Students accuse police of brutality
by Douglas Quon

Screams of panic and fear quickly became screams of anger Tuesday afternoon when RCMP unleashed a torrent of pepper spray on about 50 unsuspecting anti-APEC protesters blocking a road.

Officers were under pressure to clear the road for the leaders of the 18 APEC economies leaving campus after a day of meetings.

A couple of furious protesters were ready to hurl stones at the officers, but fellow protesters held them back.

The confrontation occurred at Gate 6 on Northwest Marine Drive just by Place Vanier residence where protesters had set up a blockade at about 3 o'clock.

Up until that point the protesters were upbeat. They were passing the time singing and chanting, and had even developed an almost friendly rapport with the 20 or so officers standing nearby.

More protesters were sitting on roadways at two alternative exit routes, one on Chancellor Boulevard, the other on Northwest Marine Drive at Newton.

By 3:30, the leaders had finished making their declarations at the Museum of Anthropology. Security personnel had to decide which of the blocked-off routes to take. It soon became apparent which route they had chosen: the one with the fewest protesters, the least resistance.

RCMP Staff Sergeant Hugh Stewart approached the protesters at Gate 6, and warned them that he would use whatever force needed to clear the road.

Within a few seconds, Stewart and the other officers started spraying the crowd with pepper spray canisters the size of small fire extinguishers. Some didn't even have a chance to get on their feet.

"It seems they were warning us as they were moving us," said Mark Brooks, a former UBC student and protester. "There was no reasonable warning."

"They had two seconds before they just started spraying," said Andrew Donald, one of dozens of Place Vanier residents who were watching from behind a fence. "I thought the police would need legitimate reason to spray."

Three protesters were arrested. The rest ran down University Boulevard screaming for water.

Police on p.2...

University questions RCMP
by Sarah Galashan

After last week's protests, Martha Piper, UBC president, says she wouldn't agree to hold APEC on campus without consulting with the campus community first. Her comments come as some students and activists say they'll sue police over their treatment during anti-APEC demonstrations Tuesday.

Piper said she is proud of UBC students who were active during the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' Retreat that took place on campus. "I was proud of the students in terms of their ability to have voice."

"I knew that the 25th would be difficult," said Piper, who added she's thankful no students were permanently hurt.

"I do think they were heard. I do think the consciousness of the community was raised. I do think APEC's agenda was an interesting one for students to examine," she said.

Piper noted that although students crossed into high-security areas, it would have been more worrying had the campus been silent. In the months before the conference, Piper found herself at the centre of anti-APEC ridicule for having the leaders to her house for a lunch Tuesday and saying she wanted to greet them. But the decision to hold APEC at UBC was made well before her term as President.

She wouldn't take sides about the RCMP or protest actions before she first consults with students, she said.

University on p.2...
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Police claim force justified

across the side road to prevent any protesters from accessing Northwest Marine Drive.

When some protesters verbally confronted the officers about their actions, the officers started spraying the crowd a second time, this time without any warning, pushing the protesters further down the road.

However, at a press conference Thursday, RCMP Constable Grant Learned defended the use of force. He said the "time line was limited," and the route was chosen at the last minute.

The route was an alternate route. It was not the route of choice.

While he admitted there wasn’t a lot of time to clear the road, he said the protesters didn’t move fast enough.

The protesters then began to chant "Shame on the police!" One girl at the front of the group, carrying a banner, was in tears.

More RCMP officers, and riot police carrying shields and batons, were brought in as reinforcements. There were about 75 officers in total. An ambulance was also on the scene.

For about twenty minutes, the RCMP and the protesters held their positions, separated by about ten metres.

"It was really upsetting. You could see the power of emotion," said Kathryn Tate, another spectator.

At exactly 4pm, the first of the motorcades whisked by Gate 6 without incident.

All four who were arrested were not charged with any offence and were released.

University questions RCMP action

But Jonathan Oppenheim, an anti-APEC organizer who was arrested Tuesday and jailed for the day, said some protesters plan to sue for their treatment by police. "What happened," said Oppenheim, "was that people who come from middle class back-grounds who are students were exposed to this unreasonable abuse of power.

"I think that it's important to realise that these sort of actions are pretty routine. I hope people see the pattern, and not just that it happened at UBC."

But Ayanas Ormond, who was sprayed in the face as he slowly walked towards a police line at the Rose Garden, will not be one of them.

Judge Brooks was also arrested. "I was in a headlock, pepper-sprayed...flat on the ground."

He says he was just trying to calm the situation down with a megaphone. But he also admits he may have provoked the officers. "It might have been provocative language, but I wanted to make it clear that the RCMP was totally responsible."

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And the AMS will oppose unreasonable arrests, said Davies. What that means is still unclear, but the possibility of a press release or a complaint seems likely.

The formal decision will not be made until the next AMS council meeting on December 7.

From the facts we’re heard—"if they’re true—then it sounds like the police definitely went beyond their role, and infringed on students’ freedom of speech," said Davies.

"I was there pretty much all day," said Vivian Hoffman, AMS director of finance. "I think that it’s totally unacceptable that people who were just watching were sprayed and I think it’s totally unacceptable the way that the cops handled the people who were on the road," she said, referring to protesters who were cleared from the motorcade route along Northwest Marine Drive with pepper spray, with almost no warning.

People with complaints about police conduct can contact the RCMP Public Complaints Commission, a civilian-run organisation.

Faculty sources say several departments will meet to decide whether to pass motions about Tuesday’s events at UBC. The History department has already decided to call on the university to examine police handling of securi...
CRAIG JONES plans to sue for wrongful arrest.

RICHARD LAM PHOTO

Law student plans to sue

by Chris Nuttall-Smith

Craig Jones, a third year UBC law student and a director of the BC Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA), plans to sue the RCMP after he was arrested and jailed for 14 hours Tuesday for displaying two signs reading "democracy" and "free speech" on a friend's front lawn.

"We've got to design something to ensure this doesn't happen again, that the key to it," said Jones. "You know, it's bigger than me. There's a lot of other people out there with very valid [legal] actions that I suspect are going to be breaking down the judicial fences in the next little while.

"We have to do something sufficiently punitive that the next time an event happens like this that they respect people's rights to protest," Jones said.

Jones was on the lawn in front of Green College, a student and faculty residence along the motorcade route taken by 18 Asia Pacific leaders to the Museum of Anthropology. The lawn was not in a security zone, and Jones was accredited to be there.

He says police trampled his democratic right to expression and the rights of dozens of other protesters the day the APEC leaders came to UBC. Vancouver's Heenan Blakie law firm will likely help him file a civil suit against the RCMP, he said.

Jones was arrested around 8:00 am after he brought the signs, posted on two rolling coat racks to the sidewalk outside Green College. RCMP asked him to move the signs off the sidewalk, so he moved them, he said. But minutes later Jones was told that he could stay, but the signs had to go. He refused to leave.

