

UBC Elections Results Inside

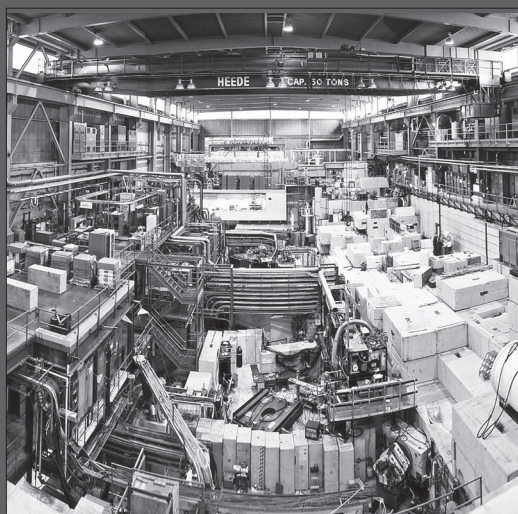
THE **UBYSSEY** magazine

Cruel Intentions?

animal testing at UBC

UBCPROFILES

TRIUMF



While the hundreds of students who take physics this term struggle to memorize the standard model of fundamental particles and interactions, scientists buried two stories underground at the TRIUMF particle accelerator are putting that model to the test.

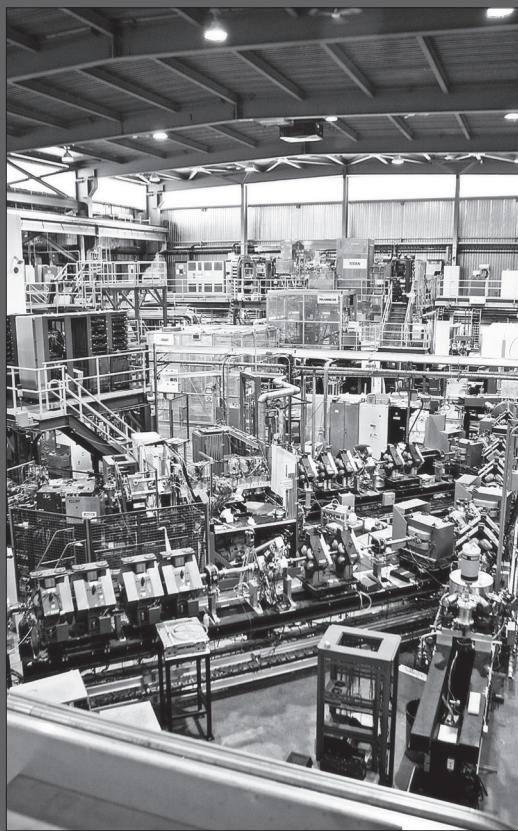
Originally operated by University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University and the University of Victoria (the TRI-University Meson Facility), the University of Alberta, Carleton University, and the University of Toronto have since joined TRIUMF as member universities.

The accelerator is powered by a 4000 ton, 18m in diameter cyclotron—the largest in the world—which accelerates up to 1 quadrillion protons to 3/4 of the speed of light in 1/3000th of a second.

Accelerating is only half of the fun though. When particles travelling so close to the speed of light smash into each other the high energy creates new and weird particles. These serve a variety of purposes, from explorative nuclear physics to life sciences, to material engineering.

One area of research involves exploring how the universe's heavy atoms are formed. Hydrogen, helium, and lithium were formed in the big bang, while all of the elements lighter than iron are formed in solar furnaces. The origins of the heavier elements, from gold to uranium to zinc, are still unidentified, but the energies provided by TRIUMF allow scientists to explore what conditions could have led to their creation. Other areas of research include using proton beams as a cancer treatment, or engineering new materials for industrial use.

At any given time there are around 80 UBC students and faculty working on-site at TRIUMF, composed mostly of co-op, post-doc, and grad students. Anyone is free to submit a research proposal to the Canadian Research Council however, and, if approved, the only expenses involved are those necessary to transport your equipment to the site. The use of the accelerator and physical support are gratis. **U**



—BY MATTHEW JEWKES
PHOTOS BY OKER CHEN



MICHAEL BROUND ILLUSTRATION / THE UBYSSEY

Questions about the AMS elections

It's hard for us at *the Ubysssey* not to be overly critical of just about everything. We realize that ranting at the student populace is best done in moderation, with well thought out critiques, and practical solutions. It is thus with ambivalence that we present to you our AMS elections Bitchfest.

Since when have secret ballots been democratic...

Turning back the clock on centuries of democratic theory, this year's Elections Committee decided that the traditional secret ballot was something student democracy could do without.

The volunteers manning the 11 polling stations scattered across campus had voters write their names and student numbers directly on the back of their ballots. This was done, said pollsters, to prevent students from voting more than once in the election. Students who questioned this decision were told that they were free to leave their identification off their ballots, provided they understood that their ballot would be discarded.

While we're pretty sure that candidates won't use the information gleaned from these ballots to pursue political dissidents, it's simply unacceptable to attempt to run an ostensibly free and democratic election, and then screw it up so royally by requiring voters to identify their ballots.

As presidential candidate Tyler "Che" Allison pointed out, all poll officials needed to do to prevent repeat voters was to have students write their names and student numbers on envelopes in which they could put their secret ballots. This would have allowed

the vote enumerators to have ensured that no students voted twice, and at the same time preserved the sanctity of the secret ballot. The decision to directly identify ballots may not have been major, but it was stupid and reflected a broader lack of respect for the democratic process.

What exactly is 'Voter Funded Media' without the votes?

We criticized last year's Voter Funded Media contest as largely pointless, undemocratic, and poorly run. We thought this year's VFM contest couldn't get any worse. It did.

The contest, which was overseen by VP External Matt Naylor, was terribly run. Promotions for the contest, originally designed to distribute prize money to campus media outlets based upon number votes they received from students, began a scant few days before candidates announced that they were running.

This lapse in promotion meant that few who didn't already know about the contest entered. Once again, several of these media outlets produced content which could scarcely be considered informative, let alone exemplars of citizen journalism. Once again, this year saw entrants who were obviously in the contest for little more than the money being involved that VFM offered.

The VP Admin race: stinkier than a fish monger

While the majority of this year's electoral screw-ups can only be attributed to the collective deficiencies of our student government, the cancellation

of the VP Administration race midway through the electoral process reeks of something more than incompetence.

The decision to cancel the VP Admin race came down Wednesday. Elections Administrator Brendan Piovesan said that the decision was due to campaign irregularities caused by one, and only one, of the candidates in the race. And while Piovesan was unwilling to say which of the candidates caused the irregularities or even what the irregularities were, several individuals say they centre around VP Admin candidate Yian Messoloras. They claim that Messoloras spent some of Friday, the first day of elections, encouraging students to use Webvote to vote on a laptop he was using whilst campaigning.

Messoloras may or may not have been violating the AMS Code of Procedures regarding elections, but the Piovesan had plenty of other options than cancelling the entire VP Admin election. He could have restricted Messoloras's campaigning, prevented Messoloras from postering, or Piovesan could have even disqualified Messoloras.

Instead, Piovesan waited until Wednesday, beyond the 72 hours required by code, before acting to rectify the alleged elections irregularities. And instead of declaring the election invalid after the polls closed, as is standard practice, Piovesan chose to stop the elections partway through.

