Pharmacare cuts protested
by Gary Magee

An unexpectedly large turnout of over 400 people gathered at Burnaby's Hilton-Metrotown Hotel on Saturday night to protest impending cuts to BC's Pharmacare program.

The discussion, sponsored and organized by the BC Federation of Labour and the BC Pharmacare Coalition was held in response to a letter distributed by the provincial government. The letter requested input on changes to Pharmacare, a provincially funded program which covers the cost of prescription drugs for seniors, people on welfare, families with high drug costs, long-term care patients and HIV/AIDS patients.

Sunday's event focused on a perceived lack of consultation between the government and many health groups who did not receive the letter until a week before the September 30 deadline for input. People present at the rally signed a petition seeking the government's response to the consultation deadline by March 31, 2002, and to increase, rather than cut, funding for the Pharmacare program.

MacGregor MacGregor, a family physician in Vancouver, discussed what eliminating the Pharmacare program would do to the province's health care system.

"If you don't answer to a life threatening situation, then you have to decide between the patient's life and saving money," MacGregor said. The cost of one day in hospital at a place like Vancouver General Hospital is about $12,000. At the other end, if a patient is treated while in the hospital, there are still other costs to be paid, he said. "It's a life and death decision, one that will affect that patient's life and family's lives永远, forever.

UBC economics professor Bob Evans said that if Pharmacare were eliminated, the government would save money for BC citizens, and said that "eliminating Pharmacare wouldn't shift the costs from taxpayers to the patients who would have to pay out of pocket."

Evans also told the crowd that, because the government determines the lowest cost for a particular medication, BC currently has the lowest per capita drug costs in the country—20 per cent below the national average—despite having the highest percentage of citizens over the age of 65.

Joy McPhail, leader of the provincial NDP party, also spoke in defence of Pharmacare, and criticized the government for its tax cuts, offered before programs such as the pharmacare prescription plan were cut.

This program was brought in because seniors were having to choose between food and medication: poor people were having to choose between rent and medication, she said. "The tax cuts that [Premier] Gordon Campbell gave to the rich could have been used to help the wealthy is about...double the cost of the entire Pharmacare program."

In the previous government's open cabinet meeting yesterday, Minister of Health Services Colin Hansen said that while the recent budget had added $45 million to Pharmacare, the program now will shortfall $46 million. He said that in BC, 5% per cent of all prescription drug costs are paid for by the Ministry of Health Services, compared to the national average of 41 per cent.

"BC is clearly not in line with what other provinces are doing," he said.

Hansen emphasized that any changes made to the program would be done in a way that minimized the impact on those who use it. "I want to stress one thing this is not about cuts," he said. "This is about how we bring the Pharmacare budget back to balance this year and how we can contain the rate at which costs rise in years to come."
An outspoken critique of American foreign policy by UBC's women's studies professor Sunera Thobani has caused a nationwide firestorm, raising questions about the limits of free speech in Canada, but eliciting support from UBC students and faculty.

Thobani is a controversial figure in the UBC community, and her comments have sparked both praise and criticism. Some have praised her for her boldness and her willingness to speak her mind, while others have condemned her for her rhetoric and her alleged lack of respect for others.

In a statement issued to the public, Vice-President Academic and Provost Barry McBride said that Thobani's right to speak her mind, "the right to speak her mind, is a core value that our society seeks to protect in its struggle against terrorism," he wrote.

Both Elder and Shaw said that they hoped UBC would say more about the issue and take a stronger stance.

I think UBC should stand right behind her,' said Shaw. "I think the world needs to say that they're standing for free speech, that's good, but if I were in charge, I'd say 'we're going to stand with her.'"

But while students and faculty seem to agree that Thobani had every right to express her opinion, some have voiced concern over the timing and content of her speech.

Michelle Miller, a UBC graduate student in political science, said that the public might pressure the government to reduce research funding to universities and to the Women's Resistance Conference was partially sponsored by UBC women's studies professor Kazemi said that he felt the timing of Thobani's speech was "inappropriately timed, and the consequences were places where opinions should be voiced and debated.

"I think it shows that we're in a society where our democracy is tested by what people say," Kazemi said.

Thobani has refused to comment since her speech on Monday. According to Hellwig, the department of women's studies supports her decision to keep a low profile.

"The terrorist attacks were terrible and I know that Thobani fully agrees with that, so one has to examine, investigate and be open to those issues."

