Letters from the field

MSF volunteer shares her experiences in Kashmir

by Kathleen Deering

Last Thursday at UBC’s Museum of Anthropology (MoA), Anna Richley, a volunteer therapist with the humanitarian organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), spoke about her experience helping reduce traumatic stress-related psychological problems for people in conflict-ridden Kashmir.

The presentation, entitled “Letters from the Field,” centred around Richley and a friend reading aloud e-mail correspondence of Richley and a team of MSF volunteers who were abroad, and the responses she received.

In her letters, she repeatedly described the contrast between the beauty of the area and the violence present in conflict-ridden Kashmir. “There’s so much light and so much darkness here,” she said in one of her letters.

Thursday’s talk was the first time an MSF volunteer has presented their experiences in such a forum.

See “MSF” on page 4.

Scrum sisters: rugby revealed

YOU HAVE THE SHORTS, BUT DO YOU HAVE THE GUTS?: Inside the UBC Women’s Rugby team.

See “U-Pass” on page 4.

U-Pass idles

The possibility of Translink, the Alma Mater Society (AMS) and the university completing negotiations for a universal bus pass (U-Pass) for UBC students continues to be unlikely, with the recent introduction of a clause in Translink’s offer.

Translink’s new clause would allow it to increase the cost of the U-pass by a maximum of $3 per semester if the cost of regular one zone passes increases.

“We want an escalation clause in there,” said Translink Program Manager for Project Planning Bill Lambert.

“A lone figure sat in the stands after the thrummed, head hung low as he surveyed the field. Disappointed UBC fans, marauding SFU cheerleaders and the local press had long since vacated the stadium, turning their thoughts to other matters.

With only three games to go, the Thunderbirds were faced with a 0-5 season record, and all hopes of making the playoffs had faded into the shadows as the lights dimmed.

But while most observers looked away and assumed a bleak end for the 2002 football season, the team quietly prepared for their upcoming meeting with the number five ranked team in the country—the Regina Rams.

With nothing left to lose, the Thunderbirds fought their way to a stunning 24-12 win over the Rams on Friday night, tying up the match in the second quarter with a gutsy eight yard strike by wide receiver Dan Lazzari at the six minute mark.

The small crowd of 250 was then treated to some spectacular UBC football, as first year pivot Blake punched his way towards victory.

See “Football” on page 9.

POWERING UBC UP

by Darren Halnes

UFC could soon be producing a substantial amount of the electricity it uses, if its proposal, made to BC Hydro’s Customer-Based Generation (CBG) program to build two new power generation facilities is approved by BC Hydro in March.

CBG is a new program at BC Hydro, aiming to increase the crown corporation’s ability to respond to the growing demand for energy in the province. BC Hydro expects demand to continue growing at 1.7 per cent per year for the next ten years.

According to Al Boldt, the Manager of CBG at BC Hydro, the program is meant to complement energy conservation programs such as PowerSmart by providing Hydro with an efficient way to increase its energy production.

“The idea [behind CBG] is that instead of building our own larger facilities, we buy energy from our customers’ first,” he said.

Currently, UFC holds all of its electric power from BC Hydro at an annual cost of about $6 million.

This summer the university submitted a preliminary proposal that outlined the nature and scope of two new facilities. In September, Hydro qualified 22 of 37 proposed

Holy shit they won!

by Sarah Conchie

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The Ubyssey

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YOGA ON CAMPUS WEDNESDAYS at 7pm! IRISH DANCE CLASS WEDNESDAYS at 9pm! TUESDAY NIGHT LASER TAG! GREAT WAYS TO GET IN SHAPE & MEET NEW PEOPLE!

GAP back on campus

Counter-protest asked to take display down for the first time by Chris Shepherd

Students for Choice (SFC), an organization that was created to oppose the Genocide Awareness Program (GAP), was asked to remove their banners for the first time at the protest of the GAP display on October 10. The GAP display was set up near the SUB by Lifeline, an AMS anti-abortion club. SFC members were not happy with having to take their display down, said Sykes, but did so without resistance.