Both Messoloras and VP Admin candidate Mike Kushnir said they were disappointed by the decision, but strangely the incumbent VP Admin, Sarah Naiman, was very positive about the decision to cancel the race. **U**

STREETERS

See their full comments online at www.ubyssey.ca

Streeters is a twice-weekly column in which students are asked a question pertinent to UBC.

What do you think of animal testing at UBC?



David Kim
Theatre 3

"The advantage is that it could expand your knowledge in that area. The disadvantage is that it's not so good for the environment."



Grace Lee
English Lit 4

"If it's for a purpose I feel like it's better doing it on animals than doing it on humans."



Scott Chen
Science 1

"If you want to do test on animals it shouldn't harm them—they shouldn't disturb their life."



Bobby Rashidi
Geophysics 3

"It depends on the specific situation. If it's going to be used for something good, then why not?"



Michael Neale
Theatre 3

"If it was something very invasive that couldn't ethically be performed on humans then yes, do it on mice."

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US/UK Out of Iraq!
Israel Hands Off Palestine!
Self-Determination for Indigenous Nations in Canada!

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Endorsed by: Canadians Against War (CAW) - <http://CanadiansAgainstWar.org> & UBC Coalition Against War on the People of Iraq & Internationally

Layout and planning meeting now at **12 noon** on wednesday, come and learn about the paper

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BUCK 65
SITUATION

The *Situation* with Buck 65 is full circle, as he reunites with his old collaborator Scratch Bastid. Stripped away are the blues and folk influences that nearly launched him into the stratosphere as with "Wicked & Weird", replaced with arrangements of drums, bass and scratching that could likely score a Shaft/Dick Tracy crossover. In accordance with the boost in tempo, Buck gives up his Tom Waits aspirations to be just another MC with a monotone. It may be purer hip-hop, but the world would've been better if had continued to challenge those conventions.

—James Johnson

PET SHOP BOYS
DISCO FOUR

In theory, *DISCO Four* should be outright terrible. The album consists of dance remixes of music by people like David Bowie and Yoko Ono, raising the question "who covers a song that was bad in the first place?" Surprisingly, though, the album yields some decent material; "Read my Mind" and "Integral" are both adequate tracks, assuming electronic music is your kind of thing. Though a disappointment overall, it's not the utter disaster it could have been.

—Jacob McNeil

SMALL SINS
MOOD SWINGS

Small Sins, who made a minor splash in the early 2000s as the Ladies & Gentleman, return with the aptly named *Mood Swings*, which demonstrates the difficulty of categorizing the 'indie sound' as anything but. The album distributes its strong material throughout, bouncing from electro disco to melancholic ballads faster than you can spell bipolar. It won't be a chart topper, but it's a decent listen to see what's coming out of Canada these days.

—James Johnson

DAVE GAHAN
HOURGLASS

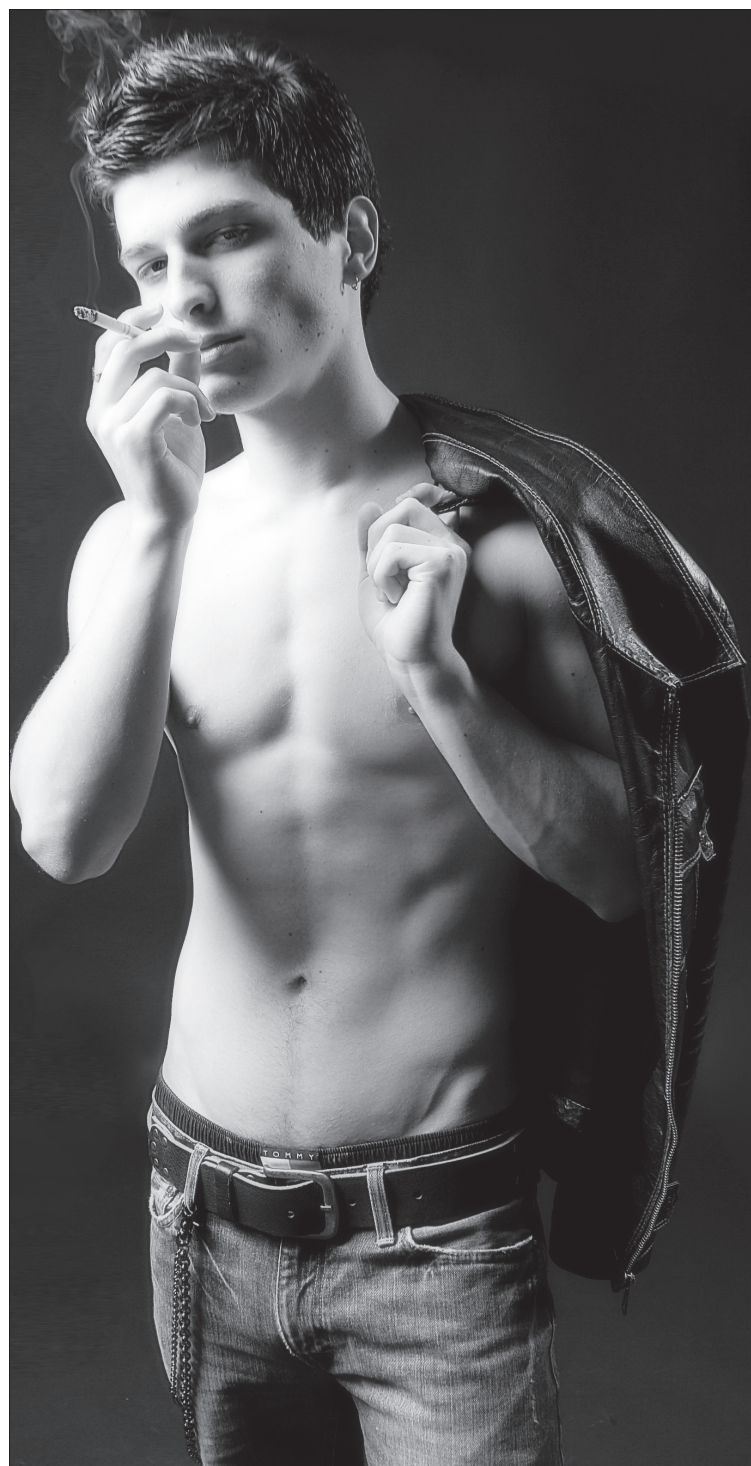
The second solo effort of Dave Gahan, more fondly remembered as the lead singer of 80s synth band Depeche Mode, is distinctly indistinct in a sea of modern imitators. Gahan's voice is as capable as ever, but he is backed by uninventive bargain bin electro beats. The album follows the template of most haphazard releases; 75 per cent rockers, 25 per cent ballads, the best loaded up early. Unfortunately, none of it memorable. Best to enjoy the silence instead.

—James Johnson

Coordinated by James Johnson

Six reasons why I choose to smoke

Pastime makes life more enjoyable



OKER CHEN PHOTO / THE UBYSSEY

Writer Trevor Melanson poses with his smokes, an aspect of his lifestyle.

