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LOSING SPOONS SINCE 1918

# THE UBYSSEY

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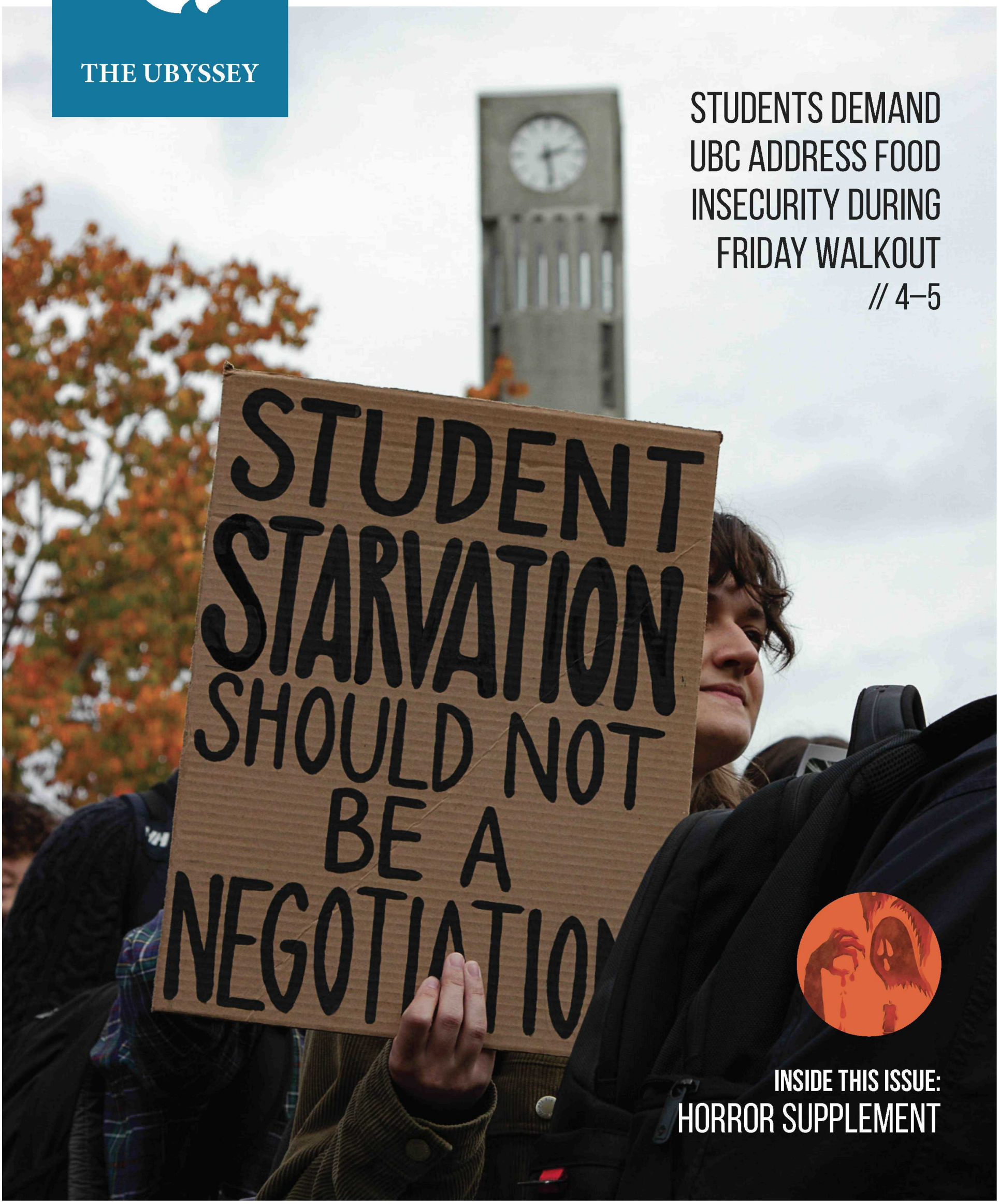


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# THE UBYSSEY

OCTOBER 25, 2022 | VOLUME CIV | ISSUE IX

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## ON THE COVER

**COVER**

Mahin E Alam

## Become a *Ubyssey* staff member!

1. Attend three staff meetings (Fridays at 4 p.m. in room 2208 in the AMS Nest or online).
2. Contribute three times to *The Ubyssey*! This can mean writing three articles, taking three photos or videos, making three illustrations or helping with copyediting three times. Or you can mix and match!
3. Attend your third staff meeting with those three contributions, and *The Ubyssey*'s staff members will vote you in!


## OUR CAMPUS

# Aydin Quach is at the intersection of raves, research and identity

Aydin Quach rocking a black puffer vest as he explains his identity and rave research.

ISABELLA MAGGIORE / THE UBYSSEY

**Meghan Tahar**
Contributor

As the Ladner Clock Tower struck two o'clock, the autumn leaves danced through the air in time with its toll. The fall weather was perfect, with a clear sky and a crisp breeze. The perfect temperature to bring out my flannel. On the stone benches nestled in the grassy hills just outside of IKB, I met Aydin Quach, who was rocking a black puffer vest.

Quach is a master's student in history at UBC whose research focuses on the role of masculinity and sex work in Southeast Asia. The cultural significance of manhood and masculinity is something that Quach has always been interested in.

"I got into research because I am a Queer Asian man," he said. "And I am interested in where these notions of masculinity, where notions of identity come from, [which] is tied often to history."

Recently, Quach has been conducting additional research in the School of Journalism on how raves intersect with identity — a type of research is referred to as autoethnography. Autoethnography is when research is conducted by observation of one's surroundings as well as their own experiences.

Before this year, he'd never been to one. As an introvert, he rarely went out and would rather sit at home with a good book.

In February, his friends within the Vancouver gay Asian community started raving about raves, the freedom of expression and the confidence that these raves would give them.

"As a nerd," Quach said, laughing, "I want to give [my friends] an academic answer in regards to why [they] like [raves] and how it helps with [their] identity." his led Quach to propose this as a research topic [and his journey] down the rabbit hole of rave culture.

As bees and dragonflies flew around us, Quach recalled his first rave experience. On a trip to San Francisco this past June, he took to Tinder and Facebook to reach out to the local Queer community. A friend informed him of a rave that week, and he spontaneously agreed to go. The stars had seemingly aligned: he was in a foreign city, and the opportunity presented itself, so why not try it out?

He recalled shopping for an outfit by visiting costume and thrift stores, researching the health and safety procedures and packing some gum, headphones and water. Going into the rave, his nerves were high.

"I have sensory issues, so loud spaces tend to make me stressed out, I get panic attacks and stuff like that." But Quach was surrounded by great friends who held his hand through the whole experience, they taught him grounding techniques and coping mechanisms, and he said that earplugs are "absolutely a godsend."

As soon as the music started, though, Quach began to understand what the hype was about.

"When the music starts blasting and you feel the beat, like vibrating through your bones," he said. "You're like, 'no, this is something very different than you'd first thought.' It's very unique."

One of the largest draws of these raves seems to be how they affirm people's identities. But why and how do they do this?

For some of the older members of the Queer community, raves act as a way for them to live the youth that was robbed from them, Quach explained. "[They] didn't get to experience youth in the same way that straight people do. They're forced to grow up faster and they're forced to move out of the house faster in order to have that freedom."

Raves build an escape for people where they can express themselves in a safe environment, judgement-free. The attendees of these events range from students to accountants to surgeons, all looking for a weekend escape from the monotony of adult life. Especially coming out of a pandemic, people are looking for a place to express themselves after being cooped up at home, Quach explained.

EDC, North America's largest rave located in Las Vegas, completely sold out within a minute of its tickets going on sale this year. Quach theorized that "in response to world crises, 'everyone's like I need a break ... I'm going to get out of here.'"

Quach explained that going to a rave requires spending money on your ticket and your costume, if it's not local, you need transportation and a place to stay. On top of all this, there's also the cost of drugs for those that choose to use them. Quach said that because of these costs, raves end up being accessible to only those who can afford them, which usually end up being rich white people. But there are certainly others who go into debt for the opportunity to experience the freedom of identity that these events offer.

Growing up in Vancouver with accepting parents and a strong community of Queer Asian people around him, Quach opened up about what this research really meant to him.

"I recognize that my position is [one of] privilege because I am able to come out, my parents are accepting of me, [and] I am allowed to be really open about my sexuality and my work in my academic practice as well as my research. Plenty of people aren't," said Quach.

"I've lost friends to suicide as a result of ... not being able to reconcile all the stressors in life with their own Queer identity. So ... part of my research is activism, it's visibility. The more we see people like me doing research, writing about our own experiences, the more I feel I can empower people."

Quach said he is putting himself out there and using his platform to "push the agenda a little bit [and] go into a little bit more [of a] dangerous territory."

## NEWS BRIEFS

### UBC announces allocation of $425,000 in food security funding

In a memo sent on October 18, UBC announced the allocation of a one-time $425,000 from the President's Office for food security efforts on the Vancouver campus. $210,000 will go to UBC Meal Share, a by-application program which provides students up to once per term with free dining hall entries and funds for grocery shopping. Food Hub Market, an at-cost grocery store expected to reopen in October will receive $15,000. Student-run cafe Sprouts will receive $30,000. The AMS Food Bank will receive $145,000, and the UBC/community run Acadia Park Food Hub will receive $25,000. A further $75,000 in funding for the Okanagan campus has yet to be allocated.

### Jen McCutcheon re-elected Electoral Area A director

Jen McCutcheon was re-elected as the regional director for Electoral Area A on October 15. McCutcheon received 815 votes. Jonah Gonzales, running for Progress Vancouver, received 184 votes. According to CivicInfoBC, this represents an estimated voter turnout of 6.9 per cent, lower than the estimated 15.4 per cent in 2014, the last contested general election for Electoral Area A. In an interview with *The Ubyssey* before the election, McCutcheon said her priorities were being a strong advocate for residents of the UBC peninsula on issues like housing and transport, and connecting community members.

### AMS Council approves sale of art worth $2.3 million

At its October 12 meeting, AMS Council authorized the sale of three paintings — "Abandoned Village, Rivers Inlet" by E.J. Hughes, "South of Coppermine" by A.Y. Jackson and "Northern Image" by Lawren Harris. All three are part of the AMS's Permanent Art Collection and are collectively estimated to be worth over $2.3 million. The sale is an attempt to address the AMS's $1.25 million deficit and was previously approved by a 2017 referendum. President Eshana Bhangu said at the meeting that the paintings can only be displayed once a year and cost $40,000 to insure for display.

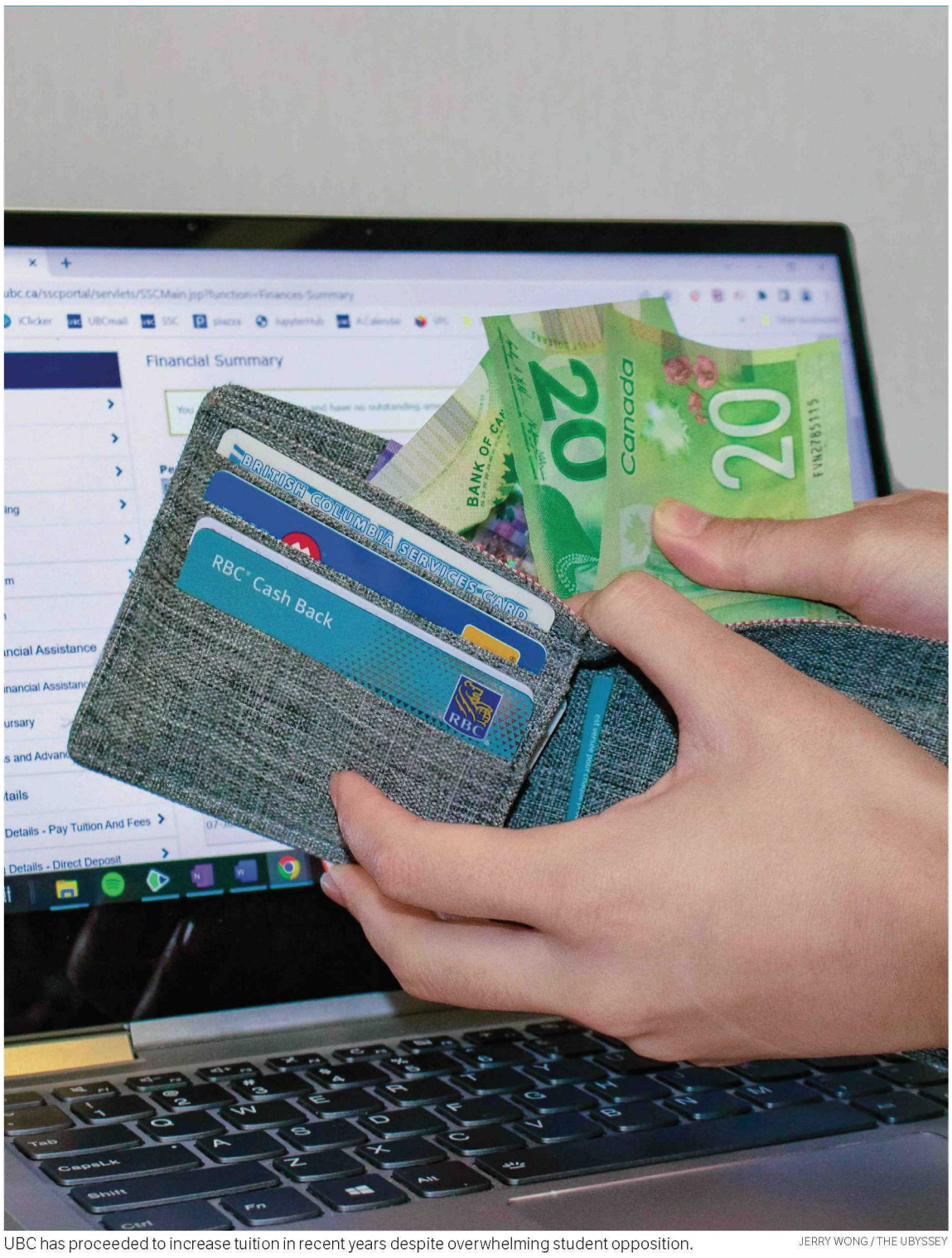
### Blue Chip to move to old Pie R Squared location

The AMS is planning to move Blue Chip into the old Pie R Squared location early next term. Pie R Squared has been closed since 2020, first because of the pandemic and then staffing difficulties. President Eshana Bhangu said the AMS hopes to maximize the now-empty space by creating a "more sit-down, cafe like presence for Blue Chip." The move is also intended to enhance the AMS's struggling business performance — Bhangu said the student society plans on putting two food outlets in the current Blue Chip space. Blue Chip will close during the move, but Blue Chip Express will remain open.

AFFORDABILITY //

# Student opposition to tuition increases persists

**Tina Yong**
Contributor



UBC has proceeded to increase tuition in recent years despite overwhelming student opposition. JERRY WONG / THE UBYSSEY

UBC's annual tuition engagement process has begun for the 2023/24 academic year, once again drawing criticism from students.

Each year, UBC launches a month-long tuition engagement process, which involves publicizing a breakdown of its budget and proposed tuition increases in addition to seeking student feedback through an online survey that closes this year on October 31.

In accordance with the provincial cap, tuition increases for domestic students have been proposed as two per cent. Returning international students, who normally face an increase between two to five per cent, can expect to see an increase of three per cent under UBC's proposal this year, while new international students can expect a five per cent increase.

Last year, tuition increased by two per cent for domestic and returning international students and four per cent for new international students.

The numerical increase for each student will vary based on their degree. A breakdown of each program can be found on the UBC consultation website under "What will the increase cost me?"

Unlike previous years, however, students and people across BC are facing added financial pressure from rapidly rising cost of living. International crises have disrupted supply chains, inflating the price of housing, gas and food prices significantly while wage increases have largely not kept pace.

Alirod Ameri, who graduated from the Faculty of Science in 2021 and returned as a graduate student in 2022, has opposed the tuition increases every year. Although he is still opposed this year, Ameri said that the unique circumstances facing the university has made him make slightly different considerations.

"This year, with the current financial environment, especially with inflation ... from the university's perspective, it is justifiable for them to increase tuition by two per cent," Ameri said.

Ameri said he thinks it's good that a sizable portion of the tuition funding is going toward staffing and supporting initiatives such as equity, diversity and inclusion.