The problem is that we don’t get notification fast enough to apply [for space],” said Sykes explaining why SFC did not book space.

Against protests we’re reactionary. We don’t plan to do this and we wouldn’t be here unless we had to be there to provide an alternative to the GAP.”

Space on campus is booked through Classroom Services and groups are asked to apply two weeks before their planned event.

The importance of displaying GAP is so that we can show people what the reality really is,” said Christine Thompson, a third-year nursing student and president of Lifeline.

Thompson said Lifeline believes that people do not see abortion as an evil act. The GAP display attempts to show this side to abortion.

Student reaction to the display was varied. Tera Trethewey, a first-year Human Kinetics student, was struck by the way that the GAP display portrayed the issue of abortion.

“It’s a different point of view that I think it’s a little crude and a little pervasive,” she said of the large posters. •
A vision for education

By Megan Thomas

UBC Zoology Professor Lee Gass was recognised last week as a Distinguished Visiting Teaching Professor (DVTIP) at the University of Guelph (UG). Gass recollected early which prompted him to begin work on his member of the 3M Teaching Fellows—a group to honour the memory of Professor Norman Gibbins, a UG microbiology professor and a member of the 3M Teaching Fellows—a group of scholars dedicated to excellence in teaching. This honour is the latest in a series of teaching awards earned by Gass. Also on his resume is this year's CASE/COAC Canadian Professor of the Year award, the Killem teaching award in 1999, and also a 2M Fellowship in 1999.

"I don't think it is an award," said Gass. "I think of it as an honour and more than that as an opportunity to contribute in ways that I wouldn't normally be able to do." He said that recognition via teaching awards makes people listen and embrace ideas that they were not willing to consider before. This use of recognition has spread his vision of education amongst his peers. He grew up in a small California town, which helped him to begin work on his vision for education early. He recollects elementary and high school experiences that left him unchallenged and jokes about monotone spelling tests as the epitome of stagnant undergraduate and masters experiences that left students make up the rest.

"The students are a major motor for change," Gass said. "We can't make this happen without students who are eager to feel like they are smart, to feel like they are making a contribution to other people's lives."

"I feel there is a need for a new system of professor evaluation. If we say that teaching is important, we say that it's valuable. I have to have a way to recognize it," said Gass.

"I think of it as an honour and even more I think of it as an award," Gass said. "It's an honour to teach in this system, to recognise how important teaching contributions are and ask hard questions about the values of education. Gass sees himself as a catalyst for change at UBC and teaching awards such as the DVTIP help him express this change. When I first came to UBC it was not part of my vision to stand up in public and make a strong commitment to undergraduate education," he explained.

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IF WE'RE LUCKY, WE'LL CHANGE THE WAY WE LEARN: Or Gass has ideas for your education. CHRIS SHEPHERD PHOTO

Instead of memorisation Gass asks for understanding from his students and wants them to use language to express this understanding.

"Students objections do not bother Gass, and his commitment to his values remain strong. He said once students realise what his system has to offer, they enjoy it immensely. Former student of Gass, first-year Medicine student Nancy Martin expressed her appreciation for Gass's commitment to his students. She said what makes Gass unique is his focus on questions.

"Basicly, he won't give you answers to your questions, but rather throw more questions right back at you," said Martin. "This sounds frustrating, and it is at first, but it forces you to think about your original problem in a different light and allows you to find the answer on your own, often with information you already had, but just didn't know how to use."

She says this process makes students become their own teachers and gives them the tools to attack any problems they encounter.

Maxwell Elkahige—who is now completing his PhD at the University of Dundee in Scotland—explains how Gass's teaching methods contributed positively to his experience as an undergraduate.