BY TREVOR MELANSON

Smoking is bad for you, and no one knows this better than the smoker. I know this; I'm a smoker. Am I addicted? Very much so. But do I only smoke to feed my addiction? No. Believe it or not, I actively choose to smoke.

I know, I know: everyone has an aunt or an uncle or a brother-in-law or a friend's friend who died, or almost died, from smoking. But, in the words of Hank Moody (David Duchovny in *Californication*), "Life will kill you."

So, without further ado, here are six reasons why I choose to smoke:

1. It's very meditative. A cigarette can put life into perspective. When life lets you down, a cigarette won't. I organize my thoughts most efficiently while smoking, and take emotional shelter in its simple pleasure.

2. Walking is more enjoyable. Whether you're walking for its own sake, or heading to a lecture, a cigarette always makes for a more satisfying stroll. Going to that next lecture is a little less unappealing when you anticipate a cigarette, it's a well-earned reward for your arduous hike.

3. As just illustrated, smoking gives you something to look forward to—frequently. At the end

of a lecture, or after dinner, or when it's just time for another. It's akin to giving yourself a present five, ten, twenty times a day (however often you smoke).

4. Smokers are, more often than not, interesting people, and when you smoke, you will meet more of them. Why, you ask, are smokers more interesting people? Perhaps it is because, in one way or another, we're deviant.

5. Smoking helps you lose weight. It burns calories, and as a result, increases one's metabolism slightly. Furthermore, nicotine curbs appetite. Abdominal definition is hard—have you considered smoking? Brad Pitt does it, and he looks great!

6. Coffee and cigarettes. You haven't lived until you've experienced this combination.

In all seriousness, I'm not advocating smoking. What I am advocating is personal freedom. Smoking bans are not bringing society closer to utopia; they are only restricting autonomy. "No one should smoke" is an idea that cannot be properly defended because there are reasons to smoke, and whether they are good enough reasons is a quandary for the individual. Sure, everyone makes mistakes, but at the end of the day, the individual knows what's best for him or herself better than anyone else. ☪

THE UBYSSEY

NEWS | SPORTS | CULTURE | FEATURES

Life, sex, and masturbation



OKER CHEN PHOTO / THE UBYSSEY

BY SEAN TERRILLON

Two weeks ago, in Buchanan D block, my world was rearranged. I saw someone famous—famous to me—whose name I don't even know. This isn't an unusual phenomenon. We all know people from somewhere on the Internet, and although they are not household names, their infamy persists

“Everyone I know loves to fuck!”

in Internet sub-cultures.

The Star Wars Kid. Lonegirl_13. Numa Numa. My particular celebrity was an Internet maiden of some fame.

I whipped out my laptop, logged onto the SSC, hopped around the corner and, in an instant, my life changed.

The world suddenly slowed to a standstill. The last time I remember this feeling was when I tried to bunny-hop a two-foot high chain on my BMX and caught my back wheel. On that day, I fell slow-motion right into pavement. I survived with a new appreciation of physics. This round of Hasslehofian (think *Baywatch*) speed reduction opened my eyes to real-life sociology.

Voices in the background got eerily deep. My next step was taking forever to hit the ground. In mid-stride, I was positioned as such face to face with this girl who I knew that I knew. It took me a couple of seconds to register just where from, exactly. My head swiveled slowly.

I couldn't believe who it was. I glided like a paper plane from a 16 story building on a calm day, swiveled on the ball of my right foot to

take the corner, and stretched my arms out for balance. It was the girl I had jerked off to an hour before while dealing with my morning wood.

After having seen the girl of my dreams in front of my very eyes—in the corridor of the university I'm paying far too much to attend—my sociologically defined boundaries of normalcy were challenged. The world won't stop for me like it did unless something critical happens—such as skinning your chin across asphalt, or in this case, seeing a porn star at school.

In one sense I was excited. 'Could I get with her!?' I wondered. 'There must be something I can do!' I told my roommates all about my exciting day, and then I had an epiphany: the reason for my shock at seeing the girl in person whom I had just seen on the web was because

of an archaic taboo. Émile Durkheim believed people in society manufacture crimes to make themselves feel better as a community. The same reasoning goes for taboos.

The sex taboo has survived to the 21st century despite our love for all things sexual. Culture is sex; culture is wet; it writhes; it ejaculates and it cleans itself up to do it again as often as necessary. We denounce porn stars and associate a milieu of negative characteristics to them, rather than see them for their personal achievements and their potential to create a sex-positive society.

As I admitted in the beginning, she was a porn star and the first thing that came to my mind was sex. As members of society we have decided to agree that sex should be private, kept in rooms behind closed doors and certainly

never spoken about at the dinner table. Only in the sub-cultures of society does sex get its fair share of attention. These individuals who have managed to pick the locks of conservative restraint in the field of sexual fantasies face a far more manageable sex drive, and seem to have a better sex life. Isn't that the point? Everyone I know loves to fuck! Why do we treat sex any differently than conversation or sport? The sexual acts themselves don't have any inherent negative consequences if performed safely save the exhaustion from a good workout in both cases.

I would like to say to that beautiful, surprisingly shy, nondescript average girl with a past of porn, that I thank you for challenging my beliefs, and I hope that one day I'll bump into you again and we could go for coffee. ☺

Go and get your lube, because murder turns us on

BY BRIANNA HERSEY

The McGill Daily (McGill University)

MONTREAL (CUP)—TV premiere season has begun, and the dead bodies are already piling up. The murder victims of primetime are interchangeable with disturbing soft-core centrefolds: sexy dead girls wearing lacy bras and bullet holes. Some have their dainty throats slashed, and others develop purple petekia dots. Corpses never looked so good. Murder tunes us in and turns us on.

The dead bodies we see on television dramas are not real. They are actors playing parts. Many of the killings we see in the media, however, are real. With peer-to-peer networking web sites, murder has become entertainment: the deaths of Saddam Hussein, Iraqi civilians, suicide bombers, and people in the Chechen wars have all been

available on YouTube and attracted many viewers. As the bodies fell from the World Trade Centre, we watched from our living rooms; we heard them hit the pavement, and couldn't look away.

Our encounters with deadly explicit television shows are quite recent. The history of real murder taped for pleasure goes back much further. This history is plagued with salacious rumour, false advertising, and titillating promises of real "snuff."

There is significant debate over what constitutes a snuff film. *CSI* or *Law and Order: SVU* wouldn't make the cut. News broadcasts of wars are closer but don't quite fit the bill. Generally, the term "snuff" refers to a film produced for commercial gain and distribution that shows the real murder of a human being, often with a sexual payoff. Regardless of definition, we love seeing people killed.

Whether the victims are real, whether the killing is deemed to be "murder" or "defense," whether we download it or watch on the set, our culture is fascinated with watching people die.

When the promise of a real snuff film arises, we are invigorated. According to Wikipedia, there has only been one real snuff film that has surfaced. However, even this is hard to corroborate. There have been many attempts to create snuff films that appear to be the real deal and they invigorate us all the same, regardless of their authenticity.

The 1976 film *Snuff* generated protests by second-wave feminists against pornography. The Italian director of 1979's *Cannibal Holocaust*, Ruggero Deodato, had to prove in court that the murders in his film were not real. Paul Schrader's *Hardcore*, Arnold Schwarzenegger's *Running*

Man, Anthony Waller's *Mute Witness*, and most recently Nimrod Antal's *Vacancy* have all profited from the theme of murder on tape.

