spare time?

## UBC CHESS CLUB

Chess is a tricky game that takes a lot of practice to get good at, but it’s also a very rewarding game that has challenged and enthralled people around the world for hundreds of years. The UBC Chess Club has chess-playing sessions every Friday from 5 to 8 p.m., so whether you’re a seasoned chess professional or new to the game, consider stopping by to try out your skills.



It’s cool to be a nerd.

FILE TENDAYI MOYO

## UBC LEGO CLUB

Even if you haven’t touched it in years, it’s pretty hard not to like Lego — and it’s basically impossible not to admire the skill and dedication that goes into the most elaborate Lego creations. For the nerds who continue to embrace the endless possibilities that can be created with a shit-ton of Lego, the UBC Lego Club is for you.

## UBC NERDFIGHTERS

Nerdfighters are an internet subculture birthed out of the fan community for the VlogBrothers, better known as John and Hank Green. A large part of their community involves pop-culture fandom, but they’re also dedicated towards “decreasing worldsuck,” which involves contributing to charity work. The UBC Nerdfighters’ clubs day booth suggests that they’re fans of franchises such as Harry Potter, Star Trek, Doctor Who and Star

Wars — likewise, their community events range from Halloween mask-making to film screenings to Jeopardy.

## AMS GAME DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Sure, video games are cool, but have you ever wondered how they’re made? Or how you can make one yourself? The AMS Game Development Association (AGDA) can guide you through all that. Every year they create teams that collaborate to make video games, and they accept everyone from experienced developers to those looking for a place to start. They also host introductory workshops for newcomers and occasionally bring in speakers from the video game industry.

## UBC ANIME CLUB

In lieu of the success of Your Name, the recent anime ad for Canadian tourism and various bizarre anime-

themed Facebook events around Vancouver, one could say that anime is having a bit of a mainstream moment right now. For those who want to dive deeper into it or who are already diehard fans, the UBC Anime Club should be worth checking out. Every Friday they get together to watch anime in a lecture hall, but that’s not all they do — they also host cosplay events, game nights, workshops, contests and social events as well. So for all you otakus out there looking for a community to nerd out with, congratulations — you’ve found the right club for you.

## BASICALLY ANY ACADEMIC CLUB EVER

What, you mean to tell me that you love your studies so much that you’re in a club dedicated to them? And that you might consider contributing to the academic journal that they run? As Homer Simpson once said, “NERRRRRD!” [@](#)

**WIVES AND DAUGHTERS**  
by Jacqueline Firkins, directed by Courtenay Dobbie

**November 9 - 25**  
Frederic Wood Theatre [theatrefilm.ubc.ca](http://theatrefilm.ubc.ca)

## SUPERSTARS //

## Undergrad tackles STEM's gender divide



JAMES VOGL

Chanpreet Mangat hopes to make STEM more accessible to women.

**James Vogl**  
Staff Writer

From sexual harassment and assault to pervasive and denigrating stereotypes, the challenges to women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) field can be considerable, leading some to pursue an entirely different career track and dissuading others from entering a STEM field in the first place.

UBC Women in Science strives to mitigate the effects of some of these challenges in order to make STEM more accessible and support women throughout their course of study at UBC.

According to Chanpreet Mangat, a fourth-year biology student and club president of UBC Women in Science, there are three main pillars of Women in Science's approach to achieving those goals: mentorship, community and connection.

Through their mentorship program, members of the club are matched with a graduate student, professional student or professor from the field that they are studying or considering studying.

The main way that Women in Science aims to build community and connection is through a series of events held throughout the year.

Beyond just the practical knowledge these events provide, they also aim to foster a sense of community among members and give them the chance to meet other like-minded women.

"It's mostly about increased support," said Mangat. "Since science is such a broad field, it can be hard to find your place within the faculty."

As the club continues to grow, Mangat hopes that the mentorship program will evolve into an even more integral part of achieving the club's mission and hopes that the club is able to offer even more events in the future.