Elkahige spoke about a course he took that Gass taught in the Integrated Science Program (ISP) called "The Scale of Things." "It was such an unusual and interesting course. Nothing was normal, not even the approach to teaching taken by the professor," he says.

Elkahige feels Gass's approach is a left a lasting impression on him and influenced his future.

"I owe a great deal of where I am today, to my mentors and professors of ISP—not the least influential of whom was Lee Gass."

Prof awarded $2 million for prostate cancer research

By Lisa Johnson

Martin Gleave and Colleen Nelson, two UBC professors in the department of surgery, were recently awarded close to $2 million CAD, the maximum available from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to develop gene-based treatments for prostate cancer, the leading cause of cancer death among Canadian men.

Prostate cancer is usually treated with chemotherapy or castration, procedures that stall tumor growth by starving it of androgen hormones or destroying it, but the disease almost always returns in a more lethal form that doesn't respond to hormone therapies. Doctors have no cure for this form.

Gleave and Nelson were recently awarded a grant to change that, by identifying the genes that are responsible for this deadly switch to androgen independence, and developing drug therapies to knock out these "hallucinogenic" cell survival genes.

While working at UBC, Gleave, the principal researcher on the project, has already patented one drug, called OGX-011.

OGX-011 reduces the activity, or "expression," of clusterin, a cell survival gene that is active in prostate and breast cancer tumor growth.

He and Nelson, who conduct their research at the Prostate Center at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH), head the only Canadian project included in the NCI grant, which will provide US$12.7 million over the next five years to a consortium of 50 North American research centers to study prostate cancer genetics.

"We are very proud to be the Canadian constituent of this project, which has cemented what has become an international reputation for prostate cancer research in this area," said Nelson, who is also the Director of the Genome BC Microarray Platform.

The Microarray Platform at VGH is the only facility in BC with microarray technology, a cutting-edge genetic tool that allows scientists to look at the activity of thousands of genes at one time, making it possible to discover which genes may be involved in cancer cell survival.

Once these survival genes are discovered, the next step is to develop a way to make them inactive without destroying the rest of the cell. This can be done using small pieces of DNA called antisense oligonucleotides that mirror the gene in question. Antisense oligonucleotides bind to the survival gene so that it cannot operate.

The final step is to develop a treatment, that can deliver the antisense oligonucleotides to the cancer cells. "We want to make discoveries on the bench useful to the human population," said Gleave. "There is no use in discovering a gene in yeast or mice if it doesn't ultimately help humankind."

Health Canada has approved the one treatment to emerge from this process, OGX-011, for clinical testing on prostate cancer patients. Trials are set to begin next month at VGH and UBC own the patent on this drug but is licensing it to Gene's company, OncoGenes Technologies, for development.

UBC and OncoGenes will split potential royalties from OGX-011 if the clinical trials are successful and the drug is eventually available to the public.
A work abroad experience is a fantastic way to enjoy an extended holiday and gain an entirely different perspective on life! Programs are available in many countries including Britain, Ireland, France, Germany, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand.

Find out more! Come to an information session.

Wed Oct 23rd - SUB Rm 206
Two seminars: 12:30 & 3:00

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Soil to salad bar

New program part of vision to save UBC Farm

by Parminder Nihir

To combat the threat of losing UBC Farm to residential development, a new program demonstrating the importance of agriculture at UBC has been developed.

The Soil to Salad Bar program gives kids throughout Vancouver a hands-on opportunity to learn where their food comes from. Students from 17 Vancouver schools came to the UBC Farm during September and will keep coming throughout October.

Students, faculty and community members have come together to create a program which teaches elementary school kids about healthy produce by involving them in harvesting and preparing their own greens and vegetables.

Celina Deuling, UBC Farm's School Program Coordinator, feels the program allows urban kids to make rural connections. "It's been a part of the UBC Farm mandate and its vision to reach into the community of Vancouver—so that includes kids," she said.