However, Ameri said he is concerned about the rise in general costs of living, which he thinks have been much more "significant than tuition increases" in negatively impacting the student experience.

"Things have gotten way worse, and it doesn't show signs of getting better. The university needs to develop some sort of long-term strategy to really address these student experience concerns," Ameri said.

Food insecurity has been on the rise across university campuses, with a recent Undergraduate Experience survey indicating that 37 per cent of UBC Vancouver students report low to very low food security.

Squeezed by a high-demand, low-supply rental market, students also reported difficulty finding affordable housing near campus.

Matthew Ramsey, director of university affairs at UBC Media Relations, said in a statement that the university "understands current inflationary and associated cost of living pressures are a challenge for some of our students."

Ramsey provided examples of initiatives related to affordability, such as a 20 per cent increase in non-repayable financial assistance between 2021/22, plans to explore recommendations made in the Student Affordability Task Force report, and a recent $500,000 increase in funding for food security initiatives authorized by former President Santa Ono.

Ramsey said funding for food security programs was not reduced — rather, there was a one-time grant provided through the Food Security Initiative in 2021 because of pandemic circumstances, which was not renewed.

Rayan Aich, a third-year arts student, cited the university's lack of action on these problems as his reason for opposing the increases.

"If students are still facing huge problems ... you're obviously not putting the money towards initiatives that are assisting with student well-being," Aich said.

Aich said that the cost of supporting organizations such as Sprouts and the AMS Food Bank is "negligible" when put in context with UBC's budget.

"Even if we doubled funding for these organizations, it's still less than a percentage point of the money you're getting from the tuition increases," Aich said. "So I really don't know why you're cutting funding."

Aich said if the university is making meaningful progress on combating the problems students care about, they are not clearly communicating these solutions to students, who are being kept "out of the loop."

He also sees the one-time $500,000 increase to food insecurity as a short-term solution that only came after significant student pressure.

"It's like you've shot yourself in the foot, and you're applying a band-aid to the gunshot wound," Aich said.

After the student survey closes on October 31, the committees of the Board of Governors will discuss the increase and feedback in November, followed by a vote on whether to approve the proposed increases and budget by the full Board at its December 5 meeting.

Ramsey said the engagement process is crucial to gauging student opinion on how to invest funds collected from the increases, noting that the university has made greater investments in student health and well-being initiatives, heeding to feedback from last year's survey.

Ameri said he does not expect this year's engagement process to be any different than the recent past, when UBC proceeded to increase tuition each year despite overwhelming student opposition. He said the process exists because UBC "wants to give the impression that they're listening to students."

Aich echoed the same view, saying he shares the cynicism he has observed in the student community about whether UBC will listen to students.

"I think it falls upon deaf ears, and that's frustrating because the university claims to care about its students," Aich said. "When you try to get our input, but then you're not even listening to it, it's odd to me."

# ‘I’M SICK OF HAVING SLEEP FOR DINNER’

## STUDENTS DEMAND UBC ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY DURING FRIDAY WALKOUT

words by **BEA LEHMANN** photos by **ISABELLA FALSETTI** & **MAHIN E ALAM**

Hundreds of UBC students gathered Friday afternoon at a walkout led by Sprouts Cafe to protest rising food insecurity, reduced funding for food security initiatives and a perceived lack of support from the university.

Sprouts, a student-run organization providing healthy and sustainable food to the UBC community, led protestors from outside the Nest to Koerner Library, where community members gave speeches before delivering an open letter demanding action on food insecurity to the office of Interim UBC President, Deborah Buszard.

Food security has been rising on campus. The AMS Food Bank saw double the visits this summer than it did in summer 2021. At the same time, UBC did not renew one-time funding for food insecurity efforts in this year’s budget, dramatically cutting the funding to student-run organizations like the AMS Food Bank and Sprouts. After student advocacy, UBC has allocated $500,000 more to food security efforts on both campuses.

Attendees were energized, spontaneously breaking into cheers and chants during the demonstration. Many carried signs that ranged from humorous: “Starving is cringe” and “I’m hangry,” to heartbreaking: “I’m sick of having sleep for dinner.”

Carla Conradie, a fourth-year environmental engineering student and Sprouts Products Manager, carried a sign that listed out the demands Sprouts detailed in its open letter to UBC administration. These demands include both permanent food security funding as well as long-term structural goals such as living wages and affordable housing for the UBC community.

“We expect there’s gonna be a pretty long process of just back and forth because the university ... has historically been really bad with food security,” Conradie said.

“We’re just trying to show them that this is an issue that they cannot ignore, and if they do, there will be consequences because this is peoples’ lives on the line.”

In front of Koerner Library, Sprouts Co-Presidents Delanie Austin and Gizel Gedik thanked students for attending the walkout.

“This campaign has come out of a labour of love,” Gedik said. “Food is community, and we can see that here today.”

The co-presidents read aloud the open letter, which had garnered 3,608 signatures as of Monday morning. The first demand is that permanent food security funding is established at $1.91 million, the same level as the one-time funding of the 2021/22 fiscal year.

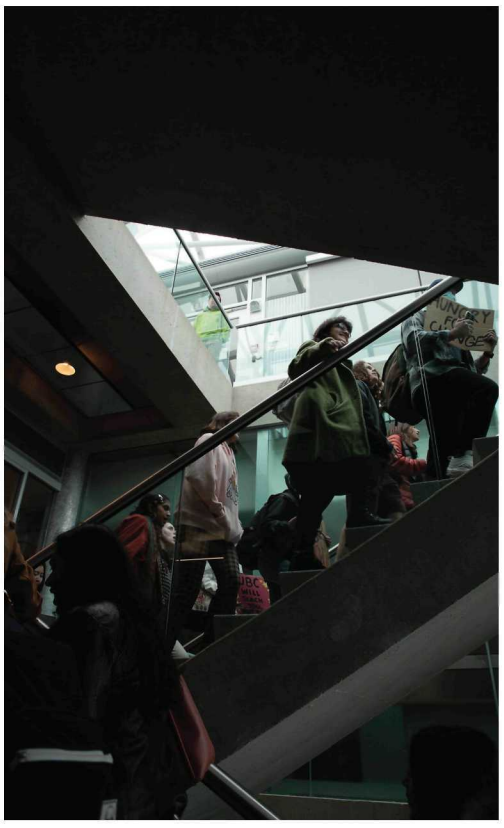
In an interview early last week, Austin explained the urgent need for permanent funding.

“Next year when I’m not here, and my co-president is not here, we don’t really want to leave a legacy of everyone having to keep fighting and fighting for this money,” said Austin.

Two weeks ago, UBC announced $30,000 of its additional allocation to food security initiatives will be given to Sprouts.

Austin noted that this money must be spent this year, leaving no assurances for what type or amount of funding UBC will provide in the future.

“I think that also creates ... tension within food security spaces. Because we would rather, like, be able to build



*Top left: Students gather outside Koerner Library to vocalize their frustration about campus food insecurity and lack of funding from the university. Top right: Volunteer marshals guide protestors into Koerner Library. Bottom left: Protestors climb the stairs to the Office of the President on the seventh floor. Bottom middle: Students affix their protest signs to the walls outside the UBC President's office. Bottom right: A banner signed by Sprouts Cafe and other student organizations remains in the stairwell after the crowds clear away.*

bridges with people all over campus ... than have to, like, argue for who should have funding."

In a written statement to *The Ubyssey*, UBC's Associate Vice President of Student Housing and Community Services, Andrew Parr, said with the additional $500,000 of funding, the university has also dedicated $2.4 million in total towards food security between Vancouver and Okanagan campuses this fiscal year.

His statement did not mention that according to a UBC memo detailing UBC's allocation, $282,000 of the total was put forward by the AMS and Students' Union Okanagan, and a further $280,000 from UBCO Student Financial Aid is not expected to go to students seeking food aid.

Parr added that UBC's funding to combat food insecurity "was not reduced during this fiscal year," but rather that last-year's funding was a one-time allocation due to the circumstances of the pandemic.

## STUDENTS SPEAK OUT

During the walkout, several student speakers took to the microphone to rally the crowd.

"I encourage you, I encourage everyone, talk to your friends, get them started on this conversation," said Vivica, a first-year Arts student who spoke to the crowd. "Make sure they understand that even if you can access food, you are still impacted by food insecurity and the issues on this campus." Their last name was not provided.

"No one is immune to the catastrophic destruction that food insecurity has caused at the University of British Columbia," they said.

Two members of Musqueam nation gave a land acknowledgement. Elder Martin Sparrow welcomed students with a song, and Shona Sparrow emphasized the importance of food security and sustainability.

"We are ... Musqueam fishermen, so we all know about the food sustainability, the food, how important the food is for each and every one of you. We live it, we breathe it," Shona Sparrow said.

The final student speaker of the day, former Sprouts president and sixth-year computer science and geography student Emma Gunn questioned UBC's current tactics to address food security. "UBC admin tells us people are food insecure because of some abstract reason that we can never know," said Gunn. "But we know this isn't true, and we know where the problem lies."

In his statement, Parr wrote, "The administration has since pursued a long-term plan for addressing affordability in the Student Affordability Task Force report ... We are currently exploring long-term funding to provide ongoing, stable support for food security-related needs."

Whether UBC's plan for reducing food insecurity on campus will prove adequate to students remains to be seen. For students such as Anniruddha Methi, an international exchange student studying psychology who was at the march, the answers to these questions will have a significant impact on wellbeing.

"I have been lucky enough to get food, but it's so expensive," Methi said. "I don't have money for anything else." ❦

FOOD SECURITY //

# AMS Food Bank relocating to larger space amid growing demand

**Matthew Asunscion**
Contributor

AMS Food Bank patrons may see shorter lines in the coming weeks as the food bank moves right around the corner in the Life Building.

The new room (LIFE 0023) will allow around ten clients to access the food bank at the same time, more than double the current capacity of four clients.

In addition, the location will provide increased storage space to assist with re-stocking of items throughout the day.

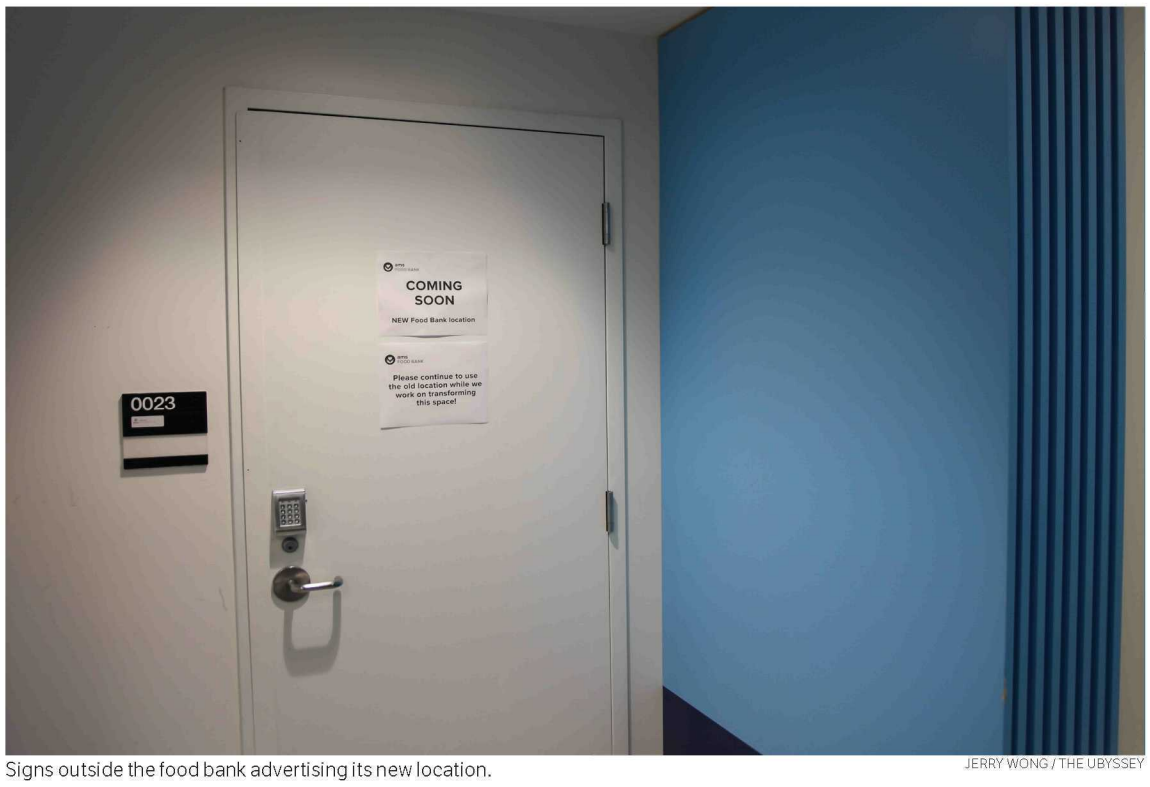
"Hopefully, [these changes] will make a better experience for all folks using the food bank," said Kathleen Simpson, senior manager of student services at the AMS.

The move is slated to take place during a weekend in late October and will not impact the food bank's operating hours.

Simpson said that while a relocation had been planned for years, the AMS waited until an appropriate space was available and staff capacity was at the level where they could support a move. The new space was previously occupied by the Exchange Student Club, which was deconstituted earlier this summer.

Simpson added that the timing was apt given a projected increase in visits, surpassing the levels seen during the 2021/22 winter term.

"The summer demand was nearly twice as much as last year's summer demand, and we are very conscious that going into the new year, we typically see a 30 per cent increase in usage from summer to winter term," said Simpson.



Signs outside the food bank advertising its new location. JERRY WONG / THE UBYSSEY

Funding for the move came from a $6,604 expenditure from the AMS Capital Projects Fund. The majority of the funding will go towards electric panel and wiring upgrades, as well as purchasing a new refrigerator to store more perishable goods like milk.

## COSTS CONTINUE TO CLIMB

Documents submitted to AMS Council stated that rising demand and low funding projections from UBC for the fall term led to the variety of foods being cut by two-thirds early this summer. According to Simpson, culturally-accessible items like rice and produce staples like oranges were among the items the food bank was unable to purchase.

AMS President Eshana Bhangu announced on October 19 that the food bank was allocated $145,000 out of the $425,000 distribution from the UBC President's Office towards food insecurity efforts at UBC Vancouver.

Simpson said that the new funding should be enough to cover any projected budget shortfalls for the 2022/23 academic year and that items would be reintroduced gradually over the coming month as discussions regarding the distribution of funds from UBC to the AMS continue.

"We're going to be having a larger discussion with the food bank team about what more variety we can reintroduce with this funding from UBC and also the recent influx of donations [we've received]," said Simpson.

Camila Davila, a fourth-year international student at UBC, said she's glad that the AMS Food Bank is able to meet her needs. Davila said that after her government-sponsored scholarship funds began to run low this past spring, she relied on her savings and the food bank to make ends meet as she hopes to graduate this fall.

"It has been really helpful because otherwise I wouldn't always have access to basic things like milk [and] eggs, because right now things are very expensive outside," said Davila.

Davila said that she's hopeful the new changes will allow the food bank to better serve individuals in the UBC community and allow community members to put more energy towards their studies and passions.

"I know I am almost there, it's just four months left," said Davila. "Without the food bank it wouldn't be possible, and I'm really grateful [for it]."

GETTING OUT OF THE RED //

# AMS looks to creative solutions to save struggling businesses

**Charlotte Alden**
Coordinating Editor

The AMS is hopeful its businesses will bounce back to profitability after the pandemic and hiring and supply issues compounded to squash AMS businesses' revenue to a quarter of what it was three years ago.