Faculty members are being asked to sign a petition to support Thobani. The petition is currently circulating and is expected to return to the department of women's studies today.

**Education frozen**

by Sarah MacNeill Morrison

A provincial government announcement that budgets for ministries dealing with health and education will be frozen has left many people wondering about the future of post-secondary education in B.C.

At the Liberal government's open cabinet meeting Wednesday, Finance Minister Gary Collins said that to balance the province's budget, the government will freeze spending on health and education, while other ministries will face cuts of up to 35 per cent.

Although the Liberals' New Era election platform promised to protect health and education funding, and "increase research funding for colleges, universities and institutes," Collins said that a hold on spending is necessary, as the province is not expecting an increase in revenue for the next three years.

"One of the promises the Liberal government made was not to cut spending for health and education care," said UBC Alma Mater Society President Ervin Kazemi. "However, by freezing the budget, they don't account for inflation and other costs, so—thus is a cut."

Jenny Kwan MLA for Vancouver-Mt Pleasant, also accused the government of breaking its election promises. She said that she felt the Liberals were jeopardising advances made by the previous NDP government, such as the tuition freeze, providing additional spaces in universities and colleges for students and focusing on increased accessibility to education.

Both Kwan and Kazemi, the BC National Executive of the Canadian Federation of Students, criticized the government for making this announcement after a $1.5 billion tax cut this fall and said that they were in a society where the university was "in a society where our democracy is tested by what people say," Kazemi said.

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"There are two sides to this equation. Yes, we've got our spend under control...but the other side of it is we've got to get British Columbia's economy going again. We've got to be competitive," he said.

Meanwhile, Kazemi is worried about what the education freezes will mean for UBC students.

"It will impact students...there is always a traditional increase in the education budget, so we're looking at a difficult time, especially with the announcement of the tuition freeze," he said. "We had anticipated this," he said. "Our ministries were in the fortunate position of not being cut but the other side of it is we've got to get British Columbia's economy going again. We've got to be competitive," he said.

But McBride, UBC's vice-president, academic and provost, said that the university would have to look carefully at what this announcement would mean, and said that just because funding to the ministry was frozen, didn't mean that reallocations to the university were impossible.

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The Vancouver International Film Festival 
BY JULIA CHRISTENSEN

T his year, the Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF), celebrating its 20th anniversary, is in a jubilant mood. A large and happy turnout, boasting over 110,000 dollars, has ensured that the festival has a chance to survive. As festival director Alan Franey puts it, "We've had a very good year. We've reached out to all the different audiences that make up the festival's diverse constituency." And indeed, the festival has so far managed to attract a wider audience than ever before, with over 100,000 tickets sold. This is a testament to the success of the festival, which has been widely praised for its commitment to cultural diversity and community engagement.

One of the most notable features of the festival this year has been the number of new films and filmmakers that have been showcased. The festival has presented over 150 films from around the world, including many that have never been shown in Vancouver before. This has been particularly exciting for festival-goers, who have had the opportunity to see a wide range of films from different cultures and perspectives.

Another highlight of the festival has been the strong showing of Canadian films. The festival has always been a champion of Canadian cinema, and this year was no exception. Canadian filmmakers were represented in a variety of ways, including in the biennial Canadian Images program, which showcased a selection of films from across the country.

In addition to its focus on film, the festival has also been committed to promoting other forms of cultural expression. This year, the festival has featured a wide range of events, including lectures, workshops, and exhibitions, all of which have been designed to engage a diverse audience.

The festival has also been commended for its commitment to social justice and human rights. This year, the festival hosted a number of events that focused on issues such as human rights, social justice, and environmental sustainability. These events have provided a platform for a wide range of voices and perspectives, and have helped to raise awareness of important issues.

Overall, the Vancouver International Film Festival has once again proved itself to be a major cultural event in the city. Its commitment to cultural diversity, community engagement, and social justice is a testament to the festival's enduring popularity.

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As the festival draws to a close, festival-goers are already looking forward to next year's event. The festival has already announced plans for a number of new initiatives, including a focus on Indigenous cinema and a greater emphasis on film production.

The Vancouver International Film Festival is committed to continuing its work to promote cultural diversity and community engagement. With its dedication to social justice and human rights, the festival is an important cultural institution in the city, and its impact is felt far beyond its walls.

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The festival is open to all, and everyone is welcome to attend. The festival's website is a great resource for information about upcoming events and activities. For more information, visit www.viff.org.
Who really deserves our scorn?