Hopefully the need for clubs and organizations like UBC Women in Science will one day fade away, but in the meantime, they will continue striving to be the best resource they can for the women of UBC. [U](#)

## CLIMATE CHANGE //

## Creature no larger than a grain of rice colours BC forests a deathly red

**Jonny Warschauer**  
Contributor

A quiet battle is being fought in the forests of western North America, and millions of pine trees are dying in its wake. Shades of green that once permeated the flora of British Columbia's forests are disappearing.

The insides of lodgepole pines are turning blue with a fungus — aptly named the blue stain fungus. The trees' needles are shifting to shades of dull brownish-red. Aerial surveys have observed rolling hills of northwestern pine forests stretching to the horizon without a healthy tree in sight. Estimates place the total affected area somewhere between ten and 18 million hectares — roughly the size of Syria.

Due to the epidemic, the state of North American pine trees is extremely bleak.

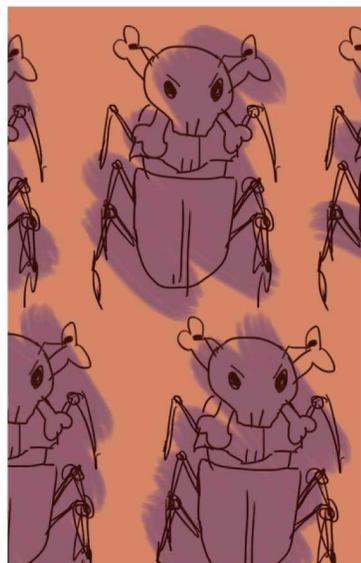
According to Christine Chiu — a graduate student focusing on botany and chemical ecology at UBC — climate change, specifically rising temperatures, has played a major role in the widespread decline of the forests over the course of the past two decades.

But a warmer climate hasn't been the force directly devastating these woods. Rising temperatures from Colorado up the spine of the Rockies to the Northwest Territories have facilitated the insidious creep of an insect middleman: the mountain pine beetle.

The mountain pine beetle is the species plaguing the pine trees of Canada and the United States. These beetles are the bridges connecting human-fuelled climate change to the widespread destruction of the western forests of North America.

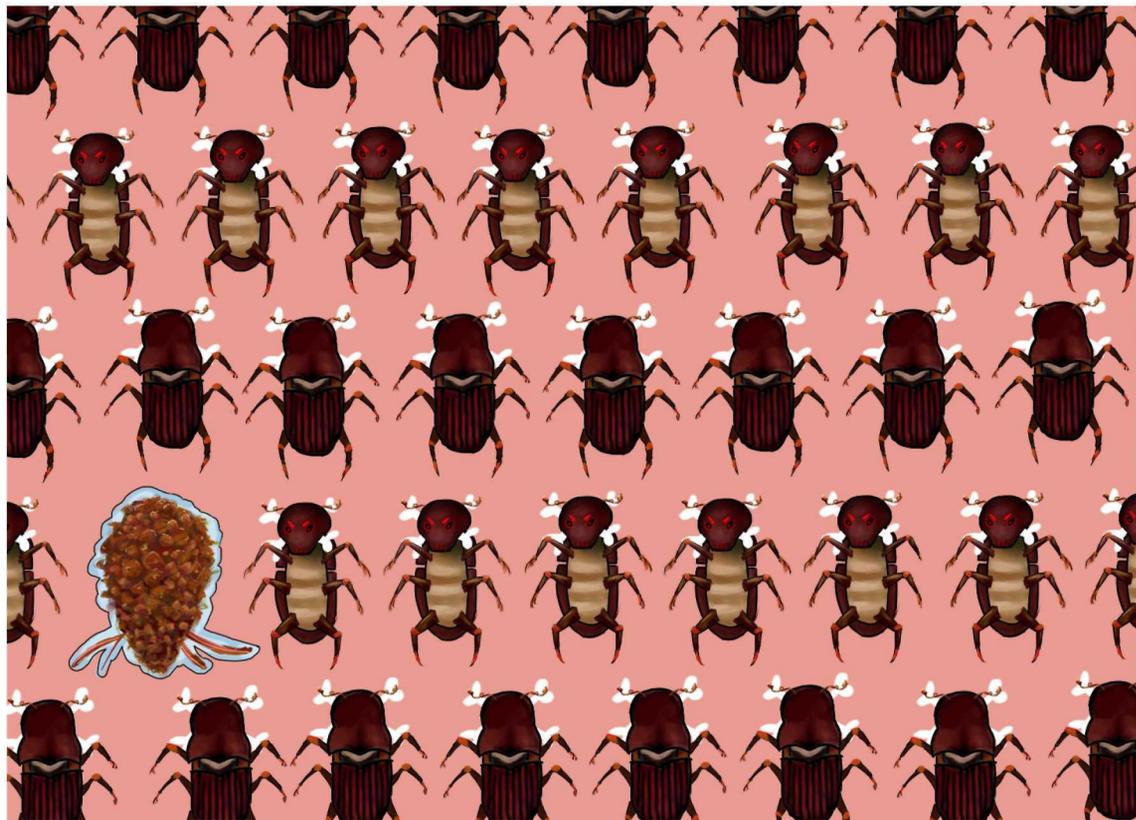
Aided by human activity, the mountain pine beetle — a creature no larger than a grain of rice — is the direct cause of this arboreal strife.