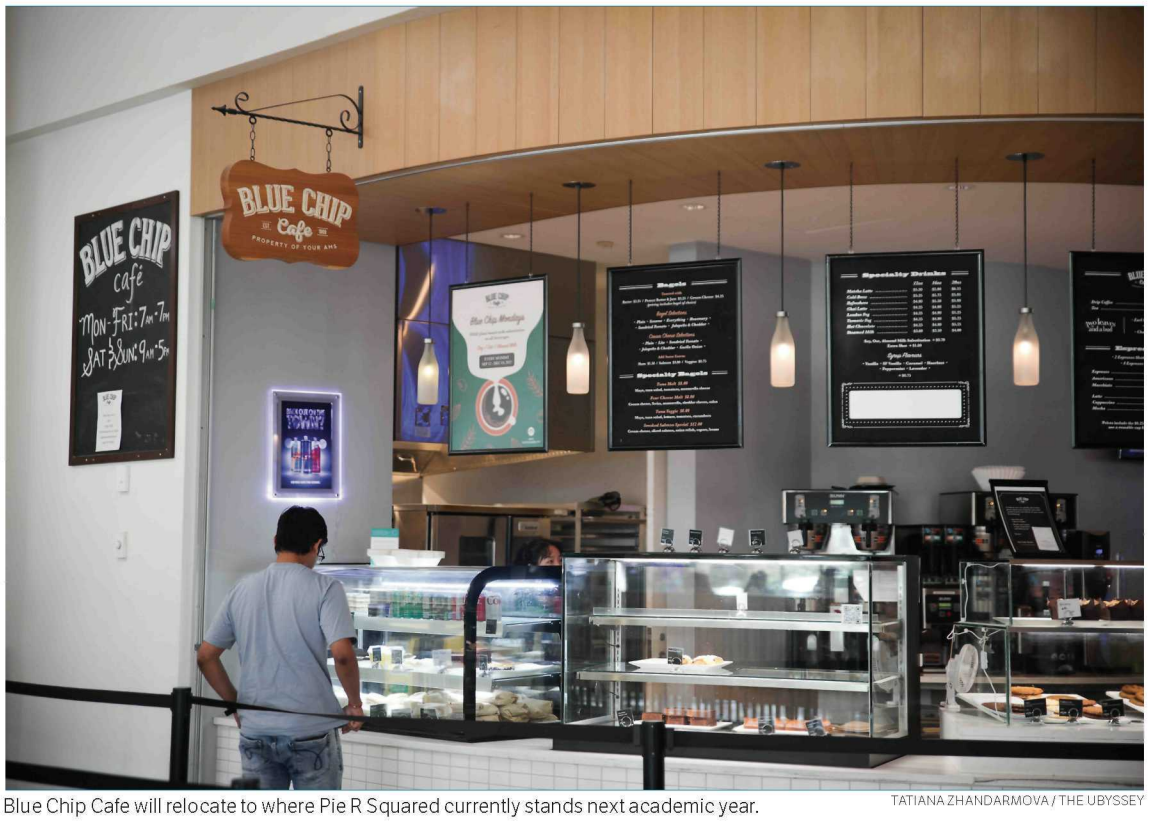
The student society is projecting $372,000 in business revenue this year, compared to the $1.34 million made from its businesses in 2019/20. AMS President Eshana Bhangu told *The Ubyssey* in September that the society's $1.25 million deficit is largely due to the AMS's businesses' weak performance. The AMS's businesses include The Pit, Grand Noodle Emporium, The Gallery, Porch, Blue Chip Cafe, Honour Roll, Flavour Lab and Conferences and Catering.

$372,000 was, at one point, looking like it could be out of reach, Bhangu said. "That's not where I wish for the AMS to be."

The AMS's report on the first quarter of the fiscal year paints a bleak picture — only two of the AMS's businesses reported a net revenue (Blue Chip and The Pit) — but Bhangu said the businesses are in recovery, and doing better since students returned to campus.

Hiring and supply chain issues have impacted the AMS and businesses Canada-wide.

Getting more permanent full-time workers is tough, Bhangu said, due to UBC's isolated location from the rest of the Lower Mainland. Slight wage increases for hourly staff passed at the beginning of 2022 helped, Bhangu said, but they're looking at creative ways to lure in new staff.



Blue Chip Cafe will relocate to where Pie R Squared currently stands next academic year. TATIANA ZHANDARMOVA / THE UBYSSEY

One way could be hiring through the Government of Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Program — Bhangu said the AMS has gotten approval for four positions.

As for supply chain issues, Bhangu said it comes down to "negotiating" with suppliers and vendors. In the VP finance by-election debate, candidate and current AMS Strategy & Governance Lead Kamil Kanji suggested a "supply chain audit" for the AMS's businesses. Bhangu said that could help.

"Quite frankly, [supply chain issues are] just a challenge we have to deal with for the moment."

Another challenge is new competition — several new food outlets have opened on University Boulevard in the last few years.

Bhangu downplayed the impact, saying the lack of directly-competing businesses should dampen the blow. But regarding direct competition for The Gallery from Browns Crafthouse, she said the AMS has been investing in it through renovation and changes to its menu.

"We are trying to come up with things to deal with that competition and make [our businesses] more attractive to students," she said. "At the end of the day, we are also cheaper than other places on campus. So hopefully that'll help as well."

Bhangu said the AMS is trying to do targeted reports and social media engagement to try to raise awareness of their businesses.

Other solutions include a Blue Chip relocation — the AMS is planning to move Blue Chip into the old Pie R Squared location, and open two new food outlets where Blue Chip currently stands next academic year.

The AMS has also been expanding its on-campus catering to try to deal with lower revenues. Bhangu said that UBC's catering business, Scholars, recently shut down, allowing the AMS to have a bit more available business on campus.

However, returning businesses to profitability requires a balancing act with the society's commitment to affordability, Bhangu said.

"It's really important that we're continuing to balance our mission as a student union — that we're providing affordable options on campus, and still generating enough revenue to be able to support the rest of society with that."

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PLACES TO GO

# Novi Sad meets West in the East

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY **FIONA SJAUS**
DESIGN BY **MAHIN E ALAM**

*Like the remainder of the Balkans, Novi Sad — which translates to "new plantation" in Serbian — was always a cross-road.*

I spent the summers of my childhood frolicking in the concrete jungle of Belgrade, Serbia. It was my refuge — an enclosed playground of parks mossed in sizzled grass amidst sprawling pedestrian walkways lined with vendors, the smell of baking pastry and chatting grandmas that howled greetings from their balconies. There was always movement, a city that truly never sleeps, my best-kept secret.

There is something magical about coming back to a place that provided the setting for so many family stories, but after three years of Vancouver summers, I decided I needed to visit Novi Sad, the city where my grandma spent the beginning of her professional career as a pioneering coder in the 60s.

Planning this trip was one of the most spontaneous things I have ever done. One afternoon my friend and I were booking train tickets and an Airbnb, and the next, we were standing in front of Name of Mary Catholic Church after a 30-minute ride on Serbia's rapidly growing Soko rail system.

Like the remainder of the Balkans, Novi Sad — which translates to "new plantation" in Serbian — was always a crossroad.

Novi Sad has an immensely diverse and tumultuous history which makes for a vibrant local culture. Before the unification of Yugoslavia in 1918, it was a hub for the minority Serbs in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and was only a small fishing village on the Danube River up until the 18th century. It is now the capital of Vojvodina which is an autonomous state between Serbia and Hungary. It was voted Europe's Centre of Culture in 2022.

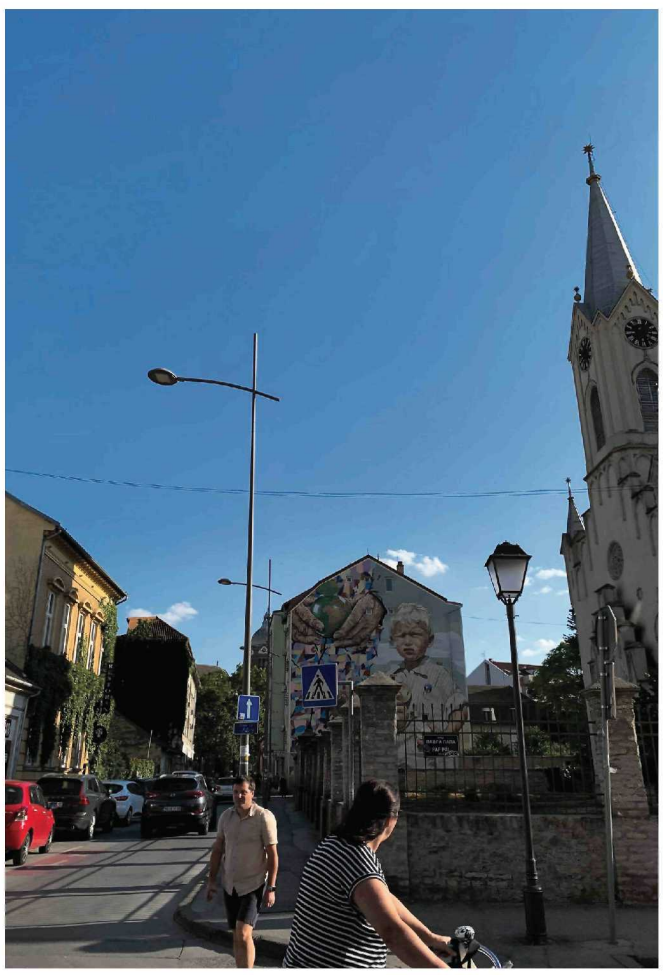
Our first afternoon there, we were met with the beating sun. The air was thick and weighed us and our bags down as we hailed a taxi. The city was quiet and lazy, a stark juxtaposition from around the same time the month before when Novi Sad was buzzing as all of Europe packed the streets for the annual Exit Music Festival.

We spent our first evening walking through Zmaj Jovina promenade, a quaint pedestrian-only street where buzzing cafes and apartments whose terraces bloomed with flowers lined the street, the low hum of music constantly in the background of the conversation. Novi Sad is special in its ability to distinctly capture all the different cultures that have influenced the area. Rather than being a melting pot, one can experience the cobblestones of Hungary next to Habsburg architecture, along with the smells and sounds of the Balkans.

On our balcony overlooking the town square, we enjoyed Southern Serbian wine and cheese as street lights lit up the sky over Fruška Gora National Park as an accordion pierced the air in the local bistro below us.

Our next afternoon was spent pacing through the aisles of multiple bookstores. The bookstore found off of Zmaj Jovina at the bottom of a flight of marble stairs and built into a tunnel lined with cooling cement was alluring and inviting. I was immediately transported into a summery taverna. It was there that I finally found a Serbian copy of *Garden, Ashes* by Yugoslavian-Jewish author Danilo Kiš.

In the evening, we visited the Novi Sad Student Cultural Centre for the second evening of the Novi Sad Film Festival. We watched an independent Italian film following the story of a group of unlikely friends who devise a plan to smuggle an illegal



*Novi Sad is special in its ability to distinctly capture all the different cultures that have influenced the area. Rather than being a melting pot, one can experience the cobblestones of Hungary next to Habsburg architecture, along with the smells and sounds of the Balkans.*

immigrant hoping to cross the border into France. Our small makeshift theatre mounted in an industrial ex-factory provided the perfect setting for the film's mosaic jazz and orangey-blue cinematography.

The following day we sat under the shade of an umbrella on Štrand Beach along the banks of the Danube. While the music boomed, children giggled and the smell of burning cigarettes hung in the heat, it was almost impossible to fathom that just 80 years ago the Novi Sad Massacre happened in this spot. While the joy of beach-goers could be felt, there was still a haunting melancholy in the air.

We caught the sunset at Petrovaradin Fortress which overlooks the city. As we watched the sky blaze purple, orange and pink, two women — around our ages — asked if we could take a photo of them. Of course, we obliged and they returned the favour. We briefly chatted about the city and what it was like to come to a place that seemed so familiar and yet that we knew little about. The four of us are daughters of Yugolav immigrants.

I have always admired this mentality of connecting with the strangers around you. It narrows the gap between us. We have more commonalities than differences. This habit is perpetuated by many people who identify with the area, and something that I appreciate I was able to observe for as long as I can remember. Indeed, communal support and find value in being part of a system greater than yourself is a part of the wider Balkan culture.

We sat in a restaurant that night where we could hear every language we could think of being spoken. There was a soccer game running silently on a TV as people alternated between cheering and chatting.

The next morning the man who ran the souvenir shop we were admiring told us stories of North America — his adventures in Chicago, his business in New York, how his American grandson uttered his first Serbian words on his balcony while visiting him in Novi Sad and even his visit to Vancouver.

Then he sighed and glared up at the sun beating down on us, unbothered and smiling. "Nothing ever stays the same," he remarked. I could see the parallel between my own grandfather, an internal rift between love for a place and time that does not exist anymore and the excitement of adapting to a promised land that brought so many immigrants to major North American hubs. This was our last conversation with a local before we had to catch our train back to Belgrade.

This trip was refreshing. Locals wise with stories and eager to share greeted us at every corner and we felt the city beat in a way you can only feel if you have grown up knowing that pace of life. In the beginning, I was anxious that we did not have a concrete plan — but that turned out to be the best part of our stay. There was something about the heat mixed with our curious wandering that made those two and a half days feel like an innocent dream. And yet, there was still so much we did not get to on this trip that I must save for next time. My origins trace back to a land laden with tradition, stories of love and hate, colour and life. And I am excited to be back soon. U

# A look behind the veil at UBC's Occult Club

Words by **Julian Forst**

As I descended into the basement of Koerner Library to meet with UBC's Occult Club, I had absolutely no idea what I was getting myself into. All I had to go on were a few posters and a website, along with a time and location from someone who signed their emails only with the letter Z (and the somewhat less atmospheric email heading of "admin," but that's beside the point).

When I arrived, only two members had preceded me. I sat down and made conversation with the others about their recent tarot readings and spiritual discoveries until the room filled up with a good handful of people. The discussion broadened to everyone's experience with the occult. Eventually, Z, which I soon learned stood for Zorya (which is a pseudonym, as her spiritual practices are not part of her public persona), arrived in the flesh and began a seminar about entities called *agregors* and *servitors*.

Now may be the time to lay my tarot cards on the table. I was raised in an agnostic household that didn't concern itself too much with the spiritual world, aside from the occasional wisecrack at the dinner table about this evangelist neighbour or that born-again uncle. So I brought with me to the meeting a healthy skepticism.

I was surprised, then, to find Zorya's talk to be concerned almost as much with sociology and psychology as it was with magic. She spoke about concepts being given power by the widespread belief that said power exists — a point similar to the theories of social scientists like Durkheim and Weber on the nature of nations.

She recommended imbuing objects with sentimental worth and assigning specific feelings to them, emphasizing self-control over one's emotions. The more mystically-inclined among you need not despair; she also produced a tengri doll and recounted conversations she'd had with it via pendulum. There was also enough to interest a layman like myself, striking a balance, as she put it, "[between] mystery and reason."

In an interview a few days later, Zorya told me she intends to continue the educational slant of these meetings and provide a safe and discreet space for people interested in exploring the occult.

"When a cat is thirsty, it will drink somewhere, and I'm happy to provide a place where people can do it safely … and experiment."

So if you are, in fact, thirsty for a bit of magic this Halloween season, if you want to see some familiar societal theories from a more mystical point of view, or if you just want to talk about star signs with a fun bunch of people, UBC's Occult Club may be for you. You can get in touch with them at *ubc.occultism@gmail.com*. They'll be waiting.

HORROR MOVIE REVIEW

# Gen Z gets slayed in *Bodies Bodies Bodies*

Words by **Nate Holers**

As our generation reaches adulthood, films about young people are finally becoming accurate enough to spark productive discussions about modern life, rather than serving as hilarious examples of just how little Hollywood understands the internet.

One might expect that in representing ourselves we would strive to show qualities that are missing from previous mainstream depictions, which all have the patronizing air of a divorced boomer trying desperately to relate to his kids (likely because they're all written by one). A notable example of new-wave internet cinema is Bo Burnham's humanizing *Eighth Grade*, which rebuts the common belief that adolescent social-media use is motivated by self-absorption — instead focusing on the loneliness and comfort that permeates our relationship to it.

*Bodies Bodies Bodies* is another one of those exciting new films that show a real understanding of Gen Z's culture and language, almost to the point of ironic self-reflexivity. It feels oddly fitting that it uses this knowledge to regard the Internet Generation not with empathy, but with vicious, scathing contempt.

Equal parts horror and comedy, the film follows a group of rich 20-somethings who are enjoying a druggy hurricane party in their mansion when one of them mysteriously dies during a drinking game. As the storm rages outside, they descend into a cacophony of murder and lies as they try to figure out who killed him.

The hurricane is not the only topical aspect of the film — the *Among Us*-inspired premise, the casting choices (Rachel Sennot, Pete Davidson, *Borat 2*'s Maria Bakalova), the soundtrack — it all feels as if it was manifested by Twitter's collective consciousness.