"We're in the midst of an urban area and a lot of these kids are total urban kids. They haven't had any connections with land. They can come out here ([and]) touch soil, see plants grow and connect with food."

The 40-hectare UBC Farm has been a part of the university since 1915. It is run by students and is the only farm in Vancouver. The farm is affiliated with UBC's Faculties of Agricultural Sciences, Forestry and Science.

The future of the farm has been in doubt since 1997, however, when UBC's Official Community Plan (OCP)—which is a document that holds the University's plan for developing the campus—was approved.

Highlighted in this plan was a call for the doubling of the campus's current resident population and to reduce commuter traffic flow. One of the eight areas identified for development was the South Campus—which is also the location of the UBC Farm.

The Soil to Salad Bar program was developed partially in response to this plan, as part of a vision demonstrating how important the farm is to UBC's community.

The two-hour field trip teaches students the basics of growing food and soil and water conservation. The students then pick, wash and prepare salad greens and vegetables. After making their own salad dressing, they head off to enjoy their meals.

"Most of them [the kids] have never been to a farm before, [and] a lot of them don't have gardens at home," said Deuling. "It's exciting for them to see where their food comes from—to pull a carrot out of the ground and be like 'Oh, a carrot!' They really seem into it."

"They're really enthusiastic, [and] they really liked it," confirmed Penni Stock, a Queen Elizabeth Annex Elementary School teacher, who brought her grade two/three class to the farm. "It's great for the kids. There had only been one kid in my class who had ever been to a farm."

At each station the kids are helped by UBC Farm volunteers, many who are UBC students.

Deuling feels this is important. "Over 30 [university] students come down and help out and it's been a really good opportunity for interested students to get experience with children and education," she said.

Despite the OCP, UBC Farm Program Coordinator, Derek Masselink, remains optimistic that the university will use the farm to provide more educational programs for students at UBC.

"There's a really good opportunity here and what we're trying to do is encourage the university to show some leadership," he said.

"Maybe it's going to cost [the university] more initially, maybe it's going to take a little bit more time. But it's going to provide educational opportunities."

Masselink concluded.

Mayoral candidate addresses privatisation and gentrification

by Lisa Johnson

Mayoral candidate Jennifer Clarke denied Friday that the Greater Vancouver Regional District's (GVRD) attempt last year to contract out Vancouver's water treatment to a private company could be called "privatisation."

"There is no move, there was never a move, there was never a discussion," said Clarke. "The GVRD said they would be calling for a competitive bidding process."

"It's not a competitive bidding process. The board never voted to privatise anything."

Clarke said the public discussion about the plan was "slewed" by union workers. The GVRD and Clarke maintain that since the regional district would still own the treatment facility, placing its building and operation in private hands does not constitute "privatisation."

"Water supply and the GVRD are not part of Clarke's Non-Farmer Association platform. However, her opponent, Coalition of Progressive Electors (COPE) candidate Larry Campbell, has brought public attention during his campaign to what he considers a lack of public consultation at the regional district level.

Campbell has criticised the GVRD board as "undemocratic" and called for reforms to increase the GVRD's public accountability, noting that board members are not elected, but rather chosen from the regional district's 21 municipal councils.

Clarke said Friday she thinks, "the GVRD is efficiently democratic for the kinds of services it provides, which is a co-op utility service—providing tram, water disinfection and supply and sewer treatment services."

"We do not make local decisions," she added.

The nine-year Vancouver city councillor focused her comments on her vision for economic development in Vancouver, which includes improving transportation, supporting the Olympic bid and rebuilding the Downtown Eastside with a modified version of the four pillars approach that was championed by Vancouver Mayor Philip Owen.

To deal with drug use and other issues in the Downtown Eastside, Clarke, "economic and social revitalisation" has to be a priority. Clarke used the False Creek area's mixed-income format of social housing as an example of how to raise the standard of living in the Downtown Eastside without abandoning its low-income residents.