As most of you have probably heard by now, a UBC student made a controversial speech at a conference in Ottawa this week. What matters is not the fact that the student was female, but the content of her speech. The student, who is a UBC Forestry student, made a controversial statement during a panel discussion at the conference. She claimed that women are more valuable than men and that the current system of gender equality is flawed.

The student’s comments sparked a debate among the attendees, with some expressing support for her views and others calling for her to be expelled. The debate continued throughout the conference, with many people citing examples of gender inequality in society and arguing that women do not always receive the same opportunities as men.

Despite the controversy, the student’s speech has received mixed reactions. Some have praised her for speaking her mind, while others have condemned her for making such a insensitive remark. The debate has raised important questions about gender equality and the role of women in society.

The student’s claims are not new, and they highlight the ongoing struggle for gender equality. Women continue to face many challenges, from discrimination in the workplace to lack of access to education and healthcare. However, by speaking out about these issues, the student has brought attention to the need for continued efforts to achieve gender equality.

Ultimately, it is up to each of us to decide whether we support or condemn the student’s views. As a society, we must work together to create a more equal and just world for all.

Letters

What do Forestry students know about civility?

Uh, let me get this straight: a Forestry student (Matt Campbell) is arguing that we are more civilized in the West than in countries such as Afghanistan (“The West certainly more civilized, opinion” Sept. 24). Aside from the fact that the whole debate is silly and irrelevant—and there is nothing I like more than to engage in silly and irrelevant discourse (that’s why I’m in my sev- enth year of post-secondary, I suppose)—it seems odd that someone who is poised to enter a market set on destroying one of this country’s most valuable resources is able to claim such an objective standpoint when it comes to talking about what actions constitute “civility.”

—Mark Bryan

Arts 4-philosophy

Questioning free speech at UBC

I am disgusted by the way the University of British Columbia picks and chooses who will support on the topic of free speech. After the comments made by UBC women’s studies professor Sunera Thobani on Monday in the “Justice, Peace and Liberty” panel, the student who was opposed to her comments was expelled. But what about the student who was supporting Thobani’s comments, defending her right to free speech? However, in the fall of 1999, under a similar set of cir-

Do you bite your thumb at me, sir?

On behalf of the entire Undergraduate Staff, I hereby accept your challenge to a game of mud soccer (“Take the ‘Usbyes out” Editorial [Sept. 28]). Be warned, however, most of my staff has at one point or another, been incarcerated and/or thrown in the mud. If you plan on getting involved in this mess of a game, you will be left with a muddy mess of a game. However, I would recommend that you find a better game to play.

—Chris Dingwall

Arts 2

Underground Editor

Page Friday—the Ubyssey Magazine
When a zine survives five years, self-financed and self-produced, it should be a time to celebrate. Well, celebrate is exactly what Ronnie Day Press, the people behind Turf and various chapbooks, plan to do. This Saturday night, they’re throwing a party commemorating their fifth year of publication.

“We’re trying to go for something that’s a little more of the zine and comic scene, along with bands and stuff, trying to get more zine people out,” said Andrea Gin, editor and co-founder of Turf.

Gin, who works for the CBC’s Radio 3, started Turf with a friend shortly after graduating from UBC with a political science degree.

“My friend Lisa Chen-Wing and I decided to start it in 1997,” she said. “Basically, I’m a writer and editor and also a graphic designer. We wanted to start a publication where we could have an outlet to do things because we didn’t really have the freedom to do it for any of the publications we worked for. We wanted to have a place where we could take our ideas that couldn’t get published somehow and just put them in there.

“A lot of the time, stuff that we first published in there ended up getting published elsewhere, reprinted. Our ‘Canada Youth Pension Plan’ [for example], it ended up on a CBC website and I wrote a guest editorial about it for This magazine. It spins off from there.”

Gin attributes Turf’s longevity to a moderate publishing schedule.

“I know it sounds a lot...not right, but I think [zine publishers] burn out really easily if [they] publish more than [they’re] capable of,” she said. “Clearly people who publish zines aren’t that rich. We publish once a year because that’s how much we can afford to do. It wasn’t a financial burden for us, because it would be if we published once a month. Also, too, it doesn’t stretch our creativity too much.

“I think that if zines didn’t publish as often, they might go around more, cause it would seem more of a hobby than a duty. People stop caring if they read it and just go, ‘half of this is just totally pointless,’ and they just stop caring. If you just save up all your ideas, and publish when you have critical mass and something to say, people tend to appreciate that a lot more, because it’s thoughtful.”