Writer Sarah DeLappe prioritizes cultural commentary over scares, with much of the late-story intensity undercut by the insufferable protagonists as they bargain and argue with each other about allyship, star signs and how much money their parents make. The characters — whose entire identities are lifted from social media — share a vocabulary well-equipped for discussing each other's faults, and for casting blame on each other throughout the night.

In one of my linguistics classes, we learned that the conventions of a language have a huge impact on the potential outcomes of interactions. *Gaslight*, *toxic*, *fake* — these are words that we've all used and eventually gotten sick of, but it's hard to imagine that they haven't rubbed off on us a little.

Perhaps DeLappe wanted to show that Gen Z's uncompromising approach to blame is inherently inflammatory, and when used in a real-life situation, it will inevitably end in violence and duplicity.

Alternatively, it could just be a story about the moral degeneracy of vapid trust-fund babies.

Either way, it's incredibly fun to watch the evening unfold — *Bodies Bodies Bodies* has cult classic written all over it. In large part this is thanks to Rachel Sennot's hysterical performance as the podcast host Alice, in which she embodies all the worst qualities of today's influencer culture (between this and *Shiva Baby*, she has become one of my favourite comedic actors). The film has a wonderfully sardonic approach to its characters, and each new reveal is more exciting than the last.

That being said, it doesn't work super well as a 'scary movie' — If you're looking for something truly frightning this Halloween I wouldn't go here … notwithstanding the cosmic horror of Pete Davidson saying "I look like I fuck" while staring straight into the camera.

HORROR MOVIE REVIEW

# Madness and misogyny: John Carpenter's *In the Mouth of Madness* 28 Years Later

Words by **Julian Forst**

John Carpenter's 1994 film *In the Mouth of Madness* is not a very good horror film. The plot drags and is filled with contrived coincidence, the performances are stilted and awkward and it rarely evokes any true fear outside of a few predictable jumpscares. As a comedy, though, it shines like fake blood on a steel axehead. From rubber monsters to naked old men getting butchered in handcuffs, *In the Mouth of Madness* provides the perfect centrepiece to a late night movie binge with a few friends — and might even have a few things to say about the nature of fiction and the problematic power of authors.

The film follows freelance insurance investigator and certified guy-who-calls-women-broads, John Trent (Sam Neil) as he looks into the disappearance of renowned author Sutter Cane (Jurgen Proschnow), an off-brand Stephen King. When the investigation leads Trent and Cane's editor Linda (Julie Carmen) to the small town of Hobbs End, the two begin to realize that the horrors Cane writes about may be closer to reality than they believed.

*In the Mouth of Madness* is, true to John Carpenter form, filled with impressive practical effects. And while its gory setpieces often fall flat, there are a few legitimately haunting moments sprinkled here and there. Hearing a young boy's voice come out of the wrinkled mouth of the midnight cyclist early in the film sends a shiver through me despite the corniness of the dialogue that surrounds it.

This dialogue is by no means a weakness. It provides perfect fare for Sam Neil to do what he does best: be a total weirdo. It says a lot about his performnce in this movie that John Trent's unhinged ranting in an insane asylum is one of his more relatable moments.

Trent, while hilarious, is not the most interesting character. His nominal love interest, Linda, brings up a fascinating criticism of male writers and their treatment of female characters as accessories for their protagonists.

Despite her general disdain for Trent from the moment they meet, Linda ends up literally throwing herself at him towards the end of the film.

"Cane's writing me. He wants me to kiss you," she says as she leans in towards Sam Neil's slimy lips. "It's good for the book. It's what the readers want to read."

With this, writer Micheal De Luca creates an interesting paradox: he is both satirizing and participating in the objectification of women in film, as well as drawing attention to the fact that authors don't write this way simply because they want to. Sex and sexism is what sells, so this is what they write.

Movies like this are rare. Don't get me wrong, camp is in no short supply in horror, but it's not often one can laugh at rubber masks in one scene before being engaged in questions of morality and misogyny in fiction in the next.

No, *In the Mouth of Madness* is not a great classic horror film. But I would challenge anyone to not have a great time while watching it.

HORROR MOVIE REVIEW

# Feminist Iranian horror in *A Girl Walks Home Alone At Night*

Words by **Tova Gaster and Colby Payne**

A young boy walks down a desert street at night. He realizes that a figure is following him — a woman, clad in a black chador, gradually growing closer before eventually saying:

"Till the end of your life I'll be watching you. Be a good boy."

From the ghostly image of the young woman's pale face to its haunting dialogue, Ana Lily Amirpour's 2014 film *A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night* is striking. The film was critically-acclaimed upon its release, but its subversive feminist narrative is particularly resonant now, in the context of the protests currently unfolding in Iran.

The young woman, played by Sheila Vand, is a vampire and credited in the film solely as The Girl. The black-and-white Persian-language film follows her story as it intersects with other marginal figures in their run-down desert town of Bad City, some of whom become her victims.

Mostly though, she targets men who target women. Amirpour takes the dread associated with a young woman encountering a predatory man in the shadows at the edge of a streetlight and turns it on its head, into a haunting and empowering fantasy of female revenge.

However, the film does not present her story merely as a vigilante tale. Some of her victims are just that — innocents who happened to cross her path. This moral ambiguity allows audiences to appreciate The Girl not as a political symbol to degrade or to save, but as a complex character who creeps through the gray areas between eerie power and vulnerability.

Neoliberal feminist discourse frames Iranian women as victims in need of liberation, while the Iranian regime seeks to take away women's power to dissent entirely. *A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night* rejects both of these narratives: a powerful young woman who stalks the streets in a chador, serving her own uncanny variety of justice as she feasts on the blood of abusers.

Though its central character is a vampire, *A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night* is not a straightforward horror film; Amirpour melds numerous genres, including spaghetti western, tender romance and social drama. While there are supernatural elements, they are often portrayed as less frightening in the film than the threats faced by those on the fringes of society, particularly women and Queer people.

Its fictional setting of Bad City is implied to be in Iran, although it was filmed in California due to the difficulty of filming in the country. Oil refineries loom over the barren town, creating an atmosphere of decline and dislocation.

Bad City is nowhere; Bad City could be anywhere. The Girl could be in an oil town in northern Iran; she could be behind you in the alley as you walk home — as a protector, as a threat or as a witness.

# It's Halloween 'all year round' for drag king Count Cupid

words by **Tova Gaster & Kaila Johnson**

Drag king Count Cupid, also known as Gray Park, appears on stages in a full face of white foundation, feathered tapered eyebrows and dark red eyeshadow with the lips to match. A flamboyant mustache twirls up his cheeks in the shape of two hearts.

Park describes Count Cupid as a "valentinian vampire" — an amalgamation of every "awkward villainous archetype."

Unlike most vampires however, the life force he absorbs from the audience as he dances and lip syncs on the stage area of Koerner's Pub seems to return to the crowd even stronger — amplified by one of the most charismatic and chaotic emerging presences in the Vancouver drag scene.

Drag isn't just face paint and death drops, though. To Park, drag is a creative outlet, a community and a chance to gain access to Queer spaces they otherwise might not feel welcome in.

Park, who moonlights as a fourth-year anthropology student, first tried drag in his Orchard Commons dorm room in November 2019. They performed in drag at an all-ages show just one month later. Now, they're bringing their spirited presence to host UBC Drag's Halloween show on October 27.

His gothic act is a natural fit for the holiday.

"Doing drag regularly for the past two or three years has really changed my perception of Halloween — it's become a really core part of my personality," he said. "A lot of my gender exploration happened outside of Halloween but because of the whole Count Cupid thing, it's Halloween all year round."

Dressing up for Halloween is more than putting on a costume for some. In many cities across 20th-century North America, cross-dressing was illegal — except for on October 31. Halloween represented a rare opportunity for people to legally dress beyond the rigid expectations of their assigned sex.

"[Drag] encourages a level of gender expression and experimentation and artificiality, but the artificiality of it all enforces real feelings internally," Park said.

## COMMITTING TO THE FIT

Park does not consider himself to be a "look queen, or a look king or a look performer." Instead, they put more energy into developing their chaotically charismatic onstage persona.

"I treat drag like a cartoon character. I really do have a closet full of the same [clothes] and I like it that way," said Park.

That closet appears to be filled with black corsets, harnesses and enough frilled white shirts to outfit a crew of undead pirates.

For those familiar with the local drag scene, the Count's white face paint may look familiar. They credit local drag legends Continental Breakfast, Maiden China, Rose Butch and drag troupe The Darlings as their inspiration.

"My inspiration is clowns and monster makeup and Spirit Halloween white grease paint," he said. "I think I've had a really lucky journey in drag because I came in with such a strong mental image of what I've wanted to look like."

Count Cupid is a self-described clown — which is all the more reason to take him seriously.

## THE COUNT'S VILLAIN ORIGIN STORY

Although the Count is a relatively new face in Vancouver's drag scene, he was a runner-up in Man Up's 2022 Rookie of the Year competition — a showcase for beginning drag performers. At UBC, he can be found at Koerner's Pub for UBC Drag's biweekly shows.

Before Park settled on the character of Count Cupid, he performed as Caligula von Corvene — a "half-lizard anime space prince" who eventually morphed into the goth powerhouse that now haunts the stages of Koerner's Pub and Eastside Studios.

Caligula was a Roman emperor legendary for his cruelty and villainy as well as for his rumoured sexual deviance. Although those rumours may have been a homophobic smear campaign against the emperor, they also place Caligula firmly in a historical legacy of queercoded villains that Park is more than happy to reclaim.

"The reason I chose him is because he's kind of regarded in history as this really flamboyant and super Queer character," said Park.

Although Park later dropped the Caligula because people couldn't pronounce it, the narrative of a proudly villainous and chaotic ruler remains a key part of his act.

Being bad is fun. But the Count's persona also stems from the empowerment that comes with inhabiting an unapologetically chaotic evil archetype, especially when there are barriers that need breaking.

"It helps me access spaces I'm not able to in daily life," said Park. Drag is an outlet for bold gender-nonconformity, but even in Queer spaces, Trans and racialized people are not always celebrated or welcomed.

"As a trans-nonbinary East Asian individual; 'no fats, no fems, no Asians' *IS* my villain origin story," Park wrote in an Instagram post in September. While racism and transphobia run rampant in Grindr bios and some white-dominated Queer spaces, his drag persona acts as an invitation into a more inclusive realm.

Although drag's entertainment value has shifted it to the mainstream, Park also emphasized that his performance is deeply political.

"Drag is about community, and it's about appreciating Trans bodies to the front," he said. "It's about us fighting for our literal freedom."

Park emphasized that drag goes far beyond *RuPaul's Drag Race*: "Drag isn't just drag queens. There's a lot of us out there. Drag has always been about alternative gender performance and gender-fuckery."

"When you have a space where you can express yourself completely freely without fear of judgment, it's life changing."

## 'THE MOST SACRED SPACE IS BACKSTAGE'

Park has been with UBC Drag since its inception last year. The community that it creates is evident even to casual audience members, but to the performers, bonds run deeper.

"To me, the most sacred space in that pub is backstage," said Park. "There's nothing more entertaining than what feels like being in the multiverse waiting room of drag performers."

His favourite part about doing drag has changed over the years.

"At first, I would say it was the chance to embody something that was greater than myself and embody something otherworldly," said Park. "That's still probably my favourite part, but I would say that has developed [into] close friendships."

Just as vibrant costumes can create a deceptively meaningful space to experiment with gender expression, the jokes told backstage — or bellowed from the front row at a fellow performer — are anything but trivial.

"For me, drag has always been about community service. It's always been about making my community like yasss and slay, you know? Smile, laugh, whatever. [That's] community service via entertainment."

# On the mundanity of talking to spirits

Words by **Jenny Chantrakool**

Would you believe me if I told you that I had experienced spiritual wonders — spellwork, divination, the casting and removal of curses? What if I told you that I gained insight into past lives and karmic tolls, and that it all happened in the living room of my grandfather's house?

You see, I grew up knowing that my grandfather was a shaman.

I was born and raised in Thailand — a vibrant, hot, and most importantly, Buddhist country. Most areas of my life were pretty unremarkable. We were middle class, I attended an international school for most of my life and I spent much of my time reading, dancing and playing with my dog. These things were parts of me, but they pale in comparison to other influences.

One of these essential ingredients that made up my being was my mother's side of the family's connection to the spiritual.

Before we proceed, I want to make clear that I use the term shaman very loosely here as there is no perfect word in English for this phenomenon, but vessel and shaman are the ones I personally feel are the best.

I've spent countless hours at temples making offerings, praying, learning mantras, and yes, witnessing and participating in shamanic rituals.

It often surprises people to hear that Buddhism, now more often seen as an adaptable and vaporous life philosophy, has roots in such traditional religious practices. But in my life, Buddhist rituals always brought a tactile element to our attempts to reconcile with intangible ideas like the soul and afterlife.

When I reminisce on those experiences, my ears ring with the phantom drone of Sanskrit chanting and loud traditional Thai music. I smell the flowers from the offerings and the feast of food offered up to our spirits and to the people that attended, and I feel the beads of sweat rolling down the back of my neck in the oppressive heat made worse by the crowd around me. Dancers shrouded in gold and silver; golden platters piled high with nuts and pigs heads; my grandfather enrobed in white and gold; his house transformed into one giant shrine of community and abundance.

It's hard for me to say if this is even a fair representation of the proceedings. As I said, I was still young when I was attending these rituals, so it's possible things have become exaggerated in my mind as these experiences became memories.

As I grew older I began to take a subtle but conscious step away from it all. A private shame was growing in me. I had an understanding of the scientific method now, of the way modern society solves issues and cures sicknesses — and it certainly wasn't this.

My memories of the rituals began to almost feel foreign in my mind, and I was left with the question: what use is a shaman in the 21st century?

The vividness of my memories of my grandfather's rituals may have been compounded by the shame in me that pushed those experiences away — othering them, even as they outshone the mundanity and structure of my emerging adulthood.

My grandfather is now bedridden in a hospital back home, and has been for a while now. While he is receiving good care and his mind is unclouded for the time being, it's clear to everyone in the family that he won't be with us for much longer. With him so close to the end, I'm almost desperate to understand what I can take from all the rituals I participated in with him.

I kept getting so sidetracked by the vivid imagery that sprung into my head every time I tried to reflect back on my experiences that I almost missed another defining aspect of them: how normal it all felt in the moment.

Eight-year-old me wouldn't have described my experiences with shamanic Buddhist rituals in the enthralling, bright way 23-year-old me just did. I didn't realize till later in life what a unique space I found myself in, and so my experiences of these days felt mostly routine. When all the praying and talking and eating was done and it was my turn to converse with the spirits. It was simply another day in the life for me.

Interactions with the otherworldly were made surprisingly mundane to me growing up, and reflecting on it I think that was entirely the point. I was taught to understand the difference between the tangible beings of this world and the more hazy figures on the other side, but it was never distorted by fear, confusion or even a sense of uncrossable difference.

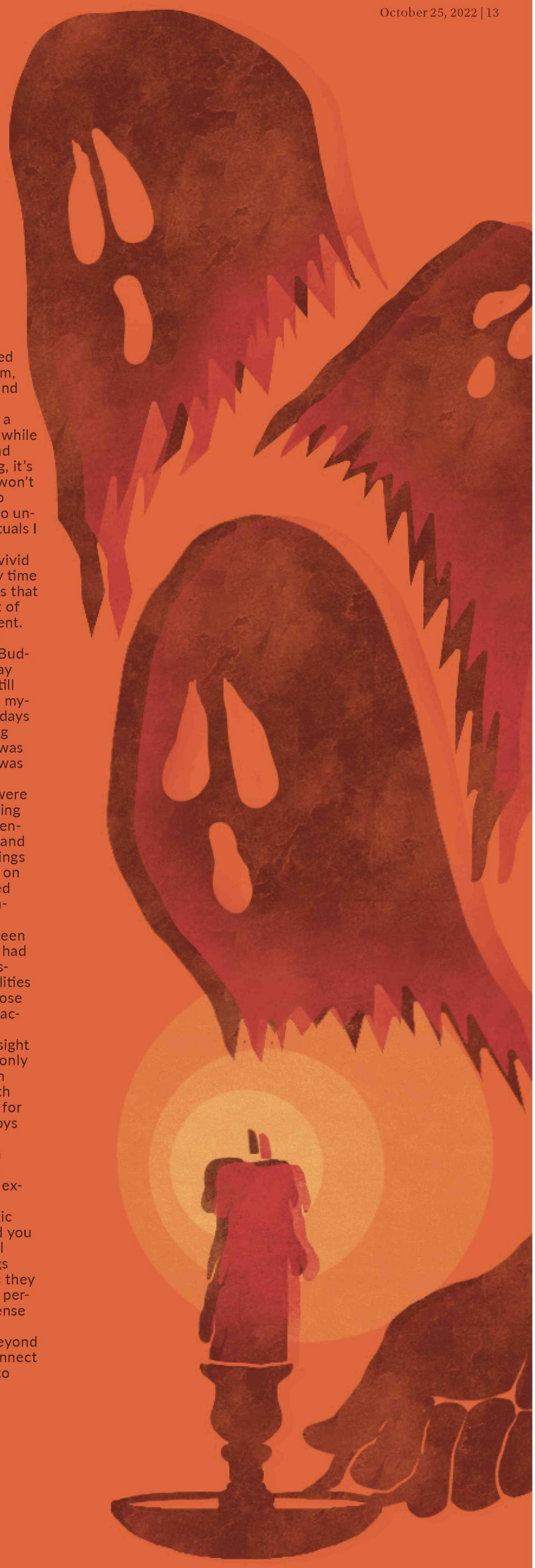
We knew these beings — they had been with people for longer than our culture had stood. We knew what they liked and disliked, and we understood their personalities and cadences. Most importantly, we chose to interact with them through a lens of acceptance, respect and mutual benefit.