“Our encounters with deadly explicit television shows are quite recent. The history of real murder taped for pleasure goes back

Once in a while, a tale of real-life snuff hits the airwaves. Back in 2004, the story of 23-year-old Canadian Natel King shocked us. She was a university student who worked in porn to pay for school. She disappeared on February 25, 2004 in Pennsylvania and her body was found a month later still dressed in the bondage

gear from the shoot. The note "Snuff Vid" was found on a blank contract in the photographer's camera bag. The photographer was later charged with third-degree murder, admitting that he stabbed her multiple times after he told King he did not have enough money to pay her for modelling.

The Internet was aglow after the King story circulated. Though no snuff film was ever found, bloggers were hot on the trail, hoping to find the violence to fuel their fantasies.

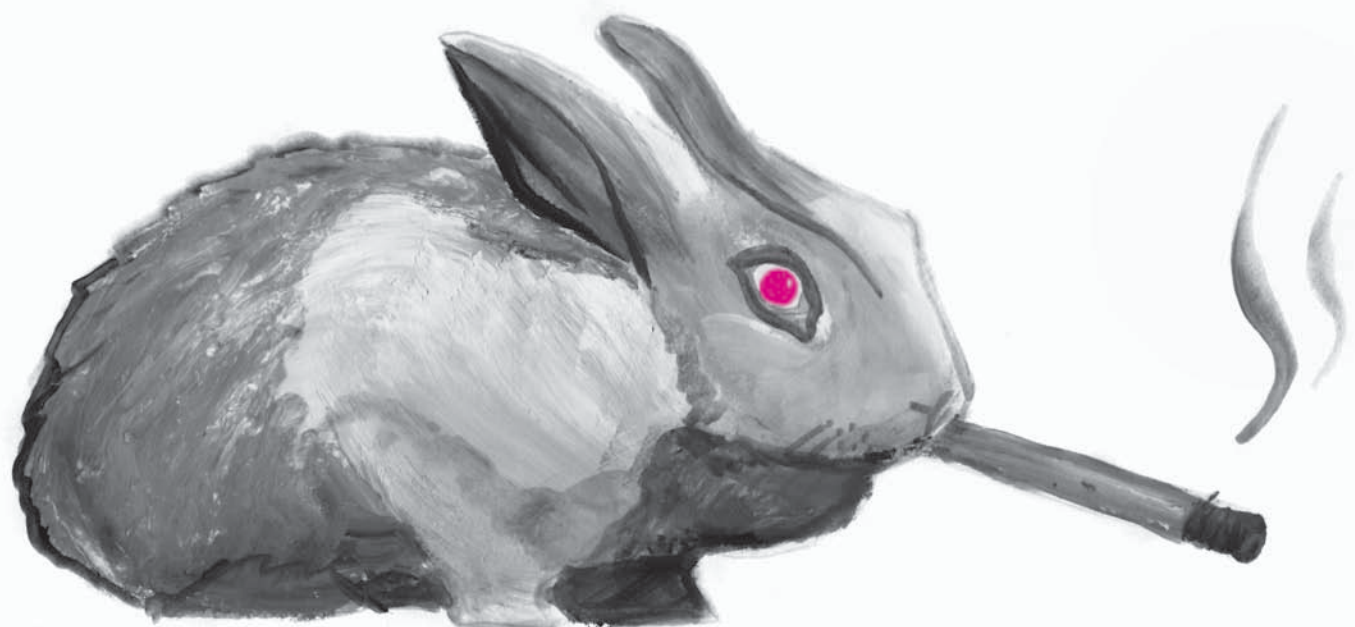
There is supposed to be a difference between seeing real murder and fake murder, but it is hard to find this distinction at times. Whether real rape or fake rape, an actual murder or just for TV fun, we watch news programs and crime shows because they interest us. This interest entertains us. As sordid as it is, murder turns us on. ☺

Animal Experimentation:

Text by Marc Serpa Francoeur

Illustrations by Stephanie Findlay

No mr. hamster, I expect you to die!



Tucked away somewhere on south campus is the Animal Care Center (ACC), the current locus of animal experimentation at UBC. Unbeknownst to most students, UBC is one of the largest bio-medical campuses in the country. The ACC annually distributes some 100,000 creatures, both large and small, to dozens of UBC affiliated research projects.

Alternate Realities 10:57am, UBC Animal Care Center 6199

South Campus Road

A fat, black sky weighs heavy as I roll through the barbed-wire perimeter of the ACC complex. A spate of "Restricted Access: Authorized Persons Only" signs welcome me, as a familiar odour, dark and caustic, creeps through the vent and welds to the back of my throat. I know that smell...but why?

I park near the rodent-breeding center, a drab, single-level concrete bunker. That foul smell grows stronger as I move toward the administrative wing of the complex.

Inside reception, flies buzz in the fetid air. The floor beneath my feet is sticky and streaked red. From somewhere in the labyrinthine halls before me, the drone of a large drill ricochets down the hall, nearly cloaking the muffled squeals of some wretched animal.

In the corner, the niece

of Frau Blücher sits at her desk and gnaws on a chunk of strange, dark meat. Ah, yes... that would explain the smell.

With a feral twitch, she glances up at my entrance then screams over her shoulder in some brutish Teutonic vernacular. With the good Frau still a-bellow, a whistling attendant comes round a corner and breezes past with a dolly full of carcasses. Mangled, furry legs of a lesser ungulate protrude through a twisted mat of rigor-mortic albino mice.

The thick, blue arm of an ape hangs limply over the side, sticky crimson dripping from the thumb of its upturned paw. The director emerges from his office. He wears a bloodied butcher's apron and pair of rigger boots well-worn in the toes.

"So, you're the reporter, eh? Good, good..." He smiles and clamps a meaty hand down on my shoulder.

"Let's show you around." His fingernails are dirty...very dirty. I cough, then mention that I didn't know there was a BBQ today.

"What? Oh, yes. Well, you must be hungry. Frau, let's get this boy some meat." And she scuttles off down the hall.

I ask if it's a special occasion.

"Well," he winks at me, "we do run on a lunar calendar." I waggle my head knowingly and we join in a chuckle.

Good, I think. This is exactly what I expected.

Back to reality

Well, not so much.

Perhaps in the halcyon days of unfettered progress and unanaesthetized vivisection, such blithe environs could indeed be found in the noble corridors of academia. Surely in this great era of The Body Shop and vigilant watch groups, the macabre spectre of animal experimentation has withered like so many other embarrassing little pastimes.

Hasn't it?

According to the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC), the numbers of animals used in 'science' in Canada have increased significantly in the past decade, with over 2.5 million animals in 2006, up from less than 1.5 million in 1997. In fact, 2006 saw the highest number of animals used in research since 1975. As the home of a sizable and rapidly expanding industry of animal experimentation, UBC appears to be at the forefront of these trends.

"Depending on who you believe," says Dr. Chris Harvey-Clark, UBC is "the second largest biomedical campus in Canada." Harvey-Clark is the director of the university's Animal Care Center, an institution currently responsible for the distribution annually of some 100,000 animals for use in dozens of UBC affiliated research projects.