In environmentally harmonic conditions, mountain pine beetles are largely unable to make it through the harsh winter of the Rocky Mountain ecosystem. It was only after a number of above average temperature winters in the 1990s that the beetle's population



KRISTINE HO

Climate change allowed the beetles to spread deeper into boreal forests.



KRISTINE HO

Mountain Pine Beetles spread blue stain fungus all over pine trees, drying out the trees and turning the normally green needles red.

burgeoned — setting off the environmental catastrophe we are witnessing today — by allowing the species to spread deeper into the boreal forest.

If the mountain pine beetle possessed the intelligence to realize what we humans have done for their numbers, they would be forever grateful to us.

The beetle's success is literally rooted in the number of trees it can feed on due to its newfound resilience. Its attack strategy emphasizes quantity over quality. A tree is unable to fight, run, or hide, so all the beetles need to do is launch a barrage upon their piney prey.

The attack begins with a female, known as the pioneer beetle, who finds a tree and releases an aggregation pheromone known as trans-verbenol. Great numbers of beetles can then flock to her precious real estate. Because of this pheromone, the mountain pine beetle can wage all-out assaults on the lodgepole pines that it burrows into in order to survive.

A lodgepole pine's natural defense system is the release of a chemical known as alpha-pinene, which also yields the fragrant byproduct of pine's unique aroma. An attack on a lodgepole pine waged by two or three beetles would prove futile — the trees are naturally adapted to such numbers. In conditions that existed prior to the 1990s, the population of the mountain pine beetle was not large enough to significantly affect large portions of forest.

But a pine tree with hundreds or thousands of beetles on it is doomed, and it is a common sight in affected areas today. The insects bury into its bark, spreading blue stain fungus and drying out the tree until it dies and its needles turn red. This process lays the groundwork for the next generation to emerge and repeat the calamitous cycle.

Chiu has studied what allows the mountain pine beetle to flourish in the wilderness of British Columbia and beyond. Her research focuses on cytochrome P450, an enzyme that allows the mountain pine beetle to make the aggregation pheromone that draws large numbers of them to a lodgepole pine, rendering the tree helpless.

As a result of her research, scientists now have more predictive power regarding how the beetle might thrive in pine species found further east, such as the Jack pine. The Jack pine is found in Alberta, a province in which the presence of the beetle was previously unheard of.

Chiu also found a clever tactic the beetle utilizes that could help explain its spread to regions 320 kilometres North and thousands of kilometres East of where climates once prevented the species from spreading.

"Something really cool about the beetle is that it doesn't simply go on the tree and make its pheromone from the alpha pinene it encounters on the tree. I found that throughout its life cycle it stores trans-verbenol in its body. It attaches it to another molecule and stores it inside its body. When it gets on a new tree, it releases that trans-verbenol from inside the body. It's a very complex system. It's not as straightforward as it seems," said Chiu.