Our spirits guided us and gave us insight into things that were unknowable. Not only that, they healed us, chided us and even bantered with us. We thanked them with things they like — cigarettes and cloves for the older presenting spirits, soda and toys for the younger ones.

I grew to realize that participating in these rituals benefited all, whether you believed in the reality of what we were experiencing or not.

Even if you didn't believe in the magic being performed, attending still allowed you to connect with the people in your local community, to make space for the things they were going through and the things they wished for, to eat good food and watch performances and to leave with a higher sense of connection.

Our dalliances with things that lie beyond our world aren't really attempting to connect with the other side at all: they're ways to connect with the material reality of our shared circumstances. ৩



# Bread of the Dead

Words by **Ximena Gordillo Cruz**

It's the middle of the summer. My parents, a couple of cousins and I find ourselves in the middle of the capital of Oaxaca, one of the most culturally-traditional states in Mexico. We came for a mini vacation, as both of my maternal grandparents are from this place.

And, of course, because in Oaxaca you will find the best food in the country. You just need to enter the gastronomy market to be surprised with so many smells and flavours, tlayudas, tacos, quesadillas and... bread of the dead?

If you are not Mexican, when you think of the Day of the Dead, you may think of painted skulls, many colours and festivities in the middle of the streets. Or maybe you start humming "Remember Me" or picture the James Bond scene in Mexico City. Yes, the parade one.

In my house, we celebrate the Day of the Dead on November 2 by making bread, which we call bread of the dead. We make ofrendas, of course, and even dress up as vampires and ghosts as if it were Halloween, but the bread was the main ritual.

The rest of my Mexican friends eat another type of bread, but I never liked it; too sugary. For me, the real bread of the dead is Oaxacan, eaten as October turns to November.

I remember my grandmother, aunts and mother preparing the dough for a whole day. We children were made to believe that we were helping when we were only playing with what was going to be thrown away. After arduously kneading the mixture, it had to be left to rest for a whole night.

I remember arriving excited the following day, knowing that the year-long wait for my favourite breakfast was almost over. My grandmother would bake the first rounds of bread when she saw us arrive, and that delicious smell was released little by little. The whole house ended up smelling like magic, and tasting like it too.

I say remember because I haven't celebrated the Day of the Dead in a long time.

I won an opportunity to study abroad three years ago, so I haven't been back to Mexico in November since. It's been a long time since I smelled those orange flowers emblematic of the Day of the Dead because they only bloom at that time of year.

It's been a while since I helped prepare the ofrenda, and I already forgot when I last visited my grandfather's grave on November 2.

However, what hurts me the most is that my family hasn't baked bread for a long time because now my grandmother is too tired and sick. That is the reason for my grandmother's absence on our trip — although she wanted her granddaughters to get a taste of the Oaxacan culture, even if it was without her.

I glide through the different aisles of the market, probably the same ones my grandmother saw growing up before she emigrated from Oaxaca to Mexico City. I am surprised to see so many stalls selling bread of the dead in July. It doesn't feel right. That bread belongs to my grandmother's house; it belongs to us on the second of November.

My mother reveals to me that our tradition of bread does not exist outside our house. That bread that I have been calling bread of the dead all my life is actually called yolk bread, and it can be found at any time of the year, in any bakery, throughout Oaxaca.

I feel... deceived? Betrayed? Disappointed? Our bread is not unique — it's everywhere, and surprisingly cheap. I no longer have to wait for the second of November to eat it; I could buy one right now. And I do, just to see if it tastes better than ours.

The following day, I prepare the hot chocolate, a faithful companion to the bread of the dead. I foam it until it's just the way I like it. I dip the bread in the chocolate, an act so repeated over the years that it seems like a reflex. I take a piece, and suddenly, it all comes back to me: the smells, the colours, the music. My aunts laughing and talking among themselves. My serene grandmother in the background, smiling tenderly at me. My cousins and I playing, seeing who could pretend to cook raw dough better.

The ofrenda at the back, with a photo of my grandfather next to a bottle of tequila, his favorite. And I realize my grandmother's great act of love, creating a tradition for us that she never had. ❦

# TO ALL THE STORIES I HAVEN'T TOLD YET

## FINDING MY VOICE AS A FILIPINA SCHOLAR

*words by* **Jasmine Cadeliña Manango** *illustration by* **Andrea Schildhorn**

It was the fall of 2012 in an unevenly-lit classroom and I was all crooked teeth, questionable outfit choices and prickly brown skin. I was just a few months into the fifth grade and my teacher, Ms. S, had just announced our reading list — half of which was a couple educational institutions above my class's reading level.

Ms. S was my first Filipino teacher in Canada. She told us stories about going to Italy for Montessori training and cooked us the best chicken adobo I've ever tasted. She filled up three chalkboards with vocabulary words, chuckled when I broke class records and reminded me of my mom, my cousins, my titas and an older version of me.

Ms. S made me wonder about how many remarkable Filipino women were out there, pushing the boundaries, however imperfectly, to redefine the North American educational system and show little Filipina girls like me that we belong here — Dora bangs, ensaymada baons and all.

That was how the next three years passed: same teacher, same classroom, same overly difficult readings. Yet somehow, I thrived.

Her assignments were inappropriate for our grade level, yes, but I don't think I would be the student I am today without them. I had loved books before I entered Ms. S's classroom but it was only after I left that I realized how good I was at taking them apart. Under her ambitious, and sometimes demanding, teaching approach and mentorship, I discovered both a penchant for literary analysis and a proclivity towards self-destructive work habits.

### ENGINEERING A FUTURE

All good things come to an end. Or rather, some good things can no longer distract you from what has already been eating away at you from the inside. At some point, my tired smiles just became hollow. At 17 years old, I discovered what it meant for a person to collapse into themself.

One day, the dreams I had back when no one else told me what my dreams should look like — filled with fresh ink, leather journals, cracked spines and floppy paperbacks — had been written out of my life.

During the spring of my grade 11 year, I had got it into my head that I would become an engineer and specialize in carbon capture. By first year I was a full-fledged engineering student.

I liked my classes but I barely got my course work done. In another life, maybe I would have been filled with the same wonder I used to have when I first started paying attention in my high school science classes. But I was tired, miserable and resentful.

STEM was never easy for me in the way that it seemed to be for all the other students in my high school honours classes, but I worked hard enough to do well anyway.

I spent five years surrounded by the smartest people in my school — children and grandchildren of immigrants who carried the weight of expectation like an overfilled backpack — and there was one thing all of us knew by heart: we were supposed to succeed.

It didn't matter how good we were in the humanities and social sciences. At the end of day we were supposed to be doctors, scientists, engineers, lawyers, business-people and nurses.

We were capable of anything which meant we were expected to be the best. But when you're smart and competent and given opportunities that other people earned for you, 'anything' rarely means the path that makes you feel the most alive.

I didn't apply to engineering because I wanted to. I applied because I convinced myself I was capable.

Everyone always knew me as the English kid, but I hadn't picked up a book for fun in years. I hadn't written for my own sake in twice as long. But even if I had, knowing I was a good writer didn't mean I would become a successful one.

Engineering was the smart decision. So, like everyone told me I was, I decided to be smart.

But by the time I entered the program, I was already exhausted. My elementary school bad habits had snowballed into a personality and a values system based on working myself to the bone. I was good at STEM because I worked hard to be, but I just wasn't capable of it anymore.

I didn't feel smart. I felt incompetent. I felt like a traitor to myself and a disappointment to everyone who believed in me. I was supposed to be a success story but I felt like I had written myself out of it.

## THE LANGUAGE OF LOSS

When I mustered the courage to transfer out of engineering, I went to the Faculty of Arts. I declared myself as an English and gender, race, sexuality and social justice (GRSJ) double major.

I stepped into my GRSJ 230 course with hesitant curiosity. Our first assignment was about names — the origins and meanings of our own, both given and inherited.

Manango.

It's Kapampangan. Or, at least I assume it is.

My paternal grandfather is Kapampagan, which means that his family is from the province of Pampanga in the Philippines. His surname is the one on my driver's license, my birth certificate and twelve years worth of late slips.

My mother's side is Ilocano, meaning that they were originally from Ilocos — the northwest region of Luzon Island in the Philippines.

My paternal grandmother is Tagalog, an ethnic group that resides mostly in the central Philippines.

I don't know much of my family history. I don't know if this is because I am a child of the diaspora and I cling to my history like falling sand or if it is because of my own personal faults.

I know this much: I have more family members than I know the names of; whenever I return to the Philippines, I am embraced by strangers who watched me grow up before I moved a world away; my grandfather never taught his children how to speak Kapampangan and they never asked him why; my parents never taught me Ilocano and I never asked them why; and that I am loved in more languages than I know how to speak.

But when Professor Leonara Angeles — a.k.a. Dr. Nora, my first Filipino professor and hopefully not my last — called my name, it was in a language that it was not created for, yet she still called it perfectly.

"Jasmine Manango. Well, I guess, over here, they would pronounce it Ma-nan-go, don't they? Can you tell us more about your name?"

I said something about flowers or maybe I didn't. I was distracted because she was the first professor who had ever said my name without needing a correction.

When she asked about its origin, I couldn't answer. I said it was Kapampangan, because I couldn't find the answer online and I somehow couldn't find the courage to ask my father.

When she spoke about her own name, she spoke about indigeneity and colonialism and Indigenous names whose meanings were lost to time and "conquerors."

Dr. Nora said my own surname sounded Indigenous — a remnant of the ethnic groups who populated the archipelago before the Spaniards came.

And for the first time in life, I wondered what my name meant.

I wondered how much I've already lost.

I wondered how much I've lost that I will never realize is missing.

I have not stopped wondering.

## STORIES CENTURIES IN THE MAKING

Dr. Nora was the person who sowed the seeds for my interest in the Indigenous peoples of the Philippines, Filipino-Canadian history and collective forgetting. She is the person who made me want to remember.

My first independent research project was based on my early ideas for an assignment in her course. My initial research questions for this assignment was "How do Filipino Canadians represent themselves as they come to terms with Asian settler colonialism on Indigenous lands?" and "How does the representation of Filipino immigrant labour in Canada affect how the Filipino diaspora in Canada understand their role in settler colonialism?"

These questions were the foundation for the research project I presented at the 2022 Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research Conference (MURC). My research, inspired by Dr. Nora's, was about the interacting structures of violence Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) encounter in Canada.

Before taking Dr. Nora's class, I had never seriously considered grad school or working in academia. During high school, I was ambitious. But after transferring out of engineering, I was scared of dreaming big. I was afraid of how obsessive I can become, of how prone I am to overworking myself, of how pathetic and hopeless I become when burnt out.

I was really, truly scared.

Yet, despite my fear, I was also excited.

There are three things I have always loved and done well in: telling stories, understanding people and learning about the stories people carried with them.

Words and people. My bread and butter.

It was an almost unsettling shock to me when I did well in my upper level humanities and social sciences courses. I had only invested 60–70 per cent of my usual energy into those courses because I was still recovering from burnout, but it felt almost easy.

Dr. Nora was the first professor to offer me a research assistantship. Although I did not end up working for her because I did co-op in the summer, I'm still grateful. Not just for the offer itself but because for the first time after what felt like a string of failures, someone had believed in me. Not in me from high school, with my accolades and impending self-destruction, but in second year me: nervous, reluctant and held together by perpetual self-doubt. Dr. Nora saw my passion, my enthusiasm and my potential and thought maybe I could become someone great.

When she offered me that position, it made me realize that being an academic was an option. Then, when she explained why she was offering me the position, it made me realize why I wanted to choose it.

Dr. Nora told me about how underrepresented Filipinos were in universities across North America. She talked about how few Filipino professors there were in North America and when she listed names, it felt like she somehow knew all of them.

She wanted to mentor students like me — students who looked like us, spoke like us, knew the importance of being Kababayan — so that we could make our place in higher education and the academy.

Filipinos have always been a community-oriented people. Dr. Nora's kindness reminded me of the kindness of my titas and ates and the now-retired Ms. S.

When she told me about how few of us there were in the academy, it made me want to add to that number.

She helped me realize that studying and telling my people's stories were an option, that there were already people dedicating their lives to it and that I could be one of them. Because no matter where I go, no matter which field I specialize in at the moment, I always find myself returning to stories. TU

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I'VE GOT 20/50 VISION //

# What's missing from Campus Vision 2050

**Aisha Chaudry**
Staff Writer

I love Greek life as much as the next person (I do not like Greek life).

ZOE WAGNER / THE UBYSSEY

UBC has announced its plan for Campus Vision 2050 — a land-use planning process for UBC Vancouver — and it includes everything from adding housing to SkyTrain expansions. But looking at it, I was appalled to find how many vital additions were missing.

So, I took the liberty of compiling everything the university needs to add to really help make a better future for UBC students.

## BALL PIT

Instead of creating that new rec centre, UBC should leave the gaping hole in the ground and transform it into a ball pit.

During midterm season, when you feel like throwing yourself into the void, just chuck yourself into a rainbow ball pit. Release all that pent-up frustration into having a plastic ball fight with your friends (and enemies).

## AN UNDERGROUND NETWORK OF TRANSPORT TUBES

Campus is way too big for me, a non-kinesiology student (because I am not big and strong), and if UBC wants to keep expanding campus, they'll need to provide a better transportation system between buildings. Buchanan to Forestry is a 15-minute walk. I can't do that! The solution: a huge network of interconnected human-sized pneumatic tubes that will send you flying to your next class. Now that's the future.

## SHOTS, SHOTS, SHOTS

Free espresso shots. I think there need to be espresso shot stations like we have hand sanitizer stations. If UBC is going to schedule a three-hour final at 7 p.m. on a Saturday, the least they could do is ensure I'm awake during it.

## SOUNDPROOF BUBBLE

What is UBC's plan to deal with the noise generated by frat parties? I love Greek life as much as the next person (I do not like Greek life), but I do not need to hear the sound of a DJ mashing up 2010 summer hits every weekend. So, I'm suggesting we put a fucking soundproof dome over those parties. If we can become real innovators, then UBC will make the dome portable so we can shut up the AMS Welcome Back BBQ.