Many students may be entirely unaware, but UBC maintains over thirty animal

care facilities across its campus and throughout the rest of the city. With over thirty full-time staff at the centre, not including UBC Plant Ops staff, a sizable portion of the animals used are the product of the ACC's extensive rodent breeding program.

Harvey-Clark describes a recent shift in Canadian research from the use of companion to farm animals, and from larger to smaller animals in general; a process he characterizes as the "refinement" of research practices. "Pigs are probably the main large animal that's used," says Harvey-Clark. "We haven't seen dogs used in research at UBC since 1992."

While the wide majority of the animals used each year are rats, mice, and fish, there are over 5000 subjects from other species, including larger mammals like sheep, pigs, rabbits, cats, and non-human primates. Harvey-Clark views the use of these animals in research as a "consumptive use," and equates it to the use of animals in food production.

With a veterinary background, Harvey-Clark feels it his responsibility to maximize the welfare of the animals under his care. He purports with pride that 'housing' conditions for animals used in research have improved significantly at UBC over time and compare well with other facilities across the country.

That's all good and well, one might think, but how have

these developments affected the once sensational ethical concerns about animal experimentation? What of the great outcry of bygone years, as in 1981, when the very office occupied today by Director Harvey-Clark was firebombed by activists? While the housing for research animals might well have improved, has their welfare in terms of actual usage as experimental subjects changed drastically?

The Stats

According to the CCAC, experiments in Canada are divided into four different "Categories of Invasiveness." In 2006, while about one third, or over 800,000 experiments caused "little or no discomfort or stress," another third caused "moderate to severe distress or discomfort." Additionally, over 7 per cent, some 180,000 animals, were subjected to the highest level of invasiveness, "severe pain near, at, or above the pain tolerance threshold of unanaesthetized conscious animals." This quantity is more than double proportionately, and well over three times in number than the mere 55,000 or 3 per cent of animals used in this way in 1998, less than ten years earlier.

As far as the nature of the experiments, while some 30 per cent were related to medical purposes in 2006, roughly 10 per cent, some 238,000 animals were involved in the "regulatory testing" of non-medical products. While the number of animals consumed for this purpose has been relatively consistent over the past decade, the proportion subjected to the highest level of invasiveness has risen from less than 20 per cent in 1998, for instance, to nearly 50 per cent in 2006. All told, non-medical product testing represented well over 60 per cent of the total number of animals subjected to the highest level of invasiveness in 2006.

While animal experimentation may receive less media attention today than in the past, not only is the consumption of animals in research at a thirty-year high, but both the quantity and proportion of highly invasive procedures show no sign of abating. These trends come at a time when the basic tenants of animal experimentation are, if anything, under greater scrutiny than ever before.

In light of modern technological developments, the basic justification of animal testing is increasingly dubious. According to Clive Perraton Mountford, a UBC professor of philosophy who specializes in environmental ethics, there is little continued rationalization for the use of animals in research in light of advances in "computer modeling and tissue culture work." Surprisingly perhaps, these alternatives are typically far cheaper and faster than animal experimentation.

Not simply collateral damage

The use of animals in research is "hugely costly," Harvey-Clark readily concedes. "It's costly from a financial viewpoint, and it's costly ethically; so, you have to be assured that their use is necessary." Nonetheless, when asked about some of the successes achieved by animal research at UBC, Harvey-Clark, director of the ACC for three years now, had difficulty providing concrete examples. "It's probably an example of how we don't sell ourselves particularly well that I can't give you a list of websites to go to." When asked, UBC Public Relations failed to provide a listing of current UBC affiliated projects involving animal experimentation.

Motivated perhaps to considerable extent by corporate interests, a degree of redundancy is also present within the field of animal research. Dr. Alka Chandna, a senior Researcher at People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) headquarters

in Virginia, summarized some of the more controversial practices employed by UBC in the last few years. Among others, she described smoking experiments using guinea pigs despite, as she says, the ready availability of "plenty of information on the impact of cigarette smoke on humans through clinical studies."

Most notable, perhaps, has been the continued use at UBC of non-human primates in neurological experiments. Recently, the rhesus macaque, an Asian species, has been used extensively in Parkinson's disease research. The monkeys are typically subjected to brain damage which models the degenerative disease, and then treated with various methamphetamine and electroconvulsive shock therapies. Such usage of non-human primates in neurological experiments is an area that has received particular criticism from many in the scientific community.

Because of considerable anatomical and physiological differences, alternatives to animal testing can often provide more relevant findings in relation to human applications. In the words of Professor Mountford, there is "clear evidence that research findings in other creatures frequently do not translate into reliable knowledge about human responses to drugs and situations."

Remarkably, the conservative and authoritative US National Research Council concluded in a 2007 report that due to the cost, time requirements and fundamental flaws in the translation of results, "over time, the need for traditional animal testing could be greatly reduced and

possibly even eliminated." It would appear then that perhaps the mainstream scientific community is coming to accept the desirability, at the very least, of a diminution of animal experimentation.

Back here at home

So where does this leave us? Have we reached the twilight hour of the age of animal experimentation? Apparently the UBC administration doesn't think so. "We're expanding quite rapidly now," says Harvey-Clark.

"We're about to open a very large 100,000 square foot centralized facility, north campus." The director is referring to the Centre for Comparative Medicine which, according to UBC's 2007-2008 Budget Summary Book, "will relocate and consolidate animal care facilities from south campus, as well as other locations around campus." According to the BSB a \$20 million budget has been approved thus far for the Centre. The number of staff at the ACC is already increasing in anticipation of the scope of the new facility.

If, considering the alternatives, the entire field of animal experimentation is increasingly redundant, ineffectual and costly, not to mention ethically ambiguous, why is UBC rapidly expanding its program? Professor Mountford wonders if it might be "an exercise in revenue generation" for the university. He may be correct, as an increasing proportion of the rats and mice bred at UBC are transgenic—animals which can easily carry a \$1000 price tag. The priorities of the

university, however, may be part of a larger trend that goes beyond the profitability of specialty rodents.

"We're certainly in a period of wild success in research on this campus," says Harvey-Clark. Whereas research is traditionally an area which loses money for universities, nowadays, the Director says, it's turning a profit. In fact, UBC is at the forefront of this financial success. With a "research grant fund capture approaching half a billion dollars," says Harvey-Clark "UBC is kind of leading the pack."

As to the fate of the existing animal care facilities? "Well these buildings here, are sitting squarely in the middle of what you drove past on your way here, which is development," says Harvey-Clark. Just past UBC Farm, the existing ACC is one of several facilities on south campus that will or have already been shut down and demolished to make way for the creation of infinitely more profitable enterprises like condo developments.

When asked about the future use of animals in research, Harvey-Clark spoke on behalf of his colleagues and stated that "all of us involved, would certainly like to see the replacement [of animals] where we can." As far as specifically which areas of research such replacement might be likely to occur, the director responded that "it's hard to pick an area where it's more or less justifiable, really hard to put more value on one project than another."

As a member of the Animal Care Committee, the very body responsible for the approval and monitoring of the use of

animals in any UBC affiliated research, Harvey-Clark's indecisiveness hardly provides assurances of discretion. Nor does the director instill the sense that UBC has any intention of curtailing its future use of animals in research.