"They said I would be arrested for obstruction and before I knew it I was face down on concrete with three guys on top," said Jones. And he called his detention "egregious."

"They told us quite clearly that they were holding us deliberately so that we were not able to go back to UBC to protest," he said. Jones says the whole reason he made the signs was to protest an "escalating series of infringements on students' democratic rights."

But RCMP spokesperson Sergeant Russ Grabb said Jones was likely told to remove the signs since they could be thrown in front of the motorcade carrying the leaders. He couldn't comment on specifics however, since he wasn't on campus Tuesday.

Police did not lay a charge against Jones.

Tension mounts over Tibetan flag

by Federico Barahona

Only hours before last Tuesday's anti-APEC protests, the RCMP removed the Tibetan flag from the roof of the Graduate Student Centre. But it flew high the next day and some UBC students are taking offense.

The student society initially flew the blue-gold flag on its building, located behind what was the APEC security zone, as a reminder of human rights to the leaders attending the APEC Leaders' Retreat at the Museum of Anthropology. The Graduate Student Society (GSS) said the RCMP had told them the flag didn't present a security threat to the summit.

Kevin Dwyer, GSS president, says he received RCMP assurances that it would not be removed during the summit. But early Tuesday morning RCMP officers removed the flag from the building, citing security concerns.

Dwyer accused the RCMP of going back on their word and it came down for political reasons.

"We had arranged an agreement with the authorities in advance to ensure there were no surprises and the security of the area was maintained, and this symbolic protest would not be affected," Dwyer said Tuesday morning.

Earlier that day, a group of students waving Chinese flags gathered outside Koerner Library to protest the flying of the flag at the Graduate Student Centre.

"We think that Tibet is absolutely a part of China, and there's no way Chinese people can accept the independence of Tibet," said Jun Nan, a community planning grad student. He added he'd contacted the RCMP to complain about the flag.

Nan said flying the flag was an "illegal act" because Canada recognised China, but not Tibet as a country.

A few minutes later, a shoving match developed between pro-Chinese and anti-APEC protesters in the SUR Building.

Dwyer, who had a security pass, attempted to enter the security zone, carrying another Tibetan flag. RCMP officers initially admitted Dwyer, but stopped him when they saw the flag. Dwyer was told to leave the flag outside if he wanted access. When he refused, his security pass was revoked.

"This is just an excuse to take down the flag to avoid offending the Chinese premier," said Dwyer.

But RCMP Staff Sergeant Plante said the decision was purely operational. "I've had feedback that I had direction from two people in Ottawa that told me to get it down, and that I did for strictly political reasons, that I responded to threats from the Chinese community--none of that is true," Plante told the Ubyssey.

He said his detachment received a tip on Monday night that five hundred Chinese students would be protesting the flag the next day.

"Because we knew we were going to have some problems with the economies attending, I didn't want a side-issue of five hundred Asian students to deal with," he said. He added that when he made the decision he was unaware that Dwyer had an agreement with another RCMP detachment.

Still, Dwyer doubts the flag ever presented a security threat.

"There was less of an issue of concern for safety," he said.

"I think they were concerned about the five-second span of time where if a good gust of wind had come along and unfurled the flag completely," said Kevin Dwyer, GSS president.

The GSS plans to file an official complaint against the RCMP for removing the flag as well as report the email messages to the RCMP.
Tuesday November 25—APEC day—began early for media, protesters and politicians alike. Each wanted something different from the day that would become quite possibly the most violent in UBC history.

But few of the journalists considered the protest site a place Tuesday morning, as they struggled for an official wave or smile from one of 18 Asia Pacific leaders pulling up to UBC's Museum of Anthropology, forum for the APEC leaders' retreat. "Talk to me about Taiwan or Tiananmen," said a photojournalist with Reuters. "A couple hundred students is nothing."

But were 1500 activists turned up to protest the absence of human rights on the APEC agenda, the social and environmental perils of international free trade and the presence of atrocious human rights abusers like China's Jiang Zemin and President Suharto of Indonesia, journalists took a second glance.

For a while Tuesday morning, after a brief skirmish between police and anti-APEC protesters and a few arrests, it looked like the day would be a peaceful and powerful one on the campus that until this week was sometimes called "The University of Bigoted Conservatism."

But a massive rally through campus from outside the Student Union Building to the Base Garden plaza peaked at 12:30 pm in a violent melee of pepper spray and arrests before the activists moved on to a trio of roadblocks. The activists sat in the three roadways that lead away from the UBC museum.

With less than five seconds warning, police broke up one of the roadblocks by spraying the 50 activists, as well as onlookers and media, forcing the crowd about 100 metres back from Northwest Marine Drive—out of site and earshot from the motorcade route.

By day's end 49 people had been arrested, including two Indonesian security officers behind police lines who were photographing protesters and speaking into walkie-talkies. RCMP also searched and released four men with Indonesian accreditation who were photographing protesters. One of them wore a black ski mask rolled up on his head.

"The system we are fighting is a violent one, so the only way to fight that is through peaceful protest," said UBC student Gabby Resch, eyes hot and teary, his face flushed bright red.

"They spray us in the face with pepper spray—they have dogs that are trained to attack."

GABBY RESCH
UBC STUDENT

APEC organisers have been quick to label the APEC operation the "largest security operation in the history of Canada," and from the looks of things they were right.

Trots dressed in green fatigues and balaclava toques stood atop the nearby Chan Centre for the Performing Arts to monitor the protesters and the roads to the museum. Helicopters and plain clothes police fed constant reports about the protesters. Police dogs barked furiously at times when people got too close to the fences.

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OVER 1500 activists and onlookers turned out Tuesday to protest APEC, some were sprayed with pepper spray after taking down part of a security fence. RICHARD LAM PHOTO.

than the world leaders standing by an artificial pond outside the museum for a photo op. Some of them ran to the ruckus, but were quickly herded out of the way. At one point, photographers were escorted into the action in mini media pools and were told at times to cover their eyes.

One Vancouver radio reporter told his office over a cell phone that after twenty years of covering protests he had never seen anything like he one Tuesday.

Shortly after the security fence had been repaired, a group of about 40 activists willing to risk arrest decided to form neat ranks of four and to walk slowly into the police line. But the first rank, which included Aynas Ormoodi, a UBC student and APEC Alert organizer, was doused with pepper spray and police sprayed the substance far over protesters heads and into the crowd. Police threw two dozen empty bottles back over the fence.

One man carrying a Tibetan flag, his young daughter holding his other hand, screamed at police to consider what they were doing. “You’re protecting people who kill children. You have programs in schools to protect children, but here you’re protecting people who kill children,” he said.

The confrontation at the Rose Garden ended after an hour-long standoff when police refused to accept any more protesters offering themselves for arrest. But, by 3:00 pm, the group split to block roads out of UBC, and the action saw further clashes with police.