Forest fire suppression also plays a role in the spread of the beetles. Natural fires are a way of "thinning out" a forest and increasing biodiversity. Controlling fires for the protection of local communities has bred the woods into an ecologically homogenous environment that is extremely conducive to the spread of the mountain pine beetle.

Treating this problem has

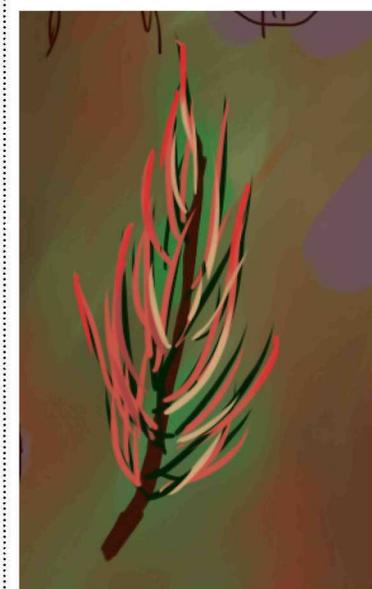
proven difficult, to put it mildly. "Preventing the spread of this species is extremely laborious," said Chiu.

The process involves detecting infected trees before the beetle spreads to surrounding pines, made all the more difficult by the fact that trees don't show signs of infection until months after the invasion starts. Imagine hunting for a needle in a haystack, except the needle only becomes visible after it's too late.

Then, the trees with pine beetle infestations must be cut down and burned before the beetles can spread.

The primary focus of experts now is stopping the spread of the beetle before it can deal damage to the forests of eastern Canada. But forest scientists can only do so much on their own.

Longstanding harmony in the forests of the US and Canada will only come when we humans greatly reduce our carbon emissions. [U](#)



KRISTINE HO

Infested trees don't show visible signs of infection until months after the invasion.

BEHIND THE SCENES //

# Prominent puzzle pieces: Student trainers keep athletes game ready while sharpening their own skills



Typical duties for student trainers include injury treatment and leading exercise routines for their respective teams.

PATRICK GILLIN

**Bill Situ**  
Staff Writer

When most people think of UBC's sports teams, it's the athletes and the coaches that typically come to mind — team captains, goal scorers and dazzling duos are the faces of a team.

But who are the people who help keep our athletes game-ready? Not another player or a coach, but another position that — though

working away from the limelight — is essential to the workings of several varsity teams: student athletic trainers.

With much of their work happening behind the scenes, student athletic trainers have an overall low profile in the UBC athletic community. Still, they play an important role in keeping T-Bird athletes healthy and game-ready — a crucial factor to the

Thunderbirds' success.

According to Joe McCullum — head coach of strength and conditioning at UBC — student trainers can be either a volunteer or graduate scholarship position at the university. Currently, there are about 25 student trainers that work with the university's various athletic teams. The position is open primarily, but not exclusively, to kinesiology students.

McCullum said having student trainers at the university logistically eases the process of providing strength and conditioning training for each team.

"To balance out 650 athletes within a 12-hour day is very challenging," said McCullum. "[Student trainers] give us so much more resources to do with the athletes, so the value for our athletics department is very high."

The specific duties of student trainers do vary depending on their individual skillsets and the teams they work with, but typical duties include injury treatment and leading exercise routines. Still, according to McCullum, the end goal is to give students on-the-job experience in therapeutic treatment and other related occupational fields.

"There's a huge gap between what you learn in school and what happens in the real world. What we want to do is bridge the gap between academia and the practical side of things," said McCullum. "We do try to develop [student trainers] so that if they leave here, their opportunities to get hired are much greater."

Devan Hawes — a third-year kinesiology student — is currently working her second year as a student trainer for the women's soccer team. As an aspiring physiotherapist, she sees her job as a chance to put her academic knowledge into practical use.

"I found in my first year of [kinesiology], you're learning all these concepts and all these different things about anatomy and physiology, but you don't get to apply them necessarily," said Hawes.

Admittedly, being a student trainer can be a time-consuming job for Hawes. Still, she sees the experience as invaluable for her future.