Saturday night’s party, which features local bands the Battles, the Evoks and the Birthday Machine, will be more than just music and cake, it will also launch the Ronnie Day Press’s newest publication: Turf 5—the bedside companion. The issue features several stories, from baby boomers’ effect on the future of transportation, to the tragedy of presents, a plant with so much potential and yet a fatal allergy to so many.

**ICELANDIC AMBIENT**

SIGUR ROS
at St. Andrew’s-Wesley Church Oct. 1

by Michael Schwartz

The cathedral was completely sold out. Rarely have so many people gathered to see a band whose name so few could pronounce. But Iceland’s Sigur Ros justified their huge following and all of the preceding buzz with a breathtaking performance, keeping the audience spellbound in the pews from the moment the lights went down.

Sigur Ros played songs that were never hurried, but never self-indulgent or sprawling either. Fierce and colossally in scale, the songs were played with too much vulnerability to intimidate. Every song elicited an emotional response from both the band and its fans. Often starting with sparse piano figure or baseline and then building in a monumental crescendo over the course of several minutes, the band delivered two hours of stormy, fleetingly fluctuating soundscapes.

The band was as earnest as they come. Jon Siglós’s voice wove in and around his shoes, and consistently began the business of leading Sigur Ros through its symphonic rock-ody, bringing an unbridled passion to the stage. Siglós looked as if he were on the verge of crying during every song. His vocals, sung in both Icelandic and his own made-up language, demanded every ounce of the listener’s attention. Bassist Georg Holm and pianist/organist Kjartan Sveinsson often took the instrumental lead, while powerhouse drummer Orri Dyrason provided the diverse angular rhythms thatSigur Ros requires. The bulk of Siglén’s guitar work consisted of turbulent atmospheric strains executed with a cell bow. One special treat came when he sang into the instrument’s microphone in mid-song, adding an eerie resonance to the already swelling sound.

Iceland’s pride came armed to the teeth. In addition to a core of guitar, piano, bass, and drums, the four-piece also employed organ, flute, glockenspiel, and a small bank of electronic gadgetry. The use of on-stage lighting to cast larger-than-life silhouettes of the band onto the church’s towering walls was a ghostly touch to a perfect venue for this act. However, the necessity of the large screen hanging over the altar was questionable. At times, the silhouette projected onto the screen seemed perfectly tailored to the songs, but there were moments when the busy looped footage seemed to be more distracting than complementary.

After the last song, the congregation gave Sigur Ros a standing ovation. Unfortunately, the group treated this not as a demand for an encore, but as a curtain call; they returned to the stage only to bow shyly with arms linked. The crowd was left asking for more, but feeling, nonetheless, blessed.
Thunderbirds killed 38-13 by Clansmen at Swanguard Stadium

by Scott Barsley

Thursday’s Shrum Bowl went from bad to worse for UBC. A series of critical mistakes, bad plays and plain bad luck found the Thunderbirds on the losing side of their annual grudge match with SFU.

SFU broke out on the scoreboard early, after the Birds’ kicker Leon Denenfeld made a bad kick from deep in UBC’s end. SFU picked it up and ran it up to UBC’s 30-yard line. The Clansmen then took their lucky break and passed the ball up to UBC’s 1-yard line, and on the fourth down, SFU’s Lloyd Orr broke through the UBC line for a touchdown. SFU’s Rob Henshaw made the conversion, and brought the score up to 7-0.

UBC struck back minutes later. The Birds started a drive down the field, picking up 17 yards, after Kenney faked a pass to Ryan Branting. After a pass to Branting and two runs by tailback Nathan Funk, Kenney made a deep pass to Funk who ran it up the middle, closing the distance by 12 yards and Kenney finished it off on the next down, throwing a pass to Funk in the end zone. With seven minutes left in the second quarter, Leon Denenfeld got the extra point for UBC, evening out the score at a comfortable 7-7.

UBC struck back right away with a 35-yard pass to Ryan Jeane on the first down. SFU ran and passed it all the way to UBC’s 2-yard line, all it took was a run by Mike Villenece for SFU to get a touchdown. After a missed conversion, SFU was still up 13-7.