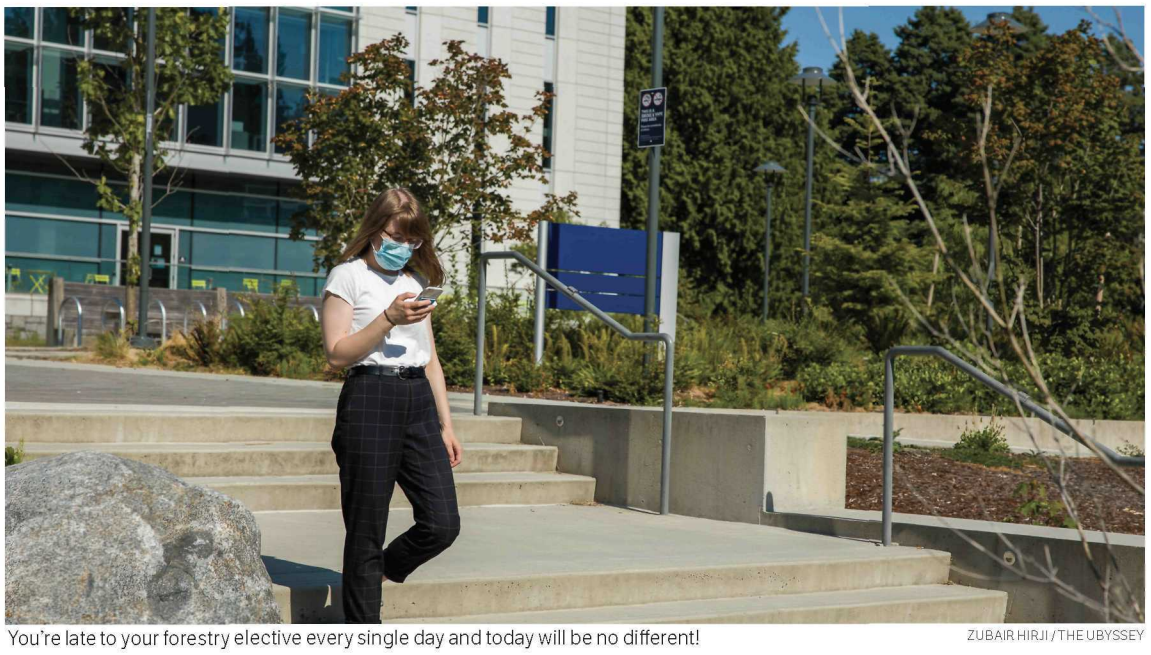
## SPEAKERS

UBC is missing out on the chance to increase its holiday spirit. I love a little jingle bell here and there, and there is no better way to get rid of people's gloom during finals season than to play holiday music.

UBC should invest in a massive speaker system that lightly plays music throughout the whole campus on a 24-hour loop. As soon as December 1st hits, I want nothing else in my head but Mariah Carey.

SPEEDIN' //

# Take a walk, man! Songs for your different cross-campus commutes



You're late to your forestry elective every single day and today will be no different!

ZUBAIR HIRJI / THE UBYSSEY

**Thomas McLeod**
Senior Staff Writer

In an era of information overload, sometimes you need to make your mind go blank even if it's just for the seven minutes it takes to walk from class to class.

Here's a list of perfectly-timed songs with which to prevent a conscious thought from ever breaking through.

## BUS LOOP TO BUCHANAN: NINE MINUTES

**Hudson Mohawk — "Cbat" x3**
If you want to match the feeling of getting railed by your daily commute on the nihilistic march from the 99 B-Line over to your dogshit 9 a.m. seminar, why not get a good rhythm going? This electronic soundscape will inspire you to keep your head up and your feet on the ground, pushing forward, forward into a new day.

## BUCHANAN TO FORESTRY: 13 MINUTES

**Stars of the Lid — "The Daughters of Quiet Minds"**
You gotta calm down, man! You gotta stay calm! You're late to your forestry elective every single day and today will be no different! You're such a fuckup! Just put on this ethereal whimsy or some shit, bro, because if you put on anything above 60 bpm your heart is gonna explode!

## YOUR SHITTY FIRST YEAR DORM TO THE NEST: 10-12 MINUTES

**Taylor Swift — "All Too Well (10 Minute Version) (Taylor's Version)"**
Turns out they're not The One. You tried long distance for a few weeks, but that high school romance just couldn't withstand the combined pressures of Jump Start, low-quality FaceTimes and that cutie in your CHEM 100 lecture (which will definitely work out much better, for sure) you're going to have to be engaging in the time-honoured tradition of the Turkey Dump. Sure, any Taylor Swift song will work in this situation, but this one is exactly 10 minutes so you can focus on wiping your eyes instead of choosing another sad song.

## CHEMISTRY BUILDING TO BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE BUILDING: THREE MINUTES

**TLC — "No Scrubs"**
So you guys hooked up, he never texted you again and then in OChem today he had the nerve to ask you for notes? When you get to the Biological Sciences building to meet your friends coming out of their anatomy course, they're gonna get a whole earful, believe me! But until then, TLC will give you a handy map on ethics and etiquette.

## WOODWARD TO BUS LOOP: FOUR MINUTES

**Meek Mill — "Dreams and Nightmares"**
So you fucked it. You shit the bed so hard on that final they had to throw out the whole mattress. You drift towards the bus loop to catch the 4 in a dreamlike state, feeling wrongfully persecuted much in the way Meek Mill has been throughout his career (if only a fraction as severely). Hopefully the drop will snap you out of it, but perhaps its jubilance will fall on unhearing ears.

## TOP FLOOR OF KOERNER LIBRARY TO MAIN FLOOR OF KOERNER LIBRARY: 1 MINUTE, 30 SECONDS

**CORPSE — "MISA MISA!"**
After a cram sesh, you need to obliterate your brain cells with music that sounds like shit and then get killed by a subreddit for saying so. A safe alternative is anything by 100 gecs, whose fans are fully aware of what their music sounds like.

## AMS TREASURY OFFICES TO WHATEVER YOUR ON-CAMPUS BANK IS: 3.5ISH MINUTES

**Paramore — "Misery Business"**
These motherfuckers are running a miserable business, man. This business is making me fuckin' miserable. It only took about 7 weeks to get your $50 refund from the AMS, setting its all time record for speed, so go on and deposit your check! Feel wronged in a way that only Hayley Williams can express.

## THE NEST TO SAUDER: SIX MINUTES

**Radiohead — "How to Disappear Completely"**
To use the Sauder bathrooms or attend your bizarrely-placed club meeting or elective, you must subsume yourself into the tapestry of the Rise and Grindset — starch your collar, update your LinkedIn and brand the Alpha Delt logo onto your chest. You must learn How To Disappear Completely if you want to survive the trek through the hallways and up those evil stairwells, because if you don't blend in, you're going to get familiar with Sauder's organic gatekeeping processes.

These songs are certainly interchangeable with other similarly-timed songs, but I guarantee that these tunes will either manifest into your psyche or completely blot it out — either way, you can't argue with the results.

DEMYSTIFYING GOVERNANCE //

# Senate Recentred: What is Senate?

**Romina Hajizadeh and Laia Shpeller**
Columnists

*Senate Recentred* is a column written by members of the Student Senate Caucus (SSC) to demystify Senate from the inside, out.

Welcome to Senate Recentred!

ISABELLA FALSETTI / THE UBYSSEY

## WHAT IS THE UBC SENATE?

The UBC Senate is one of the two highest governing bodies at UBC, alongside the Board of Governors. While the latter focuses on the financial matters of the university, the Senate is focused on academic governance.

The Senate is divided into the UBC Vancouver and Okanagan Senates, which come together occasionally (by occasionally, more like every 5–10 years) through the Council of Senates.

Within the UBC Vancouver Senate, there are 13 standing committees which focus on a variety of topics such as appeals on academic standing and academic discipline, curriculum, academic building needs and academic policy. Each student senator sits on one to three of these committees, including some representation as committee chairs and vice-chairs.

## WHEN AND WHERE DOES THE SENATE MEET? CAN I ATTEND?

The Senate meets monthly on every third Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. These meetings are hybrid, and you can watch the livestream of these on the UBC Senate Facebook page or follow along on *@UbysseyNews's* Twitter account.

Senate Committee meetings vary depending on the committee. Most committees will meet monthly, although some may meet more or less frequently depending on the work being done. These meetings are typically closed to the public.

## WHO SITS ON THE SENATE?

Senate membership is divided up into various groups including ex officio members, deans and elected faculty and student senators. Of the students, there are eighteen of us — five elected at-large and the remainder elected by their respective faculties with two for graduate and postdoctoral studies, as well.

The SSC is the elected student senator forum for discussion and consultation regarding all things Senate. We come together, usually monthly prior to Senate meetings, to share updates on what is happening in our respective committees, discuss the agenda and materials, get updates from AMS and GSS representatives and ultimately coordinate our advocacy to ensure that we can effectively advocate for students in all of our meetings.

The SSC's co-chairs are us — Romina Hajizadeh and Laia Shpeller. We coordinate and facilitate these meetings, sort out student senator committee placements and take on additional responsibilities throughout the year when needed.

This year's SSC has a member chairing the Academic Building Needs Committee, and members vice-chairing the Academic Building Needs, Agenda, Awards and Curriculum Committees.

Senate is focused on academic governance.

ISABELLA FALSETTI / THE UBYSSEY

## WHO ARE YOUR STUDENT SENATORS?

Applied Science
- Laia Shpeller, Student Senate Caucus Co-Chair

Arts
- Emmanuel Cantiller

Commerce and Business Administration
- Melina Amirsharafi

Dentistry
- Alex Mitchell

Education
- TBD, election in progress.

Forestry
- Xiutong Tony Jiang

Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
- Jorden Hendry
- Sam Kenston, GSS President

Land and Food Systems
- Vivian Li

Allard School of Law
- Ryan Sissons

Medicine
- Bachviet Nguyen

Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Kanika Khosla

Science
- Keanna Yu

Members at-Large:
- Eshana Bhangu, Faculty of Arts, AMS President
- Romina Hajizadeh, Faculty of Arts, Student Senate Caucus Co-Chair
- Kamil Kanji, Faculty of Arts
- Dana Turdy, Faculty of Arts, AMS VP Academic and University Affairs
- Georgia Yee, Faculty of Science, Board of Governors Representative

## WHY DOES SENATE MATTER?

A lot of what the Senate works on pertains heavily to students and we mean a LOT.

Some examples of major motions relevant to students that have recently gone through Senate include the rescinding of former residential school principal Bishop John O'Grady's honorary degree, the banning of the use of Proctorio for proctoring online exams and the creation of fall reading break!

But besides that, the work we do directly relates to your entire academic experience here at UBC.

Academic calendar changes? That's Senate.

Grading and curriculum policies? Senate.

Conferring your degree? Senate.

As student senators, we're elected to represent you and ensure that student needs are being met as much as possible.

*Shpeller is a fifth-year biomedical engineering student and the Faculty of Applied Science student senator and Student Senate Caucus co-chair. Hajidazeh is a third-year international relations student, senator at-large and Student Senate Caucus co-chair.*

*If you have any questions for your student senators, you can reach out to the SSC by emailing Shpeller at* laia.shpeller@ubc.ca *or Hajizadeh at* romihajizadeh@gmail.com.

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN //

# Redefining the M in STEM: The connection between math and music

**Elliott Evans**
Contributor

Dr. Brandon Konoval is a UBC music theorist shedding light on the role math plays in our favourite songs.

From a basic understanding of ratios to complex musical analysis, music and mathematics share a centuries-old connection. Konoval, an associate professor of teaching for the UBC School of Music, discussed this deep relationship between math and music with *The Ubyssey*, from his PhD thesis to his modern works.

## AN ANCIENT TRADITION

Knowledge of the connections between mathematics and music is nothing new — many concepts used in music theory date back hundreds of years.

"Music actually had played a rather significant role in what we now refer to as early modern science," said Konoval.

Konoval has discussed the complex relationship between Pythagorean ideas about music and more modern music theorists like Vincenzo Galilei, father of Galileo Galilei, and Marin Mersenne in his research. His work delves into how mathematical paradigms in music have been shaped over the centuries.

Mathematicians from around the world have contributed to our understanding of music theory.

A famous example is the inception of the twelve-tone equal temperament, which separates an octave into 12 parts that, when placed on a logarithmic scale, wind up being equal with a ratio of the 12th root of 2.

Music theorists have long debated who first conceptualized this signature since it was "mathematically formulated" at around the same time in China's Ming dynasty and in Europe's 16th century, according to an article published in *Music Theory Spectrum*. Recent literature suggested that Zhu Zaiyu, a Ming dynasty mathematician and music theorist developed the temperament first.

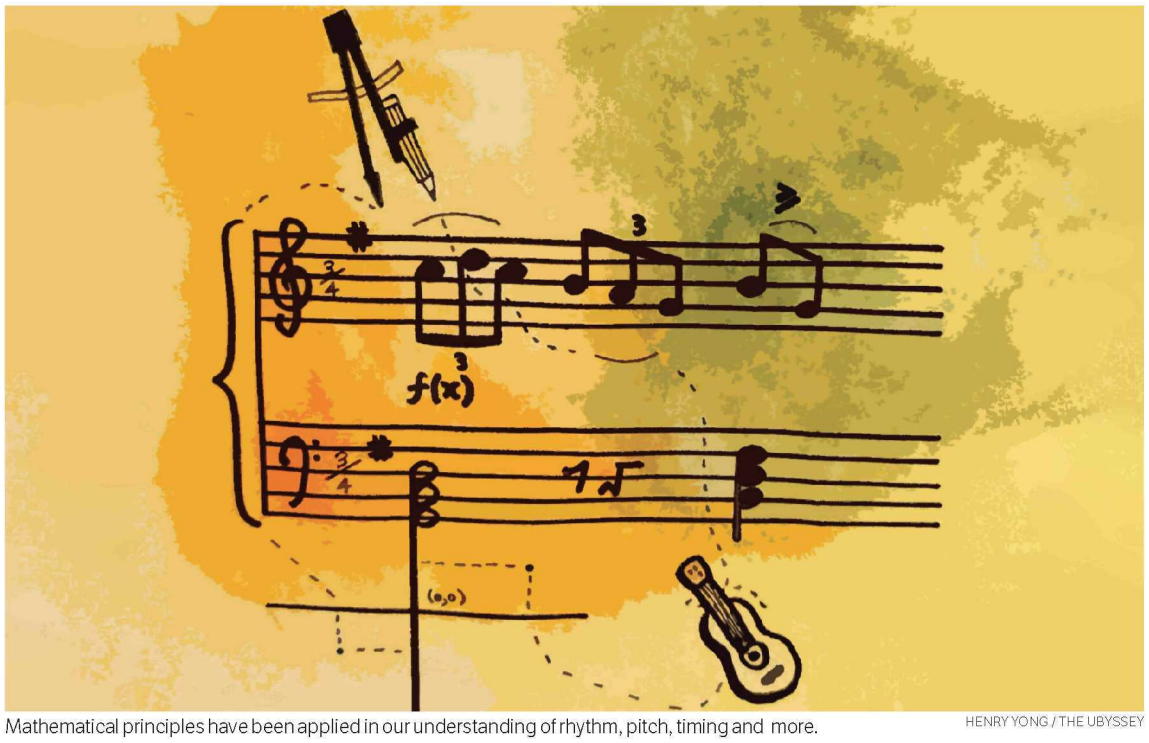
## GRASPING THE BASICS

Mathematical tools give scholars insight into some of the more complicated aspects of music.

One of these tools is called pitch-class set theory, which uses ratios to categorize different components of music and find relationships between them. Pitch-class set theory organizes groups of related pitches to more complex musical operations and can be conceptualized using geometry.

When referring to his doctoral dissertation, Konoval touched on how pitch-class set theory informed his research.

"[Mathematical tools were] really actually helping me to understand what was going on in music by a composer whose music I was deeply drawn to, but often really quite perplexed by," he said.




Mathematical principles have been applied in our understanding of rhythm, pitch, timing and more. HENRY YONG / THE UBYSSEY

Multiple published studies apply mathematical principles to our understanding of rhythm, pitch, timing and much more.

## MUSIC AND MATH ABILITY

Students with musical training have appeared to perform better in mathematics than those without training, but the connection is not well established in literature.

Math scores and confidence in music theory have been used as predictors of scores on music theory tests in university-level music students, as seen in one study in *Applied Cognitive Psychology*. However, more research needs to be conducted to further define those connections.

Test scores aside, according to Konoval, the connection between math and music runs deep, with stellar implications.

"[The connection between math and music] becomes the basis for a pretty deep engagement with the possibility that the entire cosmos is fundamentally structured in mathematical ways and that in many respects that might be perceived in musical terms."

CLIMATE CRISIS //

# Unwreck the Beach: Researchers sound alarm as climate crisis hits global fish stocks

Over half the regions surveyed in the study had reduced fish stocks. MAYA RODRIGO / THE UBYSSEY

**Forrest Berman-Hatch**
Columnist

In a recent study, researchers from UBC and the University of Bern have warned global fish stocks will be unable to recover without urgent climate action.

The study looked at how global fish stocks are changing due to factors related to the climate crisis and other human activities over a 150-year period, finding over half of the regions studied have already seen reduced fish stocks.