"It is a lot of work ... but in the long run, I think it's going to be beneficial because I get hands-on experience practicing what I'm learning," said Hawes.

For T-Bird athletes like Jasmine Mander — captain of the women's soccer team — student trainers continue to be an important part of injury recovery on the field.

In particular, Mander credits her team's student athletic trainers for the treatment of her torn ACL during her first year, which put her out of action for 12 months.

"I spent a lot of my time in my first year with ... the student trainers at the time, so I have a big appreciation for what they do for sure," said Mander.

Now a fifth-year athlete, she has had extensive experience with student trainers and appreciates their overall level of knowledge in injury treatment.

"Even though sometimes the student trainers are younger than me in terms of where they are in their undergrad, I'm always impressed by how much more they know in terms of the body and how to treat things," said Mander.

Mander also said that aside from providing treatment for physical injuries, student trainers also provide emotional support for the athletes during injury recovery, which she sees as a crucial aspect to a team's success.

"Something that most people might not know about student trainers is how much they deal with from a mental side as well in terms of supporting athletes," said Mander. "They make up a big part of the team in terms of spirit and cohesion."

Whether or not a student trainer does pursue a related career path or not, McCullum believes the positions offer a chance for kinesiology students to learn interpersonal skills, which they will need to bring into any professional workplace.

"Reality is, this is a highly valuable networking tool," said McCullum. "It's a huge value to both our athletes and the student coach to start to make those interactions because ... you need to be comfortable in this setting." 

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## CLUB CREATIVITY //

# Varsity Outdoor Club gets history in writing with centennial celebration book

Clare Skillman  
Staff Writer

The UBC Varsity Outdoor Club (VOC) is celebrating their centennial this year with a unique keepsake: a published book entitled *A Century of Antics, Epics, & Escapades: The Varsity Outdoor Club 1917-2017*.

"The book offers a lot of perspective into the wilderness around here, how it has changed with increasing development over the last 100 years, and how people's interactions have changed in some ways and in other ways haven't changed at all. At the end of the day we're just people getting outside and exploring," said Elliott Skierszkan, executive archivist and lead coordinator/director of the book project.

The VOC is one of the oldest and largest clubs on campus, with hundreds of members each year. Its premise is to support outdoor adventures — primarily hiking, backcountry skiing, rock climbing and mountaineering.

"The club punches way above its weight in terms of first ascents and major expeditions," Skierszkan said. If you look around Squamish, Whistler, Garibaldi Lake and beyond, the trails that you take are likely developed by VOCers. This becomes more impressive when one considers that many of those expeditions were performed when the members were between 18-25 years old.

"As I flip through the pages, a lot of the photos that were



The book contains facts, photos and anecdotes from the VOC's history. PATRICK GILLIN

chosen were group shots of VOC members — young people smiling, being outside and being together," Skierszkan said.

On why to join the VOC, Skierszkan said, "we have these experiences that you just don't have with other humans in the city ... I think that connection is a stronger bond than you would get through other activities."

These connections and feats of human effort are in the foreground of the book and are intimately linked with the history of human exploration of the wilderness around Vancouver and beyond.

However, the club isn't all about antics and relative hedonism in the backcountry. There is a strong air of responsibility and respect for the VOC's extended community throughout the book. Before the table of contents, the book acknowledges that its "history has

largely unfolded on the traditional territories of several Indigenous groups." There is a feature on the contributions of female members and the club's ongoing dedication to achieving equality as well as on the club's initiatives to protect the environment.

The VOC also has a strong focus on accident prevention, a point highlighted in the book through memorials for members who met their limits in the wilderness. "The harder you push, the more difficult the terrain you're in, the more risk management becomes important ... it's about fostering a culture of safety," Skierszkan explained. The transparency of the VOC's history heightens the impact that this club has made and impresses the attitude to celebrate life to fullest.