"Gentrification is not a bad thing," said Clarke. "We need to attract businesses and residents back to the area to encourage the vital working class neighbourhood that once was there."

Vegetables come from farms?

Celina Deuling with some of the product. NC FENSERO PHOTO

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Okay, so you're on a budget. But that's no reason you should compromise on your ride. That's why GM Optimum is offering students and recent grads $500 towards the purchase of a used GM vehicle. So you can enjoy the same kind of benefits that come with a new car, like roadside assistance and a manufacturer's warranty.

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**Brutality, defiance and dissent**

National news from other campuses

VPD denounced for brutality

by Stephen Hui and Ian Rocksborough-Smith

Wed, 10/16/2002 - 7:30am

**VANCOUVER (CUP)—Protestors are accusing the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) of using excessive force at a demonstration against the BC Liberal government last week.** Hundreds of protestors demonstrated outside the Britannia Community Centre in Vancouver, where Premier Gordon Campbell was scheduled to attend the opening of the Vancouver Canucks Family Education Centre, a public-private partnership. Simon Fraser Student Society executive member Scott Rohan was among several protestors arrested by police.

Students were there to rally against the Liberal's privatization agenda.

"When we showed up, there was a lot of police officers there and the tone day right off the bat was quite aggressive," said Jagdeep Singh Mangat, another executive member of the student union. "Immediately, tensions rose between police and protestors."

Witnesses say an older man wearing a clown costume was about to be arrested. "Next they grabbed a [13 year-old] kid who was mouthing off to the cops, threw him head first into the wall, pulled out their guns and put them to the back of the kid's head," Mangat said. "It was amazing—I couldn't believe it." Jagdeep Singh Mangat, SFSS Executive

Mangat says Rohan was arrested when he walked straight into the crowd of police officers. "A number tried to warn him at which time the pepper spray came out," Mangat said. Mangat says he was among several protesters who were "unlawfully arrested" while in the process of being arrested by the police.

"I think our government is not concerned for the consequences of its actions," said ACP member Ivan Drury. "People are left to resist Campbell and the cuts to social services that are destroying people's lives and killing them."

"The VPD could not be more en masse." Drury.

A group of ten women from the BC Federation of Labour demonstrated due to the overt police violence they were witnessing.

"Then the police entered the crowd," said Drury. "They started making arrests, beating on individuals and using pepper spray."

Demonstrators joined by members of the public managed to fend off the police assaults, reportedly chanting "Get out of our neighbourhood, go away, go away!" Police eventually complied, and moved into the street away from the community centre.

"The police violence is the same violence that the Campbell government is instituting against poor people across the province," said Drury. "People are not going to resist Campbell and the cuts to social services that are destroying people's lives and killing them."

"The VPD could not be more en masse." Drury.

The VPD could not be more en masse. Drury.

The royal 'dissent' descends on campus

by Dana Brown

Wed, 10/16/2002 - 7:30am

FREDERICTON (CUP)—Some students are pledging their disloyalty to the Queen.

University students in Fredericton held a march in defiance of Queen Elizabeth II's arrival this past Friday.

Students were encouraged by the Royal Descent Committee to join them in their quest to unwelcome the Queen to Canada.

The protestors planned to sing, dance and play in a celebratory call for a People's Republic of Canada.

The protestors feel the monarchy represents years of destructive imperialism and racial intolerance and should not be associated with Canada. They feel the Queen, as head of the Canadian state, is not representative of Canada's diverse culture.

Shaie Martinez, a Royal Descent organizer, noted that most Canadians think the monarchy is unnecessary and frivolous.

"She costs [the tax payers] $27 million a year besides this jobbie...and we don't even have a choice about it," said Martinez.

Martinez also raised issues regarding the Maritimes identity and the non-Indigenous population of the region.

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"Everywhere I go, I see more pain and despair caused by bad decisions by this government who have no concern for the consequences of their actions."