Researchers considered fish stock responses and projected trends from 1950–2100 and applied three different projected global temperature increases in their model.

These alternative emission pathways — 1.8, 4.5 and 6.2 degrees celsius of warming relative to pre-industrial temperatures — account for multiple levels of fisheries conservation and allowed the authors to create a sliding scale with different thresholds predicted for different possible futures.

Put simply, they are predicting what action would be required at different warming levels to avoid disaster for global fish stocks.

"Climate change is affecting the fish stock's abundance and distribution ... what it means is that it is harder for fisheries to rebuild the biomass of the fish stocks," said associate professor at the Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries Dr. William Cheung, a co-author on the paper.

Part of this problem is the current practice of operating under maximum sustainable yield limits, which refer to the greatest amount of fish that can be harvested without destroying a stock.

But these limits, which are already controversial, are ill-suited to deal with the climate crisis. According to Cheung, if this practice continues, most global fish stocks will be unable to recover once the world reaches the threshold of 1.8 degrees of warming.

Current estimates place warming in 2021 at over a full degree relative to pre-industrial levels.

While the research shows addressing the climate crisis is critical, putting less stress on fish stocks can also buy us time.

"Instead of aiming for a maximization of fisheries catches protection we should shift the mentality to have more of a conservation focus, further reducing the fishing level so that we give a better chance for the fish stocks to recover," said Cheung.

If a more "sustainable target" was adopted, then the majority of fish stocks have the potential to recover until 2.6 degrees of warming — a threshold that is just below the current middle estimate for warming under current policies in place.

Importantly, not all regions of the world are experiencing the climate crisis equally. The study notes that the situation is especially urgent in tropical areas such as West Africa, the Indo-Pacific, the central and south Pacific and the Eastern Tropical Pacific.

Cheung noted these regions have warming limits that are much lower than the global average, saying "a challenge in our paper is that in many of these regions, they also rely on the fish stocks as a source of livelihood and to support food security."

He advocated international cooperation on the management of large-scale commercial fisheries and climate mitigation as a means of alleviating this burden from local communities, stressing that "many of these countries are not the main contributors of carbon emissions."

This situation is not confined to the global south either, with Cheung advocating for support "to the most vulnerable and sensitive communities and regions, including coastal First Nations in Canada who are strongly dependent on seafood, and that we need to find ways to help adapt."

To Cheung, all of this means it is critical to limit warming to the 1.5-degree goal set out in the Paris Agreement. However, he conceded this to be unlikely.

"There's a likelihood we will overshoot the Paris Agreement so what it means is that we need to do all we can in order to both mitigate but then also to help adapt to situations when global warming levels go beyond these limits."

Unwreck the Beach *is* The Ubyssey*'s sustainability column. Send pitches or topics you'd like covered to* sustainability@ubyssey.ca.

FUNDING THE FUTURE //

# Mental health research at UBC benefits from half million dollar government fund

**Maya Levajac**
Contributor

A fund from the provincial government awarded over $560,000 to mental health researchers at UBC.

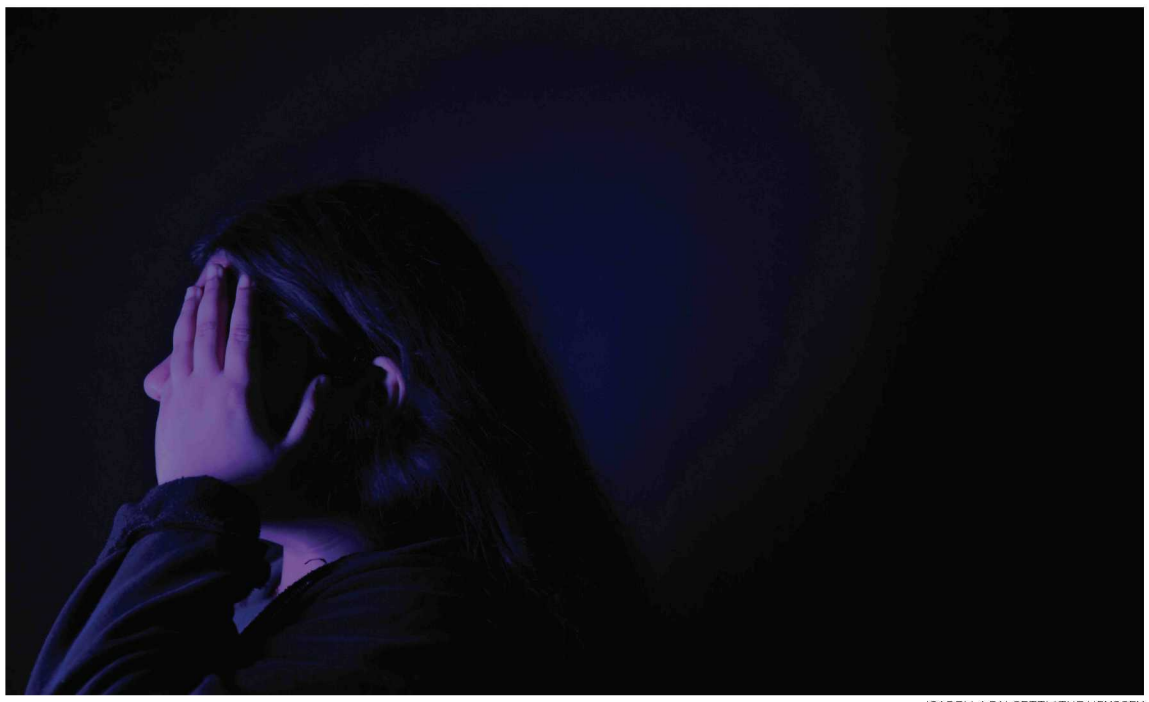
Dr. Eugenia Oviedo-Joekes, a professor in the School of Populations and Public Health, and Dr. Noah Silverberg, an associate professor in psychology, both received funding from the BC Knowledge Development Fund (BCKDF). The fund will support the development of research projects by giving them access to new equipment and resources.

Assistant Professor in clinical psychology Dr. Samantha Dawson and Assistant Professor in the School of Population and Public Health Dr. Anne Gadermann have also received funding for projects that focus on patient-centred care.

With this new funding, UBC researchers aim to refine and improve mental health therapies for vulnerable populations and local communities.

Oviedo-Joekes aims to use this funding to support those with opioid-use disorder. Her team is developing a "person-centered custom electronic data collection system framework" that will compile information from multiple data sets, from medication records to outcome data.

This framework will allow researchers to facilitate "innovative new treatments" and benefit those with opioid-use disorder, according to a government press release.



"There is no area of our life that is not touched by this topic." ISABELLA FALSETTI / THE UBYSSEY

This informative project comes with challenges, as special consideration must be given to ensure that infrastructures do not "antagonize" the people they aim to support, explained Oviedo-Joekes.

"In our field, you want a mesh of things that are meaningful to the folks who live these issues daily," she said. "If we want to ask a lot of people certain questions, we need to improve the questions we ask in a way that is meaningful to the diverse needs of our clients and that infrastructure is expensive."

Oviedo-Joekes expressed gratitude for her team's funding and is looking forward to working with knowledgeable people to build innovative treatment methods.

Silverberg's research is also focused on understanding how mental illness impacts the population, specifically why some people have ongoing neurological symptoms after experiencing a concussion. He explained many of his clients experience memory problems, but their results return as normal when tested.

"So these patients have their subjective experiences, that their memory is terrible and not trustworthy, something to be avoided so they don't embarrass themselves and so on. But when we assess their memory, it looks normal," he said.

The most significant resources he was able to acquire thanks to the fund included an electroencephalography system (a machine to measure the brain's electrical activity) and electrodermal equipment to measure electrical activity in the skin through sweat glands. Telehealth resources have also been funded.

This equipment will help Silverberg and his team better understand the gap between patients' experience and medical tests and inform what can be done to close it.

"Our hope is also to develop some of these electrophysiological measures as treatment outcome indicators," he said. "We want to understand whether people are getting better not just in terms of their symptoms and what they're telling us but also seeing evidence ... using those kinds of measures."

The BCKDF has provided researchers with the crucial tools to make progress within person-centred therapies. Both Oviedo-Joekes and Silverberg said they hope to continue working to improve the methodologies used within the mental health field.

"There is no area of our life that is not touched by this topic," said Ovideo-Joekes.

LANDSLIDING INTO YOUR DMS //

# UBC graduate students partner with NASA to analyze landslides using Reddit

**Shereen Lee**
Staff Writer

UBC computational linguistics students are helping NASA scientists detect landslides using social networks.

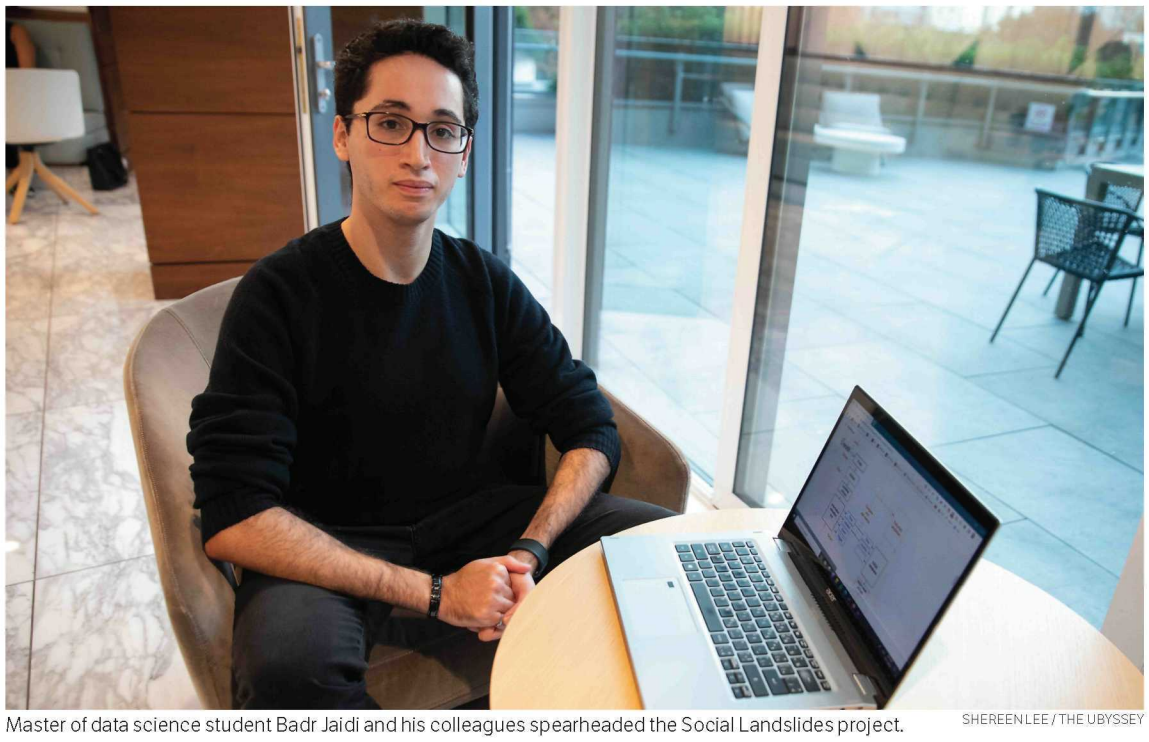
The UBC Social Landslides team comprises recent graduates Shengjie Zhang, Mariia Shubina, Badr Jaidi and Yiting Zhou, who completed the project as their capstone for their master of data science degrees.

The Social Landslides group used a natural language processing technique to train the program into significant results. In collaboration with Vancouver-based geosciences consulting firm BGC Engineering and landslide scientists at NASA, the students created a process for surveying Reddit news articles on landslides and automatically cataloguing them in a database.

The project is a part of NASA's Cooperative Open Online Landslide Repository (COOLR), which works to collect data on landslides for research, scientific modelling and development of emergency response protocols.

Landslides are severely underreported, which makes it difficult to predict and prepare for future ones. COOLR aims to address this gap.

Since 2007, COOLR has been used to shape projects like NASA's Landslide Hazard Assessment for Situational Awareness, which provides a real-time map of potential landslide hazards based on past data.



Master of data science student Badr Jaidi and his colleagues spearheaded the Social Landslides project. SHEREEN LEE / THE UBYSSEY

However, building COOLR's database has been a time-consuming process. NASA has recruited volunteer "citizen scientists" to log landslide records for over a decade. The records have traditionally been checked manually by staff members at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

"They got more than 10,000 examples of landslides, but it's still a tedious process," said Jaidi. NASA's landslides team has previously reported that the dataset has taken over a year and a half of pure cataloguing work to compile.

With the Social Landslides project, the students automate this laborious process: the student team's system can run through a month's worth of articles on landslides in 15 minutes.

During that time, the processing model filters out irrelevant articles and parses out relevant information, such as the location and date of the detected landslides, to add to the COOLR database.

Using previously-collected COOLR data, they match the language and situations provided in validated data sets.

This step is particularly important. Without the assistance of specialized computer language, articles referring to everything from drastic election wins (often referred to as 'landslides') to Pokemon moves ('rock slides') might be accidentally incorporated into the database.

The Social Landslides group used a natural language processing technique called named-entity recognition and "context matching" to train the machine into significant results. Using previously-collected COOLR data, they match the language and situations provided in validated data sets.

"It's a very unique and very specific challenge," Baidr said. "All the techniques we had to use were custom-made."

The team won the Overall Best Project and Faculty Choice Award for their capstone. Currently, the NASA team is reviewing the Social Landslides project to see how it might be incorporated into COOLR's workflow.

In the meantime, the team's project is publicly housed in a repository on the code hosting platform Github, which means the source code is free for anyone to use and improve.

"It's an open source project, a proof of concept ... it was made to be built on top of in the future," said Baidr.

# WEEKEND RUNDOWN

## Women's volleyball sweeps the UFV Cascades in home-opening weekend

DIANA HONG / THE UBYSSEY

The UBC Thunderbirds started their Canada West season with a weekend sweep over the University of Fraser Valley (UFV) Cascades. The 'Birds defeated the Cascades 3–1 on Friday and 3–0 on Saturday. The 'Birds took a tight first two sets on Friday before conceding the third to UFV. In the fourth set, both teams were neck-in-neck with no more than two points between the 'Birds and Cascades. A kill from Lucy Borowski brought the 'Birds to a 27–25 set win, and their first regular season win at a packed home opener. On Saturday, the 'Birds defeated the Cascades in straight sets, off of a kill by Elise Petit in the third set.

## T-Birds men's soccer play to a win and a draw to close out regular season at home

ISABELLA MAGGIORE / THE UBYSSEY

UBC men's soccer clinched a playoff berth this weekend after a 7–0 win over UBCO Heat. UBC added three to the tally within the first few minutes of the game. With four more goals in the second half, the T-Birds clinch the first seed Canada West playoff spot in the Pacific division. The Thunderbirds ended their season at home on Saturday night with a scoreless tie against the second place Thompson Rivers University WolfPack. Saturday's game opened with a cerermony celebrating UBC's eight graduating seniors. Throughout the game, neither team was able to pull together clear opportunities. The tie ends UBC's season with a 9–3–4 record.

## Football stuns Huskies 35-29 with late-game heroics, clinch playoff berth

ISABELLA FALSETTI / THE UBYSSEY

In a game that contained enough drama to last an entire season, UBC football (4–3) shocked the previously undefeated University of Saskatchewan Huskies (6–1) in a back-and-forth thriller, taking home a season-defining win by a score of 35–29. In the final minutes of the game, the 'Birds were down 29–22. Then, on a pivotal third-down play with only two minutes remaining in the game, the Huskies sent an all-out blitz towards Derek Engel, who somehow managed to step up in the pocket and deliver a perfect ball to receiver Shemar McBean for a game-tying 18-yard score. With two field goals, the Thunderbirds were through to the playoffs.

## Men's volleyball earns an opening-weekend split in front of an electric crowd

DIANA HONG / THE UBYSSEY

UBC men's volleyball started their season with a win and a loss against the University of Fraser Valley (UFV) Cascades. Friday's home opener saw a neck-and-neck game between the Thunderbirds and the visiting Cascades. After winning two sets each, the game would be decided in a fifth and final set. The teams traded points until a service error by UFV's Gerard Murray gave UBC the 9–7 advantage. Consecutive blocks by UBC's front line widened the 'Birds's lead. UBC took the set 15–9, edging the Cascades on day one. Saturday's game saw a determined UFV take the game in four sets.