The book is \$40 for VOC student members and \$50 for non-members. [U](#)

## Fixtures

Sport	Home	Score	Away
<b>Friday, October 27</b>			
Soccer (W)	UBC	3-1	Manitoba
Ice Hockey (M)	Lethbridge	0-5	UBC
Basketball (W)	UBC	71-62	UFV
Soccer (M)	UBC	2-1	Mount Royal
Ice Hockey (W)	UBC	2-1	Lethbridge
Basketball (M)	UBC	111-78	UFV
<b>Saturday, October 28</b>			
Ice Hockey (M)	Lethbridge	4-6	UBC
Field Hockey (M)	UBC	1-2	Surrey Lions FHC
Football	UBC	44-15	Regina
Ice Hockey (W)	UBC	1-0	Lethbridge
Rugby (M)	UBC	53-7	Castaway Wanderers RFC
Basketball (W)	UBC	69-49	UFV
Basketball (M)	UBC	105-64	UFV
<b>Sunday, October 29</b>			
Soccer (W)	Saskatchewan	0-3	UBC
<b>Other Results to Note</b>			
UBC men's rowing won gold at the Western Canadian University Rowing Championships.			

## SOCCER //

# 'Birds conquer Cougars in extra time, advance to CanWest Final Four

Ryan Neale  
Staff Writer

In what was a tale of two halves, the UBC Thunderbirds finally overcame the Mount Royal Cougars 2-1 in extra time at Thunderbird Stadium on Friday night, solidifying a Final Four playoff game on home turf next weekend.

The match opened with lots of back and forth play. Both teams were eager to get their forwards involved early with long balls up the wings — most of which were unsuccessful.



UBC's Kyle Sohi's tie-breaking kick. PATRICK GILLIN

After 15 minutes, the 'Birds were uncharacteristically pinned in their own half, as Mount Royal dominated the possession. By the 34th minute, the Cougars caught their break — midfielder Branden Canejo slotted a through ball between UBC's centrebacks, setting up Justin Anderson-Louc for his first goal of the playoffs. Louc almost netted his second right after the kickoff, taking a shot from midfield and almost lobbing T-Birds keeper Chad Bush.

This was not the start the home side was looking for — shooting twice with none on goal compared

to Mount Royal's four shots and three on goal. The score after the first half: 1-0.

The second half started sloppy for both sides, but the Thunderbirds were able to find their groove. The 51st minute saw a controversial call by the referee, who decided not to award UBC striker Zach Verhoven a penalty after a mix-up in the box.

The 'Birds were relentless in their attack, however, scoring in the 58th minute when forward Ryan Arthur somehow threaded the ball to midfielder Mackenzie Cole, who then finished it six yards out.

Verhoven — who had been punishing the Cougars' right side all game — looked to add a second in the 61st after blazing down the right wing and cutting in before blasting a shot off the crossbar.

It wasn't until the 70th minute when the Cougars got their first chance of the half — a 20-yard finesse shot by Canejo and testament to the monumental swing in momentum in Mount Royals' favour.

Even so, the T-Birds would be the ones to salvage some final chances on net. In stoppage time, they were awarded a 32-yard free kick with an opportunity to win the game. Rookie midfielder Patrick Izett played it to midfielder Kerman Pannu, who found striker Victory Shumbusho for the golden goal. Alas, it was offside, but UBC was clearly