-Jim Sinclair

President, BC Federation of Labour

"The government is targeting people with mental illness to balance the budget," she said. "We want to guarantee an annual liveable income for everybody."

Several groups from Vancouver joined Victorian protestors at the legislature.

"I think it would be fair for me to comment on the protest," she said. "Calling for 'reparations for indigenous peoples of Canada' is something that goes beyond the copyright of the VPD."

The protestors planned to sing, dance and play in a celebratory call for a People's Republic of Canada.

The protestors feel the monarchy represents years of destructive imperialism and racial intolerance and should not be associated with Canada. They feel the Queen, as head of the Canadian state, is not representative of Canada's diverse culture.

Shaie Martinez, a Royal Descent organizer, noted that most Canadians think the monarchy is unnecessary and frivolous.

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"Everywhere I go, I see more pain and despair caused by bad decisions by this government who have no concern for the consequences of their actions," said Sinclair. "[The demonstration] is a sign that opposition to this government is growing."

Sinclair was disturbed by suggestions that the BC Federation of Labour did not support the actions of the day.

"The Communities Solidarity Coalition is a broad coalition. The labour movement is more than marches. We have to work together to find our common ground to oppose the government. I have no time for divisions at this point. We have to be together.," Sinclair.

"with files from Leigh Philips and Suzanne Beauclain by Matt Bigelow

**VICTORIA (CUP)—Gordon Campbell was stubbed, beaten, kicked, spat on and burned at the site at the BC Legislature in the final moments of the Day of Defiance protest, or at least two reasonably factionalized were.**

"Effiges of the premier were savaged by protestors on Monday, October 7, during the Day of Defiance march and rally against the provincial government."

The protest made its way through the city for over three hours, stopping at various locations for speeches before ending on the legislature lawn at 1pm.

Denise Savio, a Victoria city councillor, was enthusiastic about the number of people who took to the street.

"I think it speaks to the need for people to express themselves this November for the municipal elections in a majority of council that stands up for the community," said Savio.

Councillor Rob Fleming, a former UVic student, agreed.

"Local governments are going to be a real site of redifinition and struggle. We need a presence throughout the municipal councils in the province."

Throughout the day, spokespersons for a number of local activist groups addressed Liberal policies.

At the Welfare and Trade office, First Nations speaker Rose Henry said that the province had barricaded doors with tables and chairs. "It's a revelation on how accessible this government is," she said.

"Gordon Campbell should be ashamed when he says that he looks after the interests of First Nations," she said.

Students of Collective Centre Representative for the University of Victoria Student Society (UVSS) Sharmeen Khan spoke at the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, labelling it the "Ministry of Lost Causes," Khan said funding is being terminated for the ministry, which provides aid to members of First Nations and other people of colour.

"The Liberals no longer provide income assistance to refugees awaiting immigration status," Khan said.

"The cuts to social services, which Unsettled cannot work due to their status, will be further impoverished and socially isolated due to the denial of income assistance," she added.

The crowd continued to make their way through Victoria's streets before stopping at MLA Jeff Brathwaite's office, where Lisa MacPherson spoke. Maas is a spokesperson for the Kimberly Rogers Women's Brigade, a group named after an Ontario woman whose death was linked due to welfare cutbacks. The Brigade occupied Brathwaite's office during the summer.

"The other half of their group was at a press conference,"

-Karen Barker

The protest snaked through the city for over three hours, stopping at various locations for speeches before ending on the legislature lawn at 1pm.

"The government is targeting people with mental illness to balance the budget," she said. "We want to guarantee an annual liveable income for everybody."

Several groups from Vancouver joined Victorian protestors at the legislature.

"I think it's appropriate to ask whether the BC Federation of Labour did not support the actions of the day."