## SCORECARD

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Thursday, October 20** | | | |
| RUG (W) | at Pandas | W | 64–12 |
| **Friday, October 21** | | | |
| *BB (W) | Marauders | L | 64–76 |
| VB (W) | Cascades | W | 3–1 |
| SOC (M) | Heat | W | 7–0 |
| VB (M) | Cascades | W | 3–2 |
| **Saturday, October 22** | | | |
| FHK (W) | Vikes | L | 0–4 |
| FB | Huskies | W | 35–29 |
| VB (W) | Cascades | W | 3–0 |
| VB (M) | Cascades | L | 1–3 |
| SOC (M) | WolfPack | T | 0–0 |
| **Sunday, October 23** | | | |
| FHK (W) | Vikes | L | 1–5 |
| RUG (W) | Vikes | W | 24–12 |

**Non-conference*

RECREATION //

# Discovering a newfound joy for wheelchair floorball: Adaptive Sports Day at UBC Rec

"It's a fun sport for anyone to play, and you get a great response like here tonight."

ISABELLA MAGGIORE / THE UBYSSEY

**Catherine Zhu**
Contributor

Loud cheers, laughter and the slapping of hockey sticks rang in the Robert F. Osborne Centre, as students and members of the UBC community participated in UBC Recreation's annual Adaptive Sports Day.

Since its inception in 2014, multiple adaptive sports have been showcased on campus, such as wheelchair basketball, goal ball, para biathlon and sitting volleyball. Adaptive sports use modified rules or equipment to make participation accessible.

This year, UBC Recreation partnered with the BC Wheelchair Floorball Association to bring the fast-paced, action-packed and hockey-like sport to more people.

"We're trying to make sure that all people here on campus feel like there's programs for them. As well, the event is such a great opportunity for people to see and try a new sport, and also see the talent involved in it," said UBC Physical Activity Coordinator Emily Jarvis. Jarvis is from the department of athletics and recreation office of physical activity, which works to promote equitable, inclusive and accessible physical activity across campus by supervising initiatives such as the Move U Crew.

"We're trying to make sure that all people here on campus feel like there's programs for them," said Jarvis.

Kyle Gieni is the founder and president of the BC Wheelchair Floorball Association, a non-profit society established in 2016 (gaining charity status in 2019), that seeks to "facilitate a sustainable program for athletes with and without disabilities to participate in the sport of wheelchair floorball."

"I played hockey my whole life and I just wanted to do something for the community of wheelchair users, and disabled people. I also want to share how we're very inclusive. We invite and make teams based on whoever wants to come and play. My brother plays on the national team too, and he's a stand-up able-bodied person, so anyone can play."

Gieni gestured towards all the participants practicing the skill drills that he had just taught them. "It's a fun sport for anyone to play, and you get a great response like here tonight."

Excitement buzzed through the air as teams of five, and a goalkeeper for each, competed against each other to score the most goals.

"I have mad respect for all the people who play this sport. It's not easy because you have to steer and bat at the same time, but it's very fun," fourth-year engineering student Rohith Manoj said.

Third-year political science student Graydon Day who plays ice hockey agreed. "It's been super fun being out here and trying it, because it's totally different mechanically."

Liam Toone, a linguistics and psychology student, shared his favourite moment. "Being in a wheelchair, I enjoyed the freedom that I had playing with others, and that I didn't stand out for once. For a moment, everyone is in the same position, and for a moment, we're all equal."

As the final match of wheelchair floorball ended, all the players quickly huddled together with huge smiles on their faces, and slapped their hockey sticks together.

Second-year master of occupational therapy student Nicole Banting said, "the highlight has been meeting other people, discovering a newfound joy for this new sport, and putting what we've learned in class into practice in a really fun way."

Students looking to join the BC Wheelchair Floorball Association can find more information at *bcwheelchairfloorball.ca*.

CHAMPIONSHIP THREE-PEAT //

# UBC women's rugby takes third consecutive Canada West Championship title

UBC women's rugby poses with the 2022/23 Canada West championship banner.

DON VOAKLANDER / UALBERTA ATHLETICS

**Lauren Kasowski**
Staff Writer

The UBC women's rugby team defeated the University of Victoria Vikes 24–12 in the Canada West (CW) finals in Edmonton this weekend, becoming three-time CW champions.

The team's success started in 2019 when the 'Birds capitalized on their program-best regular season record of 3–2. In the semi-finals, they narrowly defeated the University of Victoria Vikes, before facing the University of Calgary Dinos in the finals. Current Thunderbirds Rachel Smith and Shoshanah Seumanutafa were on UBC's first-ever championship-winning team in 2019.

After a cancelled 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 season saw a 'Birds team hungry for a second title. They finished their season with a perfect 5–0 record, going undefeated in the regular season and playoffs to make them back-to-back CW champions.

Coming into the 2022 season with 23 returning players on this year's roster, 11 being two-time champions, UBC was a force to be reckoned with. They were the Coaches Poll favourite, and after their season, it's easy to see why.

The Thunderbirds dominated their season with a home win against the Vikes before shutting out the Dinos 41–0. They went on to continue winning high-scoring games, scoring 12 tries against the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns and 13 against the University of Alberta Pandas.

The only scratch on the record was a 31–31 tie against the Vikes where the 'Birds couldn't hold their lead in the last 20 minutes. Despite the result, UBC still finished first in the division.

The Thunderbirds's first obstacle to a three-peat CW Championship was the semi-final game against the hosting Pandas.

Alberta was a force, but two minutes in, UBC's Alayna Scramstad scored. Savannah Bauder made a successful conversion to put the 'Birds up 7–0. Soon after, Bauder added seven more points with a switch play and a good convert. The Thunderbirds then found their groove, scoring four tries in ten minutes. The Pandas fought back and finally got a try, making the score 47–5 before the half.

The second half saw the T-Birds score three more tries, while the Pandas could only make one. When the whistle rang out across Foote Field, the 64–12 score meant UBC was headed to the finals again.

This year's championship final looked identical to last year's — the Thunderbirds defending their CW title against their rivals, the Vikes.

Tensions were high on the pitch, evident by the fast and physical nature of the game. UBC held possession to start but couldn't get past the try line until Seumanutafa broke through in the 15th minute. A successful convert gave the T-Birds a 7–0 lead.

The Vikes pushed back with a few good chances, but the 'Birds held them off the scoreboard. After a scrum, speed by Piper Logan and Seumanutafa gave Bauder a chance to score, and she added seven more points to UBC's tally. The score remained 14–0 until halftime.

After the half, UVic dominated possession, and they pushed the ball over the goal line, putting themselves on the board. Momentum shifted back and forth between the two teams until Bauder capitalized on a gap in the Vikes' defense. Her speed allowed her to dodge the opponents, running over 50 metres to score. Her conversion hit the post and bounced out, but still increased their lead to 24–5.

The Vikes rebounded with less than ten minutes left in the game, managing to score and make it 24–12, but it wasn't enough to make a comeback.

The skies were overcast when the game ended, but it couldn't dim the Thunderbirds's smiles as they became CW champions for the third consecutive year.

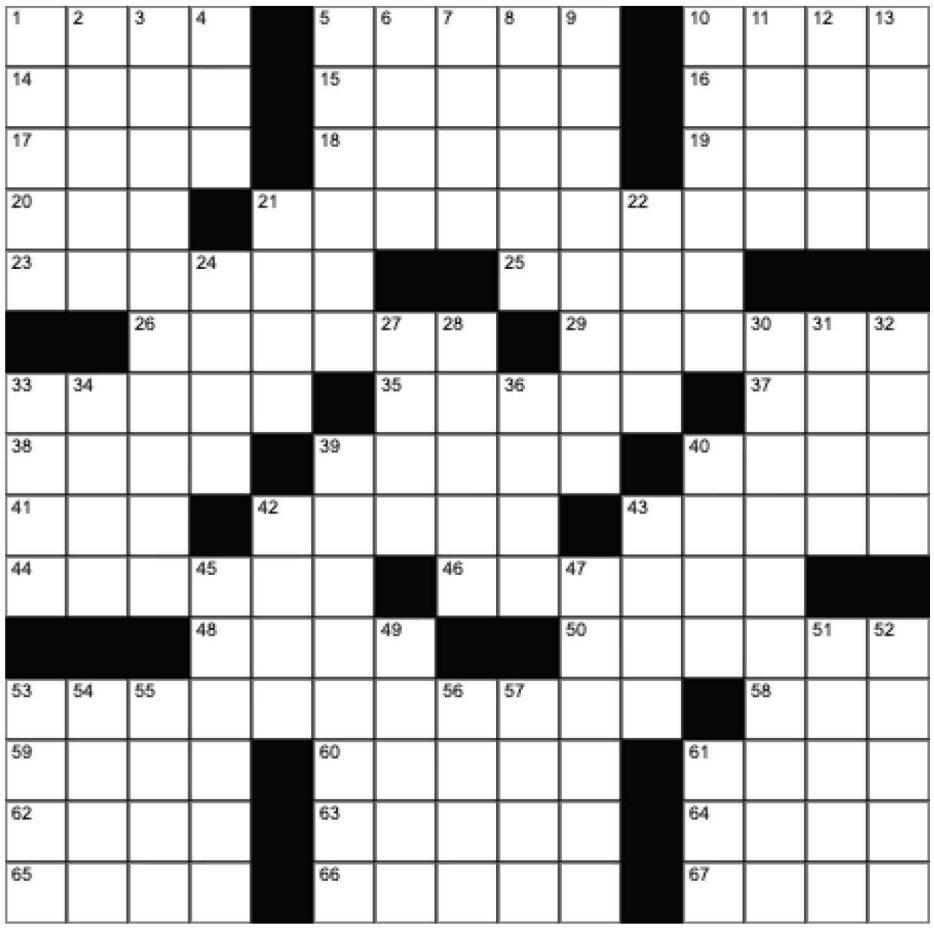
The Thunderbirds also dominated the CW awards. Seven UBC players — Bauder, Logan, Scramstad, Seumanutafa, Smith, Rori Wood and Jordan McLeod — received all-star awards and UBC head coach Dean Murten won the coaching award for CW. Seumanutafa was also named MVP.

After awards and medals, Scramstad went to receive the trophy. She held it up to her team, who erupted in cheers and rallied around her, all holding the trophy above their heads.

The Thunderbirds will work towards their first national title in the U Sports Women's Rugby Championships, hosted by the University of Victoria, beginning on November 2.

Kally King catches the ball in the CW finals.

DON VOAKLANDER / UALBERTA ATHLETICS



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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### ACROSS

1. ___ above
5. Really bother
10. Cong. meeting
14. Motion picture
15. Large wading bird
16. Fitzgerald of jazz
17. Shade trees
18. Flax refuse
19. Layered hairdo
20. River inlet
21. Involving rivalry
23. Japanese battle cry
25. Unchanged
26. Sarge, for one
29. Japanese mat
33. Physicist Bohr
35. Place for "stompin'"
37. Metal container used for frying
38. Gumbo vegetable
39. Pronounce
40. Actor Omar
41. Shoebox letters
42. Slippery as ___
43. ___ my case
44. Extreme cruelty
46. Potemkin setting
48. What to do "in the name of love"
50. Steering system component
53. Loss
58. ___ we having fun yet?
59. Zeno's home
60. Tehran native
61. Indigo source
62. ___ kleine Nachtmusik
63. Country in the Himalayas
64. Sean Connery, e.g.
65. Willy Wonka creator Roald
66. Rasp
67. Clinton cabinet member Federico

### DOWN

1. Sour-tasting
2. Eyelashes
3. Rude
4. French possessive
5. Resembling a reverberation
6. Composer Khachaturian
7. Waterproof canvas
8. Cordillera of South America
9. Person who makes a will
10. Sonnet part
11. K-12, in the ed biz
12. Czech, e.g.
13. Wise guy
21. Metal containers
22. If ___ be so bold...
24. *J'accuse* author
27. Bone: Prefix
28. San ___, California
30. Outward show
31. Atlas pages
32. Part of MIT
33. Turndowns
34. Home furnishings chain
36. South African grassland
39. Motionless
40. Scots Gaelic
42. Piedmont wine center
43. The doctor ___
45. Sharon's land
47. Star of France
49. Kitchen gadget
51. Betelgeuse's constellation
52. 4th letter of the Greek alphabet
53. Achievement
54. Director Kazan
55. Phnom ___
56. Spanish appetizer
57. ___ the finish
61. Venomous viper

## SUDOKU

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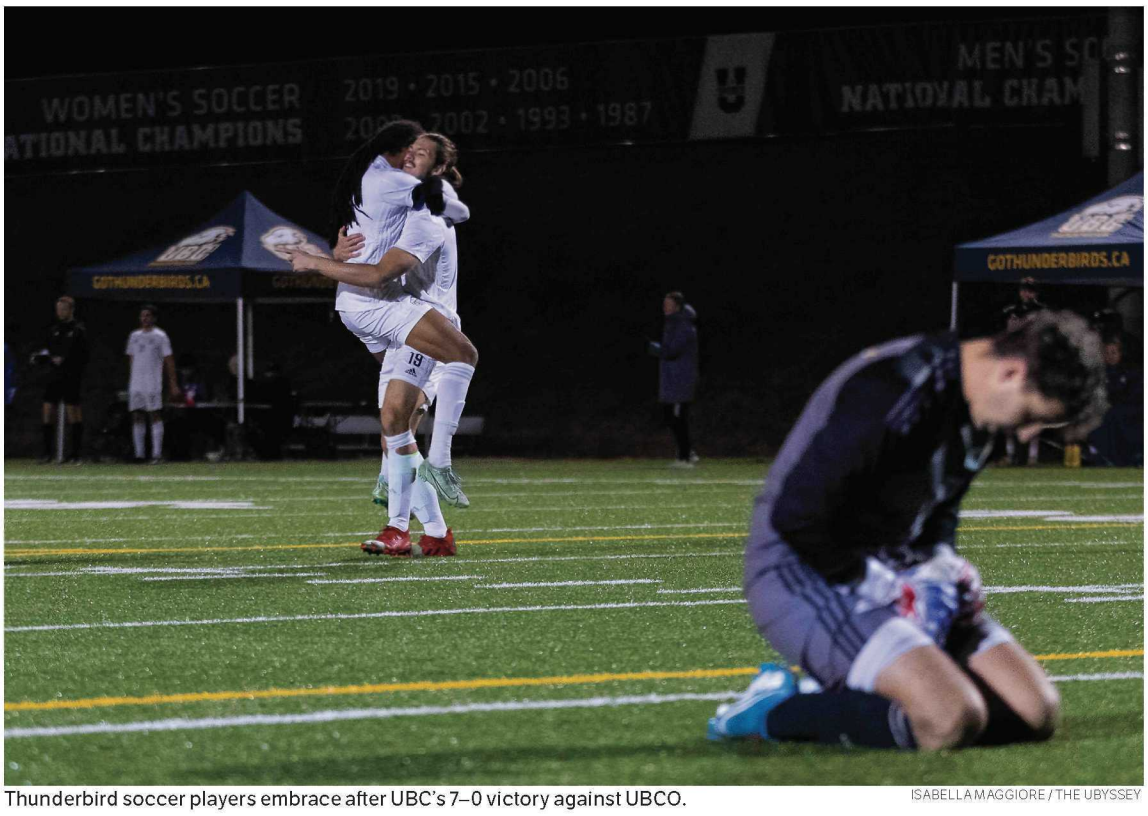
## THROUGH THE VIEWFINDER




Thunderbird soccer players embrace after UBC's 7–0 victory against UBCO.

ISABELLA MAGGIORE / THE UBYSSEY

## SOLUTIONS — **OCTOBER 12**

Crossword

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | A | R | A | | H | A | A | S | | A | B | E | L | L |
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| R | O | T | S | | O | D | I | N | | D | R | O | S | S |
| I | N | C | O | M | P | R | E | S | S | I | B | L | E | |
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| R | H | E | T | T | | | A | R | F | | A | G | A | R |
| M | E | T | R | O | P | O | L | I | T | A | N | I | Z | E |
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Sudoku #1

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| 9 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| 3 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 5 |
| 1 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 8 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| 7 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 6 |
| 6 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 3 |
| 2 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 1 |

Sudoku #2

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| 4 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 9 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| 3 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 5 |
| 1 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 8 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| 7 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 6 |
| 6 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 3 |
| 2 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 1 |

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