And what does the UBC student body think of all this? Hard to say, as it seems unlikely that they've really been asked. It is worth noting that of all the student clubs and organizations at the University, not a single one is devoted to the issue of animal rights and welfare. A quick internet search shows UBC to be perhaps the only major university in Canada without one. Are UBC students unusually apathetic towards animal welfare? Is it possible rather, that under the clever subterfuge of an under-publicized 'Animal Care Program,' its activities have simply been well hidden enough to escape notice.


With the basic theoretical foundation for the use of animals in research crumbling, perhaps it's time for the students of UBC to express their opinion of the annual 'consumption' of more than 100,000 animals by their university. For which purposes and to what 'degree of invasiveness' are we as a community comfortable subjecting animals to? And which species of animals, if any? Certainly the issue has never been more pertinent than at this juncture, as the investment of at least \$20 million in a new facility will not only maintain UBC's legacy of animal experimentation, but expand and extend it far into the future. ☐





T-Birds inch closer to home playoff berth

QUICK STATS

GAME 1

	UBC	1 st	2 nd	3 rd		
	Lethbridge	0	2	0		0
2		January 18, 2007 Thunderbird Winter Sports Centre				1

GAME 2

	UBC	1 st	2 nd	3 rd		
	Lethbridge	0	3	2		0
7		January 19, 2007 Thunderbird Winter Sports Centre				5



SHUN ENDO PHOTO / THE UBYSSEY

Weekend sweep of Lethbridge keeps dreams of starting playoffs at home alive for Thunderbirds

BY SHUN ENDO

After a four game losing streak, the T-Birds sharpened up their play last weekend to claim both games of their doubleheader against the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns at the Father Bauer Arena.

The 2-1 and 7-5 victories on Friday and Saturday night inched UBC closer to a home playoff berth and positioned the Birds in fourth place in the Canada West, just two points behind the Calgary Dinos. With only four games left in the regular season, including two against Canada West leader Saskatchewan, the T-Birds

have to remain in the top four of the seven team Canada West to host a first round series.

In Friday's game, both teams started at a slow pace with a scoreless first period. But things turned around in the second when Marc Desloges and Jeff Lynch each earned valuable goals. Despite UBC getting outshot, goaltender Gerry Festa saved 33 shots to secure a crucial win. Steve Zmudczynski scored the lone goal for the Pronghorns in the third period.

"A win is a win and we will take it," said T-Birds head coach Milan Dragicovic after the game.

On Saturday, both offences

emerged to treat fans in attendance to a high-scoring affair. The T-Birds executed well, especially on the power play, as Jeff Lynch and Kevin Seibel netted goals at the beginning and end of the first period respectively.

The intensity of the game rose in the second when Jovan Matic put two past the Pronghorns' net-minder to stake UBC to a commanding 4-0 lead. But the Pronghorns broke the T-Birds momentum with two quick goals including one on a power play to cut the lead in half just minutes later.

Then the frustrated T-Birds started to get physical, with

Brad Zanon getting ejected after two consecutive penalties. The Pronghorns were able to close the gap to a single goal when Steve Zmudczynski got one past Festa at the beginning of the third, but that is as close as the Pronghorns would come. The Birds recovered their rhythm in the third period with back-to-back goals from Curtis Billsten to finish up by two.

Despite sweeping the doubleheader and boosting their confidence for the stretch run towards the playoffs, UBC is still looking to improve the quality of their game.

"We definitely need to work on our defence since we

let them score five goals," said Dragicovic. "We need to focus on our continuity and line systems, but these four points are crucial."

The four points put the T-Birds in fourth place in Canada West and keep their hopes of securing a home playoff berth alive. But things only get tougher from here for UBC, who go on the road to play the fifth-placed University of Manitoba Bisons next weekend in Winnipeg. The T-Birds then return home February 8 and 9 to host Canada West leader Saskatchewan in their final games of the season. The Canada West playoffs will begin February 22. 

COURTSIDE COMMENT

Athletic Director, AMS President-elect disagree on future of UBC Athletics

BY JUSTIN McELROY

When UBC Athletics Director Bob Philip finds out about the AMS election results today, he will receive some good news, and some bad news. The good news is that for the next 12 months, he will be dealing with an AMS president who is passionate about athletics and recreation, and committed to expanding the role and importance of those activities on campus.

The bad news? They disagree on how to get there.

Indeed, the election of Michael Duncan as AMS President signals that, for the first time in many years, Philip's vision of how to grow athletics at UBC is about to be seriously challenged by a student body that, when it comes to the hefty athletic fee that students pay, just might start putting it's foot down.

"I think it's absurd, Vancouver being one of the most active cities in the world, that

we don't have a free gym for the university," he says to me as we discuss his concerns about the direction of athletics at UBC. "You pay about two hundred dollars to Athletics and Rec, and you get almost none of that money back."

And it's that complaint, shared by the silent majority of students on campus, that just happens to be at the top of his platform when you go to his campaign website. To him, athletics at UBC is about recreation and access first, and varsity sports second.

Reduced fees, free gyms, and expanded access; these aren't phrases you'll find if you search through the athletic section of the UBC budget summary for this year. Instead, you'll find pledges to "finalize access understanding for University Town residents," "present plan to build two artificial fields," and of course, Philip's Holy Grail, "prepare and present a plan to have varsity teams play in the NCAA leagues if invitation is extended." In layman's

terms, UBC Athletics wants to keep building facilities, switch to NCAA play, and only then focus on reducing fees and increasing access.

This division shouldn't really surprise anyone. It's part of a healthy argument, and the truth is, the debate between expansion and profit vs. access and affordability is one that goes on between administrators and students in universities worldwide.

But what may push this debate to the forefront in the coming months is the looming specter of the NCAA coming to UBC. For those of you keeping track of the never-ending dance, last week it was announced that Canadian schools could apply for Division II membership in the NCAA starting immediately. Meaning that, as soon as the 2009-2010 school year, UBC could be waving goodbye to CIS play, and saying hello to fellow Division 2 schools Northwest Nazarene University and Western Oregon University, among


others.

However, that would only happen if UBC applies for membership by the June 1st deadline—and that isn't a given. As Philip has said, the announcement "is just the start of a process that needs to be thoroughly discussed on our campus." One can assume that process will involve proposing an increased budget for varsity sports. And while the department has claimed that there are eager donors waiting to fund UBC Athletics should it make the leap to NCAA, any shortfall would have to be covered by students. And that's where things come to a head.

"It would be irresponsible of us to put more money into varsity when we have so little money going to the vast majority of students," Duncan says, adding that, while he likes the idea of the NCAA in theory, "you can't just jump into the NCAA, and expect students to come...we need to get students more engaged, and then we're in the position where we can

make the jump." In other words, a compromise.

In order for that to happen however, Duncan believes that UBC Athletics is going to have to see student interest in athletics rise above the apathetic level it normally resides at. "We need to show Athletics how much students care," Duncan states, alluding to the decision to keep open the Aquatic Centre gym after student protests as an example of the department listening to students. "Bob Philip understands this. He just doesn't often see it from the students."