With just minutes left to go, in the first half, SFU made some big runs, ending up only four yards short of UBC’s end zone. Clan quarterback J.R. Davies passed it to Ryan Branting, who managed to run it all the way back into the UBC end zone. Unable to stop Plummer, an embarrassed UBC got lucky, a penalty call sent SFU back to its own 29-yard line, and only the Thunderbirds’ pride was hurt. But things went worse for UBC in the second half. Right away SFU made a charge up the field and only the Thunderbirds’ pride was hurt. A two-point conversion brought SFU up 28-7.

With three minutes left in the third quarter, SFU’s Orr broke the UBC line again to take the ball up to UBC’s 15-yard line. UBC’s defence held but SFU had to punt, but the successful field goal kick brought SFU’s score up to 31 points.

At the start of the fourth quarter, Thunderbird quarterback Kenney attempted a big pass to Branting, but SFU’s Neil McKinlay picked it off on the SFU 36-yard line. The Clan exploited the turnover with a huge 63-yard pass to Emmy Unsenge in the SFU 20-yard line. Unsenge ran it all the way to the end zone and with yet another field goal kick, SFU brought themselves up to a commanding 38-7 lead.

The only consolation for the T-Birds came in the last five minutes of the game, when running back Sean Dunn rumbled 45 yards down the field into the Clan end zone to bring UBC’s score up to 13 points. But by then, it was too little and for too late.

There were only two bright spots for UBC. Kenney played a decent game as quarterback, showing that he is definitely getting used to the pressures of the job, and the team wasn’t humiliated with a shutout like it was last Friday against the Manitoba Bisons. Beyond that, things are looking grim for the Birds.

Last night’s 38-7 loss makes UBC’s Shrum Bowl record 11-12-1. After losing the largely symbolic Shrum Bowl, the Birds will turn to more pressing matters, namely trying to make the Canada West playoffs. With their 1-4 CIS season record, the playoffs are a long shot, but with games against three beatable teams—Saskatchewan, Calgary and Alberta—at the next three weeks, the Birds still have a chance, albeit a small one. Their next game is on October 12 against the Saskatchewan Huskies.

SFU dominates Shrum Bowl
Thunderbirds killed 38-13 by Clansmen at Swanguard Stadium

by Scott Barsley

In front of its biggest home crowd of the season, the UBC women’s soccer team stood up to the undefeated Trinity Western University Spartans, currently ranked first in the Canada West conference and second in Canada overall. With superb defence and goalkeeping, UBC stayed in the play for the whole 90 minutes, walling off the Spartans’ net during the first half.

"It was a good game, one of the best games that we’ve seen here at the stadium this year,” said UBC coach Dick Mosher after the game. "Both teams played well, technically. [Trinity is] a very sound team...and I think our defence did a heck of a job containing them to only one goal."

Coach Mosher thought that Sian Bagshawe is consistently one of the best goalkeepers in the country. Bagshawe was there, putting herself between the ball and the goal. The normally passive crowd was just hit with each deflected shot. But five minutes later, Trinity made an unstoppable drive from the centre. Lauren Stonehouse ran the ball to within 15 yards of UBC’s net, and, as two T-Birds defenders closed in on her, crossed the ball to Katie Smart. Smart took a shot on UBC’s net. Bagshawe managed to stop the ball in its tracks.

"It was 1-0 for Trinity Western. "She got the ball around the top of the crowd and slid it into the net. Smart. Smart broke out of it and headed it into the goal, tying the game 1-1."

"We’re trying to punish them on our corners," UBC forward Vanessa Martino said. "We have a lot of good headers on our team and tall people...people who are fearless in there, and we’re trying to take advantage of that."

"We’re [been] known to let up in the last little bit, but we stayed strong and that’s important," Dion said. "The first game we just weren’t ready. We didn’t come out as strong as we could have. This game we proved that we can play with them. We’re just as good."

Coach Mosher thought that Jacquiline Farrall and Amy Diestor put in particularly strong performances for the team. But Mosher emphasised that without Bagshawe in net, the team would surely have lost.

"Sian Bagshawe is consistently steady. She really saved our butt [Tuesday]," he said. "If we had gone down two, we would have been in real trouble.

"Defensively we got as much out of the ladies as we could. I thought we didn’t have their boots off to get a ti... and maybe next time we’ll do that one better," Mosher said.

The tie leaves Trinity at the top of the Canada West standings with 15 points and UBC in second place with 12 points. The Thunderbirds will play Regina on October 11, after taking a well-deserved weekend off for Thanksgiving.