Along Chancellor Blvd., some 30 protesters sat on the pavement. Another 200 protesters and onlookers stood on the median in the road, offering support. But a Vancouver Police bicycle member warned the group that they should leave. “I’m gonna ask you quietly to leave, that’s what I’m gonna do,” he said.

But they refused to move until they could be guaranteed a venue where the leaders would at least see their protest. This was probably the activists’ biggest frustration of the day—the security lines were so far back from where the leaders were that they likely spent the day oblivious to the people protesting against APEC.

An RCMP spokesperson, Constable Grant Learned, said police tried to give the activists a place to protest safely and peacefully. “Police were aware that there would be protests, we expected it,” said Learned. “But we do have a responsibility to protect the internationally protected people.”

Learned also defended the police use of pepper spray. “In the grand scale of things it’s about as humane a way as possible that you can get compliance from someone.”
Protesters attempt to place Suharto under arrest

Police made eleven arrests just after 9:30am on November 25, when a group of protesters attempted to cross into the secure zone surrounding the Museum of Anthropology to arrest Indonesia's President Suharto for crimes against humanity.

Nine protesters, all with the East Timor Alert Network (ETAN), an organisation that highlights human rights abuses in East Timor, were handcuffed and taken to the Richmond 7th-trial Centre but no formal charges were laid. They were all released between 9 and 10pm that evening.

Two Indonesian security officials were also detained for what police termed suspicious behaviour. Both were trendcoats and one wore a bald cap.

Abe Barretto Soares, who was a part of an underground student organisation in East Timor but has lived in Canada since 1992, supported the actions of the protesters. "The students tried to exercise their democratic freedom, they tried to make their point to show the Canadian government that they are concerned with what is happening in East Timor so they risk their arrest," he said.

The warrant protesters tried to serve by attempting to cross the APC secure zone was issued July 17 and stated that under Canadian War Crimes Legislation there was enough evidence to arrest Suharto on the charge of crimes against humanity. Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975 and currently occupies the country. According to Amnesty International, the result has been the deaths of approximately one third of the nation's population.

Officers lined the Chancellor Blvd entrance to the security zone and more created a barricade with their bicycles, forcing protesters off the boulevard and onto the median. Two more waited on horseback inside the protected zone. Protesters who attempted to cross the line into the protected zone were handcuffed and placed into a police padded van.

One protestor was forced to the ground by three officers where they applied handcuffs and another was taken away in a choke hold.

"The students tried to exercise their democratic freedom, they tried to make their point to show the Canadian government that they are concerned with what is happening in East Timor so they risk their arrest," said Abe Barretto Soares, a member of ETAN.

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Jaggi Singh released from prison

by Douglas Quinn

"Everything went ahead as planned." That's how community activist Jaggi Singh describes this week's anti-APEC protests, even though he wasn't able to participate in the main event. Singh was released from custody on Thursday after having spent the last three months in jail. He was arrested Monday night for breaching one of his bail conditions. Earlier that day he was arrested in front of the SUB and charged with assaulting a campus security guard, David Goodrich, by yelling at him through a megaphone during a November 7 protest. One of the conditions of his release was a promise not to return to campus.

"We were going to expand the APEC Free Zone and take over the Museum of Anthropology," Singh says. "We were planning an affinity action. We were going to expand the APEC Free Zone and take over the Museum of Anthropology and claim over the space. We were fully intending to be arrested, and were prepared not to participate on the twenty-fifth."

During his bail review on Thursday, Singh's lawyer, Ali Yousef, argued that Singh just got caught up in the heat of the political fervour. "Sometimes it takes more than one knock on the head to get the message," Judge Kerry Smith told Singh. "It wasn't smart of you to go back to the university." But he agreed that Singh should not be detained further.

Singh was released on the condition that he not come into contact with the security guard. A trial date was set for September 18, 1998. *

UBC protesters march downtown to rally against APEC

by Jamie Woods

Groups as diverse as the Coast Salish, the Burrard Band and the Workers Communist Party of Iran joined forces in a march Tuesday night in the final protest against the APEC summit.

About a thousand people marched from Oppenheimer Park to the Vancouver Art Gallery, chanting slogans like "We don't need no APEC bullsh*t" and "Junk, junk APEC!" The protesters blocked traffic outside the gallery as speakers decreed the Canadian government's role in promoting what they called "imperialist globalization." "You, the people, know the real impact of APEC, of free trade, and we will not accept it," said Monica Urrutia of the Philippine Women's Centre. "As production is restructured, we're seeing an increasing number of low paying jobs, part time workers, unemployment and workers without unions," she continued.

While many protesters targeted the Canadian government for its role in APEC and the globalization process, the major theme of the protest was solidarity with workers abroad. "I'm here because I can be, because I won't be killed for being here like so many people around the world are. I feel like if I'm not here showing my support, then I'm being complicit in the APEC agenda," said Laurel Bischoff, a councillor on the Langara Students Union. Many protesters didn't limit themselves to speeches and slogans, opting for theatrics to convey their message. Ten people hoisted a chariot supporting a model factory inspired by Dr. Seuss' The Lorax. Others walked around on stilts.

Bischoff said that while the protest, which was organized by the NO to APEC Coalition, was important in terms of raising awareness, she was disappointed by the turnout. It's really only a small percentage of the people living in the city," she said.

APEC brings traffic jam to UBC as leaders clog up roads

by Cynthia Lee

Getting to campus on November 25 -- APEC Day -- was a nuisance. Several streets leading to campus were closed at peak hours to accommodate APEC leaders on their way to and from the Museum of Anthropology, site of the leaders' summit.

Cornwall Avenue, Point Grey Road, a part of Fourth Avenue and Chancellor Boulevard were closed to cars during peak traffic hours. Only Tenth Avenue and University Boulevard were open the entire day.

Ginty Lau, a 2nd year Arts student got stuck in traffic when APEC delegates left the Museum. She said she waited for an hour and a half as traffic backed up. "People were irritated, throwing their hands in the air when they saw the police coming to stop them. Traffic was just a pain. It took me an hour more than usual," she said. I had already took shortcuts to avoid the delegates," she said.

Teressa Durfield, a 3rd year Arts student, said she expected delays. "But it was a pain as well," she said. "It was just backed up so far that it would have taken me an hour to drive in when I only live 15 minutes away."

Paul Handy, City of Vancouver communications coordinator, said there were no accidents and the roads were closed off well in advance.

On-campus parking was apparently not affected on November 25. Danny Ho, assistant parking manager at UBC, reported nothing out of the ordinary.

"Traffic Acres, BC Transit media liaison, said there was a noticeable increase in ridership throughout the day. "Since the #4 Bus was rerouted via Broadway, there may have been some delay, though reasonably short in nature," she said.