In the meantime however, you can be sure that the new AMS president will be pushing for cheaper access to facilities for students. And you can be sure that UBC Athletics is preparing to tell the campus community what a switch to the NCAA would entail. All of which means that the next time Bob Philip goes to an AMS Council meeting, it will be assuredly be a most interesting visit. 

By the time you read this, buffets will have been re-appropriated

BY VERONICA ISLAM
The Link (Concordia University)

MONTREAL (CUP)—Somewhere in Montreal, a posh restaurant will provide free food to those in need—and they don't even know it yet.

Le Comité de sans-emploi organized the free food grab, dubbed the "commando-bouffe," but to ensure the success of the operation, they will not give out or even hint at the location.

"We are going to a restaurant or hotel where the richest of the rich go," said spokesperson François Giguière.

These modern-day Robin Hoods will repossess food, which they consider a right and not a commodity, and redistribute it to poor and hungry Montrealers.

But it is not only about a good culinary experience. Giguière said the "commando-bouffe" is meant to make a point.

"The idea is that the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer, and that has to stop," said Giguière. He said

while social programs are being cut all the time, the government uses surpluses to reduce taxes.

"Twenty years ago people received \$470 per month. Now they get roughly \$570." But he said the average income has not kept pace with the cost of living and that essentials like rent and food have become proportionally more expensive.

This will not be the first time Montreal restaurants and groceries have been hit with a food grab: in 1997, hundreds of activists flooded the Queen Elizabeth Hotel and re-appropriated a buffet and in 1999 Hotel Le Meridien was forced to share its lunch.

Giguière said the Queen Elizabeth food grab 10 years ago resulted in 110 arrests.

"Less than eight were charged and only three received a slap in the wrist. We have to deal with this, but it won't deter us at all," he said.

"The best would be not to have any altercation with the police," he said.

His committee is experienced at dodging the cops. Last May, they raided Lucien Bouchard's office, located on

the 24th floor of an office tower on McGill Street.

"We emptied his office and no one was arrested," said Giguière. Last December, they raided an army recruitment centre with the same success.

The spoils of today's operation will be going to the needy.

Giguière said they are expecting a good crowd of supporters—at least 200. "We are getting more support from community groups and student movements," he said, and hopes the reinforcements will help them avoid arrest. **U**



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ILLUSTRATION / THE UBYSSEY

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Campus & Community Planning

Development Permit Applications



① DP 07034: MBA House
UBC Properties Trust proposes to build a mixed used rental building, 4-storey, dormitory style units for MBA students with a lobby, coffee shop, and amenity space on the ground floor on Lot 47 of Wesbrook Place (South Campus Neighbourhood). This proposal would remain consistent with the approved Neighbourhood Plan.

② DP 08002: SC Lot 11, Faculty & Staff Rental Housing
UBC Properties Trust proposes to build a 4-storey, 45-unit Faculty & Staff Rental building on Lot 11 of Wesbrook Place (South Campus Neighbourhood). This proposal would remain consistent with approved Neighbourhood Plan.

These applications are scheduled for consideration by the Development Permit Board on **February 16, 2008**, Maple Room, Ponderosa Centre, 2071 West Mall, 5 - 7 p.m.; for directions visit www.maps.ubc.ca

More information on this project is available on the C & CP website: www.planning.ubc.ca/corebus/devapps.html

? Questions: Daniel Sirois, Manager Development Services, C&CP
e-mail: daniel.sirois@ubc.ca

♿ This event is wheelchair accessible. For more information about assistance for persons with disabilities, e-mail rachel.wiersma@ubc.ca

What Matters, Darkness?

BY CELESTIAN RINCE

Imagine, if you will, that the mass of the entire universe was represented by a proportionally accurate 100-pound weight. The collective mass of every single planet, star, asteroid, and every other object in space that we can interact with, would only weigh three pounds. In other words, baryonic matter (the "normal" matter that we are familiar with), comprises roughly three percent of the total mass in the universe. So-called "dark matter" makes up another 24 percent of total mass. The remaining 73 percent is thought to be composed of "dark energy", of which almost nothing is known.

Dark matter is called such because it does not emit or reflect light, nor can it be observed with conventional methods, such as being touched. If you were to fly through a clump of dark matter in a rocket, you wouldn't even be aware of it. It does not interact with any of the matter we are familiar with. The evidence for its existence then, is its gravitic effects on conventional matter. Scientists have observed that galaxies rotate too fast to account for merely the gravitational force of the mass that we can see. Therefore, dark matter accounts for this discrepancy. It is the invisible glue that holds the universe together, dictating when and where galaxies form.

Additional evidence to support the dark matter theory is the viewing of distant galaxies with tools such as the Hubble Space Telescope. Much like a raindrop distorting the view through a window, the image of distant galaxies is distorted from what it should be, presumably by dark matter.

While dark matter is still a theory, it is generally, though not completely, accepted within the scientific community. Without the existence of dark matter, all the laws and principles of physics as we know it would be undermined, including both Newtonian physics and Einstein's

theories.

Despite the fact that dark matter can neither be seen nor touched, scientists have still been able to map out regions of dark matter. Catherine Heymans of UBC's department of Astronomy and Physics recently co-lead a team of researchers in an effort to map out the dark matter present in a particular supercluster (a collection of a collection of galaxies). Using the Hubble Space Telescope, they were successful in producing the clearest, highest-resolution map to date of dark matter. They have been able to detect where and how dense dark matter is in and around the supercluster.

Their findings suggest that dark matter forms first, collecting in regions of space. It then attracts the normal matter we are familiar with, which forms galaxies. By studying collections of dark matter, we can observe the evolution of galaxies.

Heymans admits that studying dark matter is unlikely to have practical or directly relevant applications in the foreseeable future. However, she adds that this research is funded by the government and other investors for a reason—this kind of astrophysics is the exciting physics that attracts bright undergrads into the field, many of whom eventually end up in the technology sector or other, more commercially viable areas.

PhD students Martha Milkeraitis and Sanaz Vafaei, both in the department of Astronomy and Physics, seem to confirm this theory. Both of them currently research and study dark matter. "Astronomy is a lot of fun. We do it because we genuinely find it interesting and love what we do. I don't think that people can speak about their subjects with the same passion," says Milkeraitis.

As for the future of dark matter, who can say? Perhaps future generations will look back and say, while zipping around the galaxy in dark matter fueled ships, "How did they ever live without dark matter?"

KELLAN HIGGINS PHOTO ILLUSTRATION / THE UBYSSEY

A possible glimpse into what is dark matter looks and feels like.