Mount Royal's Hafiz Mahjor heads the ball past UBC. PATRICK GILLIN

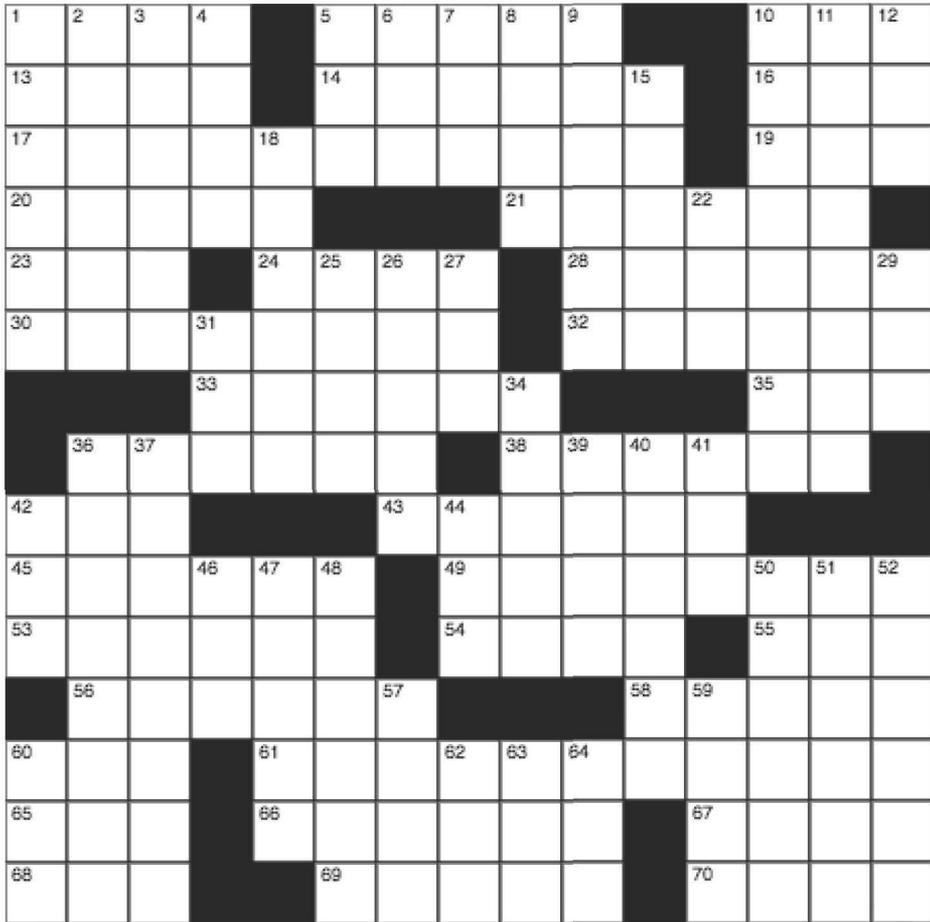
energized heading into 30 minutes of extra time.

At the 100-minute mark, UBC finally took the lead off of a controlled chip by Izett to forward Kyle Sohi, who used the bounce to lob the keeper.

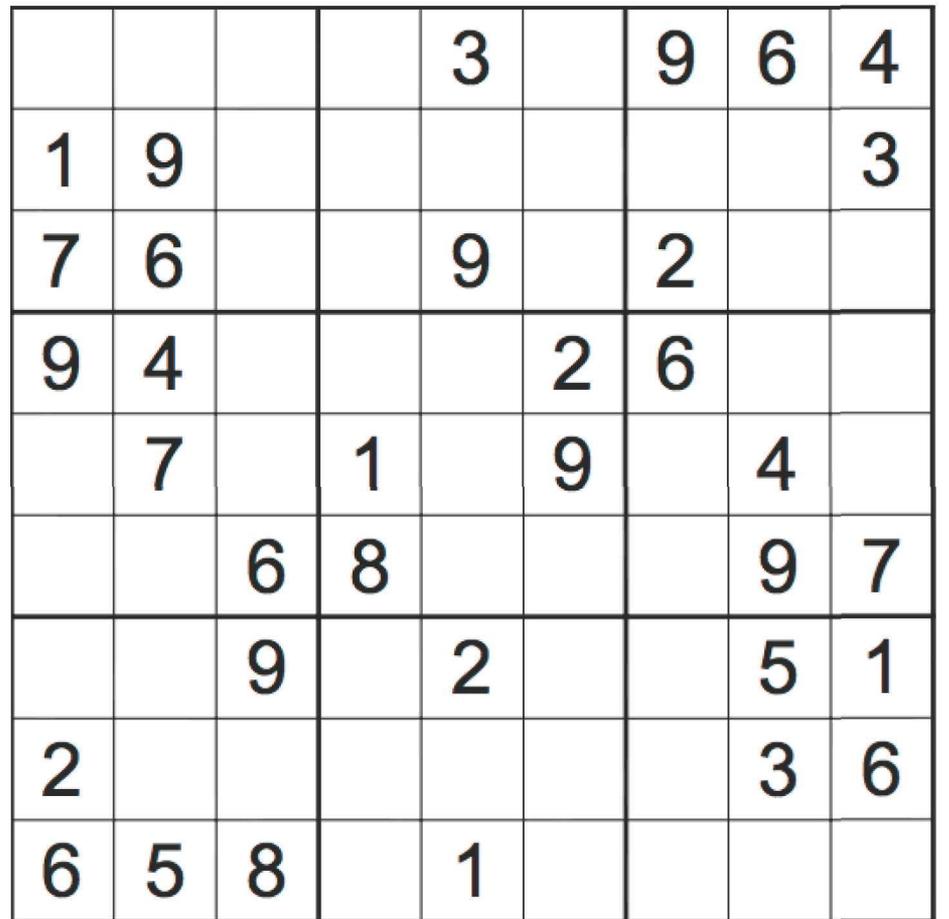
Clearly frustrated, the Cougars worked frantically to get the ball to save their season — it proved too big a task. The 'Birds were already in cruise control, heading towards the next round of playoffs. After 120 minutes, the final score was 2-1 in favour of the home side.