John Wright, a BC Transit driver, described traffic conditions as "bad" and said buses were "packed."

Several students reported that police officers stopped buses in route to UBC. "It made me nervous. I understand the security concerns, but they shouldn't block off transit which are bringing students to their classes," said 1st Year Arts student, Noelandi Dubeta.

If you wish to file a complaint regarding police conduct, contact:

RCMP Public Complaints Commission
670-840 Howe St.
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2L2
Ph: 604-7363 Fax: 666-7362

BC Police Commission
405-815 Hornby St.
Vancouver V6Z 2E6
Ph: 604-2385 Fax: 660-1223

LETS GO! UBC protesters gather before heading off to Rose Garden protest BETH YEARWOOD PHOTO

DELAY AHEAD APEC caused a UBC-wide traffic jam. STEVEN LAWRENCE PHOTO

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APECeconomics about action?

by Daliah Merzaban

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien labeled 1997 APEC's "Year of Action" during his concluding speech at the Leaders Declaration.

In a seven page declaration, Chrétien summarized the accomplishments of the APEC forum, which included further agreements on trade and investment liberalization, economic cooperation, and the strengthening of the APEC community. The leaders also acknowledged the critical importance of responding to the faltering Asian economies through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) "On a global level, the role of the IMF remains central," said Chrétien during the speech. "Therefore, we welcome and strongly endorse the framework agreed to in Manila [the site of the 1996 APEC Leaders Summit] as a constructive step to enhance cooperation to promote financial stability."

In the past year, four countries--Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea, and the Philippines--have had to receive assistance from the IMF. According to Chrétien, "a cooperative financing arrangement to supplement, where necessary, IMF resources" is also required. APEC, he said, would play a central role in providing the framework for such an arrangement.

While discussion surrounding the Asian markets dominated the forum, the leaders also discussed the issue of trade and investment liberalization. They endorsed an enduring commitment to both the Individual Action Plans (IAPs), in which trade ministers are given a mandate to eliminate their respective country's trade barriers, and Collective Action Plans (CAPs), that will ultimately lower the costs and barriers of trade between all the economies. Chrétien said the leaders are committed to annual improvement of each IAP.

The contributions of APEC's facilitation work in 1997 included an aim of making trade easier and cheaper by eliminating red tape and delays at customs. The aim will be implemented through the use of new technology that will allow electronic interchange between customs authorities of the different nations, meaning that travelers will have shorter waits at customs, and the delays for passage of goods will be reduced to hours rather than weeks.

Environmental cooperation was raised repeatedly at the conference, with talk of harmonizing efforts on climate change by reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

"We affirm that this issue is of vital significance, and that it requires cooperative efforts by the international community," said Chrétien. The APEC leaders left Vancouver apparently satisfied with their accomplishments.

At the 1998 Leaders Summit in Malaysia, the 18 economies will be joined by Peru, Russia and Vietnam.
The match ended 1-1 in extra time. The first half was a physical contest, with both teams pressing for victory. In the final minute of the match, a cross from the right wing found its way into the penalty area, where the striker, Nohra, could not help but score, answering a question that had been haunting the national team for weeks. With this goal, Nohra and his teammates sealed their place in the semi-finals of the national championship, a feat that had been the subject of much speculation leading up to the tournament.

Nohra's goal was not just a personal achievement but a team effort, with contributions from various players throughout the tournament. The team's defense, in particular, was a surprise, as they had managed to keep their opponents scoreless in most matches, a testament to their dedication and hard work.

The semi-final match against the strong team from the northern region promised to be a tough challenge, but Nohra and his teammates were ready. They had trained hard, and their teamwork had paid off. The crowd, which had been cheering them on from the sidelines, was now on its feet, cheering them on for the final push.

The game started with a bang, as both teams exchanged chances, but neither could find the back of the net. The first half ended 0-0, and the teams went into the half-time break with renewed energy.

The second half was a battle of wits, with both teams trying to find a way to breakthrough. Nohra, with his experience and leadership, was a key figure in the midfield, dictating the pace of the game and creating chances for his teammates. His passes were accurate, and his shots on goal were on target.

In the final minutes of the game, Nohra showed his class by delivering a decisive pass that led to the winning goal. The team celebrates, and the crowd erupts in joy, as they secure their place in the final of the national championship.

Nohra, who had been the main man throughout the tournament, was named the man of the match, a fitting reward for his efforts. The team's joy was evident, as they thanked their fans for their support and vowed to continue their winning streak.

Nohra's coach, speaking about his star player, said: "Nohra is a player who always gives his best. He never gives up, and he is always ready to do whatever it takes to win. He is a leader on and off the pitch, and we are proud to have him on our team."

The final will be a tough one, but Nohra and his teammates are confident. They have shown that they are a team to be reckoned with, and they will continue to fight for their dreams.

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ASSISTANT TRAINER AMBER CHAISSON is part of a team of three trainers (Ted Lorenzo and Paul Bruno) that keeps the 'Birds ready and healthy for every game.
Ubyssey Publications Society
1998 Board of Directors Elections

The Ubyssey Publications Society is the organization responsible for publishing UBC's official student newspaper, the Ubyssey. Its membership consists of all UBC students who have not opted out of membership in September by completing an opt-out form. Members are eligible to run for, and vote in, Board Elections.

The Board of Directors oversees the administrative and business aspects of the paper including advertising, marketing, distribution, the budget and finances, meetings of the Society, and management of employees.

The Board is not, however, involved in the editorial aspects of the paper. The editorial policy and content of the paper is determined by the editorial board of the paper, elected by the Staff in March of each year. To become a staff member, those interested need to contribute to three issues of the Ubyssey and attend regular staff meetings in order to get voting rights and the right to run for an editorial position.

Term is January 98- January 99. Directors attend approximately 20 Board Meetings throughout the year in addition to serving on Board Committees. No previous experience with newspapers or the UPS is required.

The positions up for election are the President and 4 Directors at Large.

Nomination forms are available at the Ubyssey Business Office, SUB 245. Completed forms must be returned by 4:00 pm, Friday, January 9, 1998.

Elections will be held in conjunction with the AMS Executive, UBC Board of Governors, and Senate Elections, January 19 to 23, 1998.

For more information contact Melany Lund, UPS Chief Returning Officer at 822-6681.
Fair trade: to be or not to be?

by Dale Lum

While the APEC leaders were busy bashing out deals and refining their visions of free trade this week, the talks of a differ Rent sort have been happening elsewhere around town.

But while the negotiations will surround the challenges faced by Latin America, they won't be spurring any activity at the Vancouver Stock Exchange. 

Alternative trade organisations, practising what they call "fair trade," don't cater to pin-stripped speculators. They negotiate trade terms and prices by consensus and consider working conditions and environmental protection when dealing with suppliers.