AMS Election Results



AMS President

Michael Duncan	1475 votes
486 votes	Matthew Naylor
426 votes	Rodrigo Ferrari-Nunes
354 votes	Erin Rennie
126	Tyler "Che" Allison



VP Academic

Alex Lougheed	723 votes
Nate Crompton	695 votes
Rob McLean	619 votes
Fire Hydrant	559 votes



VP External

Stefanie Ratjen	1429 votes
Freeman Poritz	1049 votes



VP Financial

Chris Diplock	864 votes
Andrew Forsher	608 votes
"Irish Courage"	406 votes



VP Admin

Postponed

Board of Governors

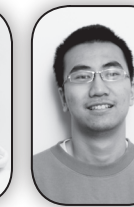


Ahmadian

Blair

Bijan Ahmadian	1398 votes
Timothy Blair	889 votes
512 votes	Andrew Carne
435 votes	Rodrigo Ferrari-Nunes
309 votes	Cris Marincat
280	"Fiddler Crab" Finlay
210	Genevieve "Malt Likkah" Swiegard

UBC Senate



Lougheed

McLean

Lee

Wazeer

Frederick

Alex Lougheed	1028 votes
Rob McLean	932 votes
Alfie Lee	832 votes
Azim Wazeer	796 votes
Blake Frederick	779 votes
Aidha Shaikh	766 votes
Eileen Harder	696 votes
Colin Simkus	615 votes
Philip Edgcumbe	580

VP Admin race cancelled

Elections Administrator claims 'serious concerns' about unnamed campaign

BY BRANDON ADAMS

The Alma Mater Society has called off the VP Administration election race due to what election administrator Brendan Piovesan claims were serious concerns regarding the campaign of an unnamed candidate.

Piovesan, however, refused to point out which of the three candidates caused the election irregularities and what the alleged irregularities were.

"I'm not going to say," said Piovesan. "No."

Maayan Kreitzman, writing for the *UBC Insiders* blog, points to Yian Messoloras's campaign as the source of the issues.

"Apparently, Messoloras broke the rules when he asked people to vote on his laptop computer on the spot," wrote Kreitzman. "The elections code specifies that candidates cannot pressure people into voting and they have to be at least 10 metres away from voting stations."

Piovesan admitted he wasn't even certain if the irregularities, which he claims to

have "partially observed," were in violation of the AMS code regarding elections.

"The witnesses at the incident who were members of the elections committee—myself included—can't say for 100 per cent certain exactly what was occurring and exactly that the balloting process was interfered with and we can't say [we're] 100 per cent certain that the behaviour engaged in warrants disqualification," said Piovesan.

Section IX, Article 3 of the AMS Code of Procedures allows the AMS Elections Committee to reprimand candidates by restricting their campaigns or even disqualifying them from the elections. Article 3:7 also gives the Elections Committee the ability to declare the results of an election invalid "if serious offenses have been committed by more than one candidate in an election."

Piovesan did admit that Section IX, Article 3:7 presented a challenge, saying "I am familiar with the problems potentially presented by [that section], but I also looked to Article 7, Section 1."

Article 7:1 states, "The

Elections Committee shall take whatever measures necessary to ensure the security of the ballots and the balloting process."

While Piovesan defended the decision to cancel the election, he also defended the decision not to reprimand or disqualify any of the candidates.

"I think we have recourse; I have recourse," said Piovesan. "So for that reason I felt that to ensure the integrity of the whole vote, that would be better served by re-holding the vote while at the same time because of the somewhat nebulous nature, I wasn't justified in disqualifying any candidate from a subsequent race."

Current VP Admin executive and incumbent candidate Sarah Naiman was positive about the cancellation.

"I think this is the best thing for the position," said Naiman, who said that she ran because others encouraged her to run and she lacked confidence in the original crop of candidates.

"I felt that it would best that I did run because, to be perfectly honest, I didn't have a lot of confidence of the people who were running and I felt like I worked too hard in this

position to leave it in the hands of someone I wasn't confident in."

When asked about what she thought caused the election, Naiman repeated Kreitzman's claim.

"One of the candidates... they were walking around with a computer," said Naiman. "And I think the issue is that the elections committee wasn't sure if they were actually saying 'vote right now' or just endorsing themselves."

"I'm pretty surprised," said VP Admin candidate Yian Messoloras. "It's going to be hard to get any kind of participation in the new race."

"I spent an hour in Brendan's office yesterday... basically he just told me there were election irregularities and that's all he was going to say," said Messoloras.

Messoloras also said that if the election was cancelled because of his campaigning, that that would be "preposterous," claiming, "I set up a couple laptops and some speakers and I was doing the standard campaigning thing and telling people, 'Come vote.' There was a minimum ten metre rule

away from the laptops, which I maintained."

"If that is the problem, it seems very strange that it would happen so much later and after he had basically spoken to me and said, 'You know, what was going on there?' And I just said I was trying to get people to vote and I'd been campaigning the same way that Matthew Naylor or Michael Duncan had been campaigning," said Messoloras. "I don't see any difference aside from the fact that I set up some laptops for people to actually vote."

Messoloras claimed that if his actions were the reason for the cancellation, "Normally a decision on an incident is required within 72 hours according to electoral code. So if he's made a legitimate decision it could not possibly be based on that, unless of course he's operating contrary to code, which he has already done on this election."

VP Admin candidate "Scary" Mike "The Rabbi" Kushnir also expressed his concern with the decision to cancel the election and said that he is planning to take the decision to Student Court. ☹

The votes are in; Duncan wins!



AMS President-elect Mike Duncan celebrates the announcement of his win with outgoing VP Administration Sarah Naiman at the Gallery.

BY BORIS KORBY

Mike Duncan is the next Alma Mater Society (AMS) president.

The fourth-year science student won in a landslide victory over current VP External Matthew Naylor, graduate anthropology student Rodrigo Ferrarri-Nunes, fifth-year political science student Erin Rennie, and joke candidate Tyler "Che" Allison.

Duncan finished with 1475 votes, over 991 clear of second place finisher Naylor, who garnered 484 votes.

"It feels very empowering," said an elated Duncan moments

after results were announced in the Gallery pub. "It feels like students want me in this position, and they want the ideas I've brought forward. It motivates me so much more to push these ideas on my platform because the students overwhelmingly voted for me."

Outgoing President Jeff Friedrich said he had high hopes for the new president.

"I'm happy. Yeah. It's tough to watch from my perspective because you care a lot about it and you put a lot of time into it. But I think a good team was elected. It's going to be solid for the organization."

"Their biggest opportunity

is what is going to happen with the [SUB]. Convincing students that there is a need to reinvest in what we've got in this space in a way that addresses student engagement and sustainability of the building. That issue is pretty key for the next year. Mike is the right guy to lead that process through."

The other big winner on the night was third-year Science student Alex Loughheed, who won the hotly contested VP Academic position.


Loughheed also earned one of five seats on the UBC-Vancouver Senate. Joining him will be his competitor in the VP Academic race Rob McLean, second-year

Science student Alfie Lee, second-year Commerce student Azim Wazeer, and third year philosophy student Blake Frederick.


"To be honest I'm just glad it's over. Missing class, all that stress...especially over this election period when there have been tons of doubts, I'm happy it's over," said a relieved and visibly exhausted Loughheed.

"The first order of business for me, once I'm actually in office, is getting the academic grievance database through. Any student [will be able to] log in and file a grievance to deal with class sizes, program requirements, anything to do with the calendar."

In the VP External race, Stefanie Ratjen defeated Freeman Poritz after a contentious duel marked by acrimony on the part of both campaigns.


Second-year arts student Chris Diplock makes up the final member of the incoming AMS executive, taking the VP Finance position. The VP Administration position for 2008-2009 remains unfilled after the election was cancelled due to campaigning irregularities. 

Full election results, including results from the Board of Governors race, can be found on page 11.




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