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For more information, contact:

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5:00 - 8:00 pm
October 22, 2002

Wednesday, October 16, 2002
Count yourself in at the Waseda Oregon Office
and www.canadianmbafairs.com

SPORTS WRITER
Dan Morris

The Ubyssey

SPORTS

Huskies chow on Ice Birds
by Dan Morris

Honda eight proved to be the decisive weapon in the
UBC Thunderbirds 29-12 win over the University of British
Columbia, Vancouver. The Thunderbirds are now
2-1 in conference play, while the Okanagan pride
are 0-3 in Canada West.

The game started off with a bang in the first
quarter, as the Thunderbirds scored on a 103 yard run
by Garthwaite. The Okanagan pride tried to
answer back with a 14 yard field goal attempt, but it
was blocked. The second quarter was a complete
blowout, with the Thunderbirds leading the game 16-0
at the half. In the third quarter, the Thunderbirds
expanded their lead to 26-0 before the Okanagan
pride could get on the board with a 7 yard touchdown
by Deslauriers. The fourth quarter was all about
poly. With the Thunderbirds up 29-0, the Okanagan
pride were forced to kick a field goal to get on the
board for only the second time in the contest.

UBC’s defensive line was the key to the victory,
with 13 tackles and two sacks. Okanagan pride
quarterback Lazzari was pressured throughout the
game, with his arm frazzled and his feet chased by
the Thunderbird defense. Okanagan pride running
back T-Birds. Suffering a clean break to the fibula of his
foot. Garthwaite has worked hard to get back, but had to
miss the opener this year due to an injury.

The game was won on both sides of the ball. The
Thunderbirds’ defense was solid, with 13 tackles and
two sacks. Okanagan pride quarterback Lazzari was
pressed throughout the game, with his arm frazzled and
his feet chased by the Thunderbird defense. Okanagan
pride running back Lazzari was forced to kick a field goal
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WRITE FOR CULTURE.
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CULTURE
THE OLYSDY

Still looking forward

The many faces of Mecca Normal

THE ART OF MECCA NORMAL at the Western Front
Oct. 8-12
by Phoebe Wang
CULTURE STAFF

Never the ones to fit into standard indie-band fare, the duo known as Mecca Normal keep showing up in unusual places. For their third album, A Family Swan, was a big theatre room in Vancouver that they had taken over for an event that was one part art exhibit, one part performance and one part forum.

More than 15 years, Mecca Normal have played their brand of reactionary rock in the arena, so understandably they're interested in other ways of reaching people. Officially, they're on tour for The Family Swan, their tenth album, but they've taken along David Lester's political posters and Jean Smith's self-portraits. Not only that, they're ready to discover the state of the underground, to break boundaries between the artist and audience, and to inspire forays into self-expression in others.

Unfortunately, on this particular night, there were too many unfilled seats for the band to fulfill its undertakings. Instead of being poetically inspired, the band proved itself poetically about people's aversion towards things that don't fall neatly into categories. The duo have presented their anti-establishment and feminist stances in all of their projects. While their attitudes are welcome, their fostering of awareness feels too elementary to be exceptional. Lester's Inspired Agitators series, inspired by the WTO protests, pays homage to figures who have made political and social impact in the face of adversity. Jean Smith's watercolour self-portraits document her face since the age of 13. The Pint Glass series depicts the same poignant pint glass with flowers. The pieces are pleasant, but lack complexity in visual technique and purpose. Smith points out that it's surprising what can become a body of work.

Their best showcase was a lively set of challenging, punk-flavored songs. Lester kept his guitar playing interesting with tension between reverberation and rhythm. Smith's edgy, Joni Mitchell-like vocals charged up lyrics written from her prose and poetry. Her low-pitched, distinctive voice complemented Lester's. Mecca Normal have taken over the city in a way that is worthwhile, but lack complexity in visual technique and purpose. Smith's watercolour self-portraits document her face since the age of 13. The Pint Glass series depicts the same poignant pint glass with flowers. The pieces are pleasant, but lack complexity in visual technique and purpose. Smith