In a recent speech at the SFU Harbour Centre, Gaspar Tomas, a former coffee plantation worker in Guatemala, said fair trade is something Guatemala's coffee workers could use a lot more of.

At the time of the coffee harvest in Guatemala, whole families migrate to the coast to find much needed work. But life on the plantations doesn't exactly resemble the images of Juan Valdez. Tomas and his family were paid two dollars for every hundred pounds of beans they picked. Plantation owners did not provide gloves, masks, or protective gear for workers who spewed pesticides. And the plantations worked at providing just a little more than a shock to live in.

"There's no access to a doctor, and the food rations that we get aren't of good quality. So the families who come down from the mountains die in the large plantations. The most that the coffee plantations don't care about human lives," said Tomas, his soft Spanish voice a constant reminder of the situations he describes.

One of the ways to improve working conditions for plantation workers is to trade only with democratically-run cooperatives, says Bob Thomson, director of Fair TradeMark, an organisation that certifies fair trade products in Canada.

"We have now a register of 340 marketing coops in Latin America and Africa organised by Latin American and African small farmers," says Thomson. "When we say small farmers, we mean family farmers—people who own anywhere between one and five acres of land, and who work the land themselves with no hired labour except perhaps at harvest time, when they may hire a neighbour or a family member."

To earn the fair trade label, an importer must buy from a democratically-elected or parish council for more than the world price.

"Under the fair trade system, the world price is higher than our floor price [of US$1.26 per pound], the fair trade premium is five cents a pound. So if the floor price in New York today were $1.70 a pound and somebody signed a contract with a co-op in Guatemala today, they would get $1.75 a pound," says Thomson.

Fair TradeMark also eliminates the middleman by requiring investors to buy directly from the co-op, and makes sure the farmer has a chance to plan ahead.

"One of the other conditions is the importers sign a letter of intent to buy for more than one crop cycle—so they buy for more than one year," says Thomson. "We also ask that importers pay 60 per cent of the price of the coffee at the time of signing the contract. And that's a loan to the coop."

In Vancouver, one of the places to purchase fairly traded products is the Oxfam run Bridgehead store. Bridgehead was started by members of the United Church who wanted to support farmers in Nicaragua, at a time when the country's revolutionary government was facing not only a US embargo but also a powerful US supported counterinsurgency. In 1984, Oxfam agreed to buy coffee directly from the United Church. They expanded their coffee collection, buying not just from Nicaragua, but also from cooperatives in Mexico. And they got into crafts.

Michelle Limberner, a program coordinator at Oxfam's Vancouver office, says coffee is the second most traded commodity in the world, after petroleum. Despite a tiny market share, she says the work of alternative traders is still significant.

"Even today, for alternative trade organisations worldwide, it only constitutes about three percent of all the coffee traded. So it's still very small, although it's starting to grow."

Limberner says that since one of Oxfam's goals is community development, the co-ops are obligated to contribute a portion of the profits back to the community, or assist in community economic development. Some of the help provided by Oxfam to the producers include skill training, product development, and organic agriculture.

"Now we're getting coffee from Colombia, so we can work with farmers there to use what they call shade coffee, [which] will grow in the shade and will grow on rocky soil and will grow quite high. But this way coffee can be grown in areas that normally you couldn't grow food on. We try to work with farmers that can't grow really fertile land that they normally use to grow food," Limberner says.

While fairly traded coffee occupies a niche market in North America, it has been growing in Europe. One of the main goals for Oxfam is to get their products into the North American supermarket shelves. But for now, says Limberner, it's been an uphill battle to convince retailers to stock their products.

"We're constantly having to prove what we're doing and how we're doing it...Nobody questions Nahob where their beans come from, they just go. Here it is, here's the price," Limberner says.

While fair trade is most commonly associated with developing countries, its precepts of social and environmental consciousness can be applied to a local level as well. While farmers in BC aren't facing the same level of human rights issues as farmers in Colombia, she says, "farmers here have got a huge responsibility to tell their customers that they are using coffee with a fairer quality." 

"The basis of Oxfam is not charity, it's justice. So you need to try to look at what is creating the extreme inequity and injustice in the world, and basically the trade system that we have—the globalisation—is increasing inequality in the world," states Ruff.

She says that notes of the 100 largest companies in the world, 51 are multinational corporations and 49 are countries. Globalised trade, she says, has created tremendous wealth, but for only a small number of people.

Ruff has little faith in governments to enact positive change. She uses the repression of the Ogoni people of Nigeria by Shell and the Nigerian government as an example of how a government can be complicit in the subjugation of its own people. In the case of the Canadian government, she says, that is most evident in Canada's support of foreign affairs. Canada will trade with a country no matter how bad its record on human rights. "I think it's still very much the policy, and that is that trade comes first," she says.

Irwig and Halle explain that food produced by large corporate farms in the US is often cheaper than that grown locally, but that people need to realise there are hidden environmental costs involved in trucking food long distances and in using chemical fertilizers and pesticides. They feel that it's important to support local organ-
Give your parents a mid-life crisis.

The X-Mas Files
at Arts Club Theatre
Nov. 26 until Jan. 3
by Ronald Nurwisah

The Vancouver Theatresports League has proven that they are skilled pop culture coroners, as many a trendy show or film has felt the sting of their scalpel once they’ve been dissected and served up for laughs at their own expense. Their latest victim: The X-Files. How fitting. The show’s conspiracy theories and plot lines are often so convoluted that no one really knows what’s going on. Ultimately this confusion lends itself to the general chaos and unpredictability of the improvisation that this group excels in.

The story is a simple one: Agents Smolder and Sulky are members of the F.I.B. They are sent to investigate a grisly murder. Once this basic fact is established almost everything else is left open to the audience. That particular night we had a hapless employee of a shipping company “volunteer” to take part in the night’s improvisation. The resulting story was bizarre. There were some great gags; one of my favourites was when they were kicking cats around a Christmas tree.

The cast and writers of The X-Mas Files do a great job parodying The X-Files. All of the X-Files mainstays such as the Lone Gunmen and Assistant Director Skinner were replaced with their hilarious counterparts. The best example of this change would have to be the transformation of Frohike, one of the Lone Gunmen on The X-Files, into a character named Dohickey. Like his TV counterpart Dohickey also has an intense crush on Agent Sulky. Another great transformation was the character of Candyman—a play on William B. Davis’ Cancer man—where Cancerman’s trademark cigarette was replaced by a candy cane.

Although The X-Mas Files did a great job lampooning The X-Files the performance seemed to be a little lack-luster. Perhaps it was the lack of energy in the audience but the improvisation that night was not what one would expect from such a professional company. The show also could’ve been more polished. The crew and cast seemed to have little experience working together, sounds effects were often miscued and followed up with poor delivery by the actors. One example was the case of the itch trigger finger, which had the gunshat repeatedly going off, while the agents were trying to explain the case.

Even with these difficulties, the cast managed to pull out a performance which at times was very funny. The humour in the performance was mainly snappy one-liners, or the group’s interesting, and perhaps disturbing, use of the Christmas theme during the performance. That night we had Santa Claus trying to corner the world market on Methanol. Tracy Holmes, who played the part of Agent Sulky, did a great job. Without missing a beat she convincingly tied together K-mart, cosmetics, an eye exam and cheesecake as a scientific explanation for the disappearance of her partner.

Although it seemed to fall short on opening night, The X-Mas Files definitely has a lot of promise. The X-Files has done shows on everything from government conspiracies to human lightning rods. The possibilities for a group lampooning the show are endless.
Studio 58 down under

by Penny Cholmondely

Don’t expect any authentic accents in Studio 58’s production of Our Country’s Good. While the play is set in 18th century Australia, teacher and director David Latham is focusing on the theatrics rather than historical accuracy.

Written by Timberlake Wertenbaker and based on the historical novel The Playmaker by Thomas Keneally, Our Country’s Good follows the struggles of the first convicts to reach Australia in 1787. Faced with the hardships of life in a penal colony, a group of prisoners are persuaded to put on a play to boost their spirits.

Latham was attracted to the script for a number of reasons. As an Australian, Latham felt he could add some tangible experience to the production. More importantly though, he felt that the play was written with particular care, and that ingrained in its structure is a very focused message.

“This play is...about the way people treat other people. It’s about dealing with people’s humanity,” said Latham.

“I think it’s a very interesting show. It’s a very funny show, and it’s at times a very moving piece. I think it’s a play that has something to say without being didactic...”

According to Latham, the piece works well as part of a professional training program. It allows theatre students with a wide range of skills and experiences to work collectively.

“I was also very attracted to the play because it is very much an ensemble piece...it’s a play that really depends upon people working together."

Latham believes the program, through substantial productions like “Our Country’s Good”, provides the type of atmosphere students need to gain experience.

“If you’re going to train actors or production people for the theatre the only way to do it is for them to actually do it...it is a practical program where they learn about the doing of theatre,” explained Latham.

For actor Brent Cook (Major Robert Ross) the subject of the play closely reflects the learning environment at Studio 58.

“This play is a mirror almost, like this program works. That’s what’s so funny about this play,” said Cook. “It’s about taking all these people from completely different histories and backgrounds and ranks and status levels and throwing them together in this mesh and then trying to organise something out of it.”

Likewise, actress Jennifer Hill (Mary Brethren) believes the play, while by necessity leaving out some details, will have a very immediate impact on the audience.

“In the play, for me, there’s so much more heart and depth and layers and layers and layers to the characters that you don’t get in the book. It’s thick, it’s thick play.”

Both Hill and Cook feel the action is humorous on a number of levels, and that the elements of tragedy and comedy within the play are linked carefully.

“You get to see people at a very desperate stage and a lot of humour comes out of that,” laughs Cook.

“It’s almost like a little joke at putting on a play because we say so many things that actually happen in real life, the real world, it’s funny,” he added.

Studio 58 is offering a free student night this Friday, November 28th to anyone with a valid student card. The show’s regular run is from November 28th to December 14th.

Ripley should have stayed dead

by Alec MacNeil-Richardson

On Wednesday November 26th, witness the birth of a new filmmaking style. Not only will Sigourney Weaver rise from the dead to star in the much anticipated prequel, Alien 4: The Resurrection, but this program works. That’s what’s so

funny about this play,” said Cook. “It’s about taking all these people from completely different histories and backgrounds and ranks and status levels and throwing them together in this mesh and then trying to organise something out of it.”

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To support and encourage students pursuing a post secondary education in British Columbia, BC Hydro is awarding several scholarships in the following areas:

University/BCIT Scholarship Program

Each year, forty-seven university students and six BCIT students are awarded $1000 scholarships under this program. These students must have completed their second year of studies, relevant to BC Hydro careers, at a university or first year of studies at BCIT.

Aboriginal Scholarship

A total of eight $1000 scholarships are offered annually throughout the province to Aboriginal students who are currently in grade 12 and plan to enroll in post secondary education or students who are already enrolled in a post secondary institution.

L’Ecole Polytechnique Memorial Scholarship Program

In commemoration of the fourteen female engineering students murdered in Montreal, fourteen scholarships of $1000 are offered to women planning to enroll or enrolled in engineering and technological studies at a post secondary institution.

Application forms are available at your school’s Financial Aid Office. For more information please call (604) 623-3789.

The deadline for applications is January 14, 1997.
APEC and the contradictions of Chile

In the coming days the city of Vancouver will host an APEC meeting in which the participating heads of states will discuss "economies and economic leaders" from the Asia Pacific Rim. Much is informed in the context of these meetings the increasing trade existing among the Asia Pacific countries. Thanks, as well, to those of some of these countries, such as the so-called "jaguar" of South America (Chile) in achieving economic growth.

Unfortunately, as has been well documented by United Nations and other international agencies, growth in many of these and other countries does not necessarily go hand in hand with human development, respect for environment and ethnic and cultural diversity. The case of Malaysia and Indonesia is well known to the Canadian public opinion. Little has been informed though of Chile, a country where, in itself, the country's investments are strong, especially in the forest and mining industries; that recently a free trade agreement was signed between both governments.

Chile's accelerated economic growth during the last years has relied heavily on intensive extraction of natural resources and the export of raw material, sacrificing for this purpose, among others, its forests, waters, and oceanic resources. For the same goal, Chile has also sacri
cified its most precious resource: its people. One example can exemplify this statement: the minimum wage as a labourer in the country is currently slightly higher than 200 Canadian dollars a month.

Another good example is provided by the hydroelectric project of the Alberni River, an operation currently being developed by ENDES, the largest private corporation existing in the country, supported with support from the Chilean government, in a territory that constitutes the ancestral home of the Pehuenche, an indigenous people with a population of 5,000.

The project, which intends to provide electricity for industrial development in central Chile, consists of the construction of a series of six dams in the upper basin of the Bio Bio river in the southern part of the country. Its implementation will imply the flood ing of 22 thousand hectares of rich biodiversity, pristine forests and fauna which is endemic to the area, as well as the resettlement of significant parts of the population being three-time immemorial.

The first of the Aims planned, Panguipulli, was constructed at the beginning of the '90s in a context, immediately after the experience of the tragic episode of Pichilemu, where no environmental or Indigenous protection existed in Chile's legal framework. The second dam, Ranco, which if constructed will flood 3,500 hectares and imply the resettlement of 500

Pehuenche from the current lands, is now being debated and assessed considering the Indigenous people's and environmental protection laws enacted in 1993 and 1994.

Governmental impact assessment was initially rejected by several public agencies due to its difficulties regarding, among other issues, negative impact on Indigenous population, as well as by rejecting the government's proposal that a Council of ministers, recently gave its approval to this project. Two heads of government services, the environmental agency and the indigenous peoples agency were fired this year because of their opposition to Ranco.

President Frei has personally become involved in this case. His strong statements criticizing environmental organisations opposing the construction of Ranco, has lack of response to Pehuenches demand- ing to meet him in express their views about this project, and his proposal of a "national committee of ENDESA, are a demonstration of this. Some people understand Frei's involvement in this case, not only as a support for what he considers an initiative that will contribute to the "development" of the country, but also because of the public- ly known fact that he, until recently, was a supporter of large dams, a major shareholder of Sigdo Koppers, a national enterprise that participated in this project, at least in the construction of the first hydrodam, Panguipulli.

Indigenous organisations, along with environmental groups, have demonstrated all over the country in opposition to this project. Other sectors of Chilean society, including representatives of the government coalition of the Parliament, have expressed their opposition to a project that is seen as a symbol of the type of development that Chile has been taking since Frei's administration: one that does not show respect for ethnic and cultural diversity, the country, another considers sustainability for future generations.

This paper intends to provide Canadian public opinion, in the context of APEC, with information regarding one of the countries that will meet this meeting. Chilean citizens ought to be aware of the nature of the processes that are taken place in the country. It is the case of Canada, the Chilean government is developing economic partnership and trade over ENDES, as well as the free trade agreement recently signed between Chile and Canada, are in my opinion, totally compatible with the implementation of projects such as the hydrodams in the Pehuenche terri-\n
Jose Ayala is a Gradauate Student in Law

Unearthing the truth about the native residential schools

The British Columbia government's recent decision to provide federal funds for a "national research project" to investigate the history of residential schools in Canada is a welcome step towards understanding this dark period in our nation's history. However, it is important to consider the potential limitations and biases of such an initiative.

First and foremost, the government's decision to focus on the "national" aspect of the problem may obscure the unique experiences of indigenous communities across Canada. Each region and tribe has a different history and culture, and these factors must be taken into account when researching the residential schools.

Secondly, the government's decision to work with indigenous organizations and academics may be seen as a form of paternalism. Indigenous communities have their own methods of research and documentation, and they should be involved in the process of unearthing the truth.

Finally, the government's decision to work with a national research project may also create a sense of distance from the reality of the residential schools. The impact of the residential schools was not just a national issue, but a personal one for many individuals and families.

In conclusion, while the government's decision to provide federal funds for a "national research project" is a welcome step towards understanding this dark period in our nation's history, it is important to consider the potential limitations and biases of such an initiative. Indigenous communities have their own methods of research and documentation, and they should be involved in the process of unearthing the truth.
We are not the enemy

by J. Clark

As I and about 30 other protesters stood chanting "We are not the enemy," I think I saw regret in the eyes of some police officers. This wasn't your average protest chant—this was a group of students, overcome with fear, anger and sadness, pleading in hushed tones with a group of men and women whom they had always thought were there to protect them.

No matter how cynical I was about the Canadian justice system before Tuesday, nothing could have prepared me for what happened at UBC's protest of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

As students gathered in the morning at the Goddess of Democracy outside the Student Union Building, I was excited to see that a campus so traditionally apathetic as UBC's could turn out thousands to protest APEC. As the crowd marched across campus chanting and singing there was a real sense of power and momentum. Democracy is about having a voice and the students of UBC were finding theirs.

Human rights, indigenous peoples, women and the environment may not have been on the APEC agenda, but at least they were going to make it on the nightly news. Students were making the most of their democratic rights.

Democratic rights be damned, RCMP found a way to silence the protest. When they started spraying protesters liberally with pepper spray the police changed headlines from 'human rights' to 'near riot,' and the issues behind the protest were lost.

Joe Clark is the coordinating editor of the anthology and took the day off from journalism to take part in the protests.

APEC security lacks Hollywood ending

by Andy Barham

As I stumbled out of a scene from RoboCop 2, the local police force is called out to quell a citizen's uprising. Suddenly they realize that the people they were really hired to serve and protect are those whose heads they'd been sent out to bust. They realize the multi-national corporation which had taken over the city at the behest of local politicians was more concerned with purging their own ill intention than the liberties of the electorate. Following their mass epitaph, the cops help the protesters thwart the despots of the evil businessmen.

There was something very reminiscent of RoboCop 2 in the APEC Conference which disrupted the ordinary day-to-day workings of our last university for the last few days. For one thing, the conference was designed to facilitate the agenda of global corporations operating in the Asia Pacific. For another, our leaders, federal, provincial, and municipal, had not been truly chosen to serve the interests of these global corporate businessmen, instead of the panellists of the people who do. Finally, there was a strong aura of a wage militantly operating around the perimeters of the conference, with the local constabulary called out to force the quelling of rebellious populations.

After the initial attempt to scale the fence put up to keep the angry protesters out, had been quelled, an impasse was reached, with a quorum of amicable protesters waiting happily before a barricade of pepper spray wielding policemen to be arrested. Surprisingly, the Sun described this rather Canadian event as a "riot which makes me wonder if anyone from the Sun had actually been at the demonstration."

I was in the third line of protesters waiting patiently for something to happen. Nothing did of course, since we'd all marched cautiously up to the barricade of bicycles and officers to offer ourselves up for arrest, while those same officers had declined to take any micro-protesters into custody. I had earlier noticed one police officer who looked a bit uncomfortable with his role, and I decided to talk to him once I reached the front lines.

"You know?" I said, as soon as I'd caught his eye. "By refusing to arrest any more of us, you've already taken the first step. Why not take one step further, and just walk?"

He sagged slightly, as if the full weight of the law dropped momentarily from his shoulders. Then he looked sheepishly, his eyes almost pleading, and shrugged as if to say, "I'd like to, but I can't. One more step, and he would have been on our side.

This isn't Hollywood though. This is the Global Village and if you aren't part of the action, you're not in it. We simply had taken that one small step and not been consumed. One lone police officer sticking his neck out would have lost his head.

Oh well. Perhaps I should have talked to him about RoboCop 2.

Andy Barham is a regular contributor to the anthology and took the day off to participate in the protest.

Test your moderation knowledge and win.

Answer the following questions and you could win 1 of 100 pairs of tickets to see the Vancouver Grizzlies vs. the Golden State Warriors at GM place – December 12, 1997 - 7:00 pm.

1. DD stands for:
   a) Dirty dancing.
   b) Designated drunk.
   c) Designated driver.

2. If you drive drunk you are:
   a) As good as dead.
   b) Stupid.
   c) Both a and b.

3. Moderation is:
   a) Drinking only one beer at a time.
   b) Drinking only 4 days a week.
   c) Knowing when to draw the line.

Fill out the ballot below and mail us your answers at Labatt "Know When To Draw The Line" Contest: 803 - 675 West Hastings St., Vancouver, BC, V6B 1N2 or fax your entry to: (604) 681-2411.

The first one hundred correct entries will win. Only one ballot per person please. Contest closes Friday, December 5, 1997. Must be of legal drinking age to enter. Ticket includes admission to the Grizzlies Cup - December 12, 1997 - 3:30 pm at GM Place. UBC Thunderbirds vs. the SFU Clan.

By signing, I declare I have read and understand the contest rules and confirm that I am of legal drinking age in British Columbia.
Administration and police indicted with betrayal of students

I am dismayed that the administration has been so incredibly insensitive to its student population of late. Anti-APEC feelings have been so strong (if not universal) among both students and faculty, that the plan to carry out the conference on campus seems nothing less than deliberately hostile and antagonistic. This hit home the hardest for me on Monday night, when I first witnessed the giant concrete barricades encircling the north end of the campus, with groups of armed police stationed all along the perimeter. I wondered angrily whether this was our liberal university or the Berlin Wall.

I indict the administration with gross hostility to its student populace. We pay tuition, we work hard in our classes, and we try to better the university through our programs and organisations, and when we voice our concerns with the university's policy, the result is a slap in the face, for some, a slap on the wrists. When students have to be arrested to have their voices heard on campus, when students have to be arrested to the editor must be under 300 words and are run as opinion pieces written by Ubyssey staff members. Priority will be given to letters and perspectives over freestyles, unless the latter is time sensitive. Opinion pieces will not be run until the identity of the writer has been verified.

The APEC affair has also shattered my belief in the benevolence of the Vancouver Police and the R.C.M.P. This city, and not the university campus alone, has been transformed into a police state over the last several days, in which its citizens have been treated as second-class, and indeed, as opponents. The hostility, aggression and intimidation of the police has been terrifying. The purpose, it seems, has been to make sure that we citizens don't step out of line; our rights have been forfeited, and we are to anyone who should share their views, but you should not deny their right to express them. Finally, I appeal to Martha Piper and the heads of the police to respond to these charges in the context of the Ubyssey.

Anthony Fawcett
Fourth year, Honours History

An open letter to APEC security

I would like to thank you for your demonstration on Tuesday. I learned a lot from your actions and your information sessions. When the students screamed from the pepper spray in their eyes, I felt a real connection to the APEC message.

I think you provided a very effective contrast to the anti-APEC protestors. We approached every encounter calmly with a rational plan for keeping things peaceful. We sat down so that no mob scenes could begin. You also waited stately, I must admit, until you pounced and sprayed and snatched people away.

I don't doubt that each of you were doing your job. Person to person, I think I might enjoy your company. There are several exceptions, of course. One frosty-haired gentelman, a self-made RAMBO of the spray bottle, distinguished himself on Monday afternoon as well as leading the charge along SW Marine on Tuesday. You, sir, are an asshole. And the officer who asked protestors. Why don't you just go home? in the tone of voice of a drunk wavin off seven yeaholds while they watch him pulse in the gutter. You, I'm afraid, would be a total waste of my time.

But I am writing to thank you, not to criticize your occasional lack of humanity. Or maybe I am thanking you for it.

You see, we were protesting leaders who do not treat their citizens as human beings. You were protecting the delicate ears of those leaders from our accusations. And your sudden eruptions of violence gave me a real and immediate demonstration of how their political systems are maintained.

I have seen the dogs, the helicopters and their search lights, the riot police, and the chainlink fence erected overnight. I have seen students crying and I have seen their faces pushed into the asphalt.

Thank you for teaching me so.

a newly politicized UBC student
Chris Timore
Police protecting whose interests?

We are totally advanced and outraged at the police officers (RCMP and the Vancouver Police Dept.), security personnel, and the UBC administration for failing to protect peaceful student protesters on Tuesday, November 25, 1997. We hold the university responsible for the violence and harassment towards students, faculty, and staff, and the UBC administration for failing to protect peaceful student protesters on Tuesday, November 25, 1997.

As part of the Student Input Makes it Happen campaign, I had several banners printed up early September including a "Go Birds Go!" banner to encourage student support for UBC's athletics. Once again, congratulations to the team came from behind and in their eyes in their struggle for their freedom. As a student of student's safety. As a student of student's safety. As a student of student's safety. As a student of student's safety.

I am writing to express my disappointment concerning the police violence and brutality towards peaceful APEC demonstrators. I am sure that you have seen the news shows and have no reason to pretend that you may even feel that the police were justified in their use of violence against the students gathered to protest the presence on campus of leaders of some of the most antidemocratic regimes in the world. I am a witness to the events described by me with their passion and bravery. I am writing to express my disappointment concerning the police violence and brutality towards peaceful APEC demonstrators. I am sure that you have seen the news shows and have no reason to pretend that you may even feel that the police were justified in their use of violence against the students gathered to protest the presence on campus of leaders of some of the most antidemocratic regimes in the world. I am a witness to the events described by me with their passion and bravery.

APEC at UBC looked like an armed camp. The administration determined the purpose of the bureaucratic institutions, which is to be positive and constructive. The scene made some lastitches that were deeply ironic. The Museum of Anthropology became the boardroom for regime icons and people squashed. Anthropology is the social science that strives to understand human cultures and the social science that strives to understand human cultures.

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I've never been what you could call a protester. Sure, I believe strongly in equality, and in human rights, and that people matter. I understand the issues, and I understand what all those morally and ethically defensible buzzwords: "Protest," "Human Rights Violations," "Political Prisoners," "Free East Timor." But they're all just words. Theoretical, and nebulous, and used through the media's unblinking, ever-shifting eye.

I've always been comfortably removed from the really ugly things that happen in the world, out there past the boundaries set by my white, middleclass, comfortable upbringing. They're just words. Get on with your life.

So when APEC Alert started trying to raise awareness and shake up apathy on campus, I looked, but didn't really see. I bet lots of you did the same thing and do it every day. Rather than face the horror, you shut off and walk past probably an alcoholic, we think. We're doing the old man begging in the cold. We all do. He's hungry.

My parents taught me to respect the police. They were the only thing that stood between my safe, respectable world and the mess. I saw the buzzwords breathe. I saw police bikes used to batter crowds away. I saw police officers snarl as they sprayed their hard fists and their cold hearts and their dead eyes. It's such an innocuous name for such a brutally painful thing. When asked about it, people matter. For that, they sprayed pain around like rainwater.

I stared across at the police line that was three men thick, fifteen across, and desperate-looking for something, for anything human. We stood, shaking cold, some of us crying, and in broken voices said, "We are not the enemy." Saying it desperately, over and over and over. Please. We are not the enemy. Please. Show me anything. Nothing. I saw nothing. And all along that front line of RCMP, there were only hard fists, cold hearts, and dead eyes.

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