"It was a disappointing first half. Credit to them, they came out with greater energy and desire than we did," UBC head coach Mike Mosher said post-game. "Credit to our guys for responding. We made three switches at half-time and we needed and wanted a response and we got it. So, [we] take what we can and [are] happy to be moving on at this point for sure."

The Thunderbirds will now advance to the Canada West Final Four next weekend at Thunderbird Stadium. [U](#)



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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**

- 1 From the U.S.;
- 5 Currency unit in Nigeria;
- 10 Bit of butter;
- 13 Wife of a rajah;
- 14 Verdi title bandit;
- 16 Gore and more;
- 17 Absorbing;
- 19 Numbered hwy.;
- 20 Subway turner;
- 21 Small African antelope;
- 23 Always; 24 Movie dog;
- 28 Wide street;
- 30 Railway ties;

- 32 Legume;
- 33 Read with care;
- 35 \_\_\_ live and breathe!;
- 36 Frightens;
- 38 Smell in "Apocalypse Now";
- 42 Reporter's question;
- 43 Dissertations;
- 45 Decorative band;
- 49 Ambiguous;
- 53 San Diego suburb;
- 54 Habit;
- 55 Large flightless bird;
- 56 Kind of license or justice;
- 58 Relaxed;
- 60 Roadhouse;
- 61 Huge;
- 65 Golf ball prop;

- 66 Cash in;
- 67 Curtain holders;
- 68 Camera type, briefly;
- 69 Roman goddess of the moon;
- 70 Part of MIT;

**DOWN**

- 1 Comes up;
- 2 Construction framing a fireplace;
- 3 Whole;
- 4 Monetary unit of Cambodia;
- 5 Society page word;
- 6 Start of MGM's motto;
- 7 CD earnings;
- 8 Sudden assault;
- 9 Yearly;

- 10 Maternal or paternal;
- 11 Unselfish concern;
- 12 Mao \_\_\_ tung;
- 15 Uncle!;
- 18 Grim character;
- 22 Barbie's boyfriend;
- 25 Shrivelled, without moisture;
- 26 Confidence;
- 27 Pompous person;
- 29 Certain Ivy Leaguer;
- 31 Ecol. watchdog;
- 34 January, in Juárez;
- 36 Artillery fragments;
- 37 Person without a title;
- 39 Slippery \_\_\_ eel;
- 40 Comblike body structure;
- 41 Sun Devils' sch.;

- 42 \_\_\_ Mart;
- 44 In what way;
- 46 Bruce \_\_\_ was a famous kung fu movie star;
- 47 Fragrant compound;
- 48 Followed;
- 50 Wound;
- 51 Recompense;
- 52 Least polite;
- 57 Basic monetary unit of Ghana;
- 59 Longfellow's bell town;
- 60 Part of TGIF;
- 62 Legume;
- 63 Coop denizen;
- 64 Doc bloc;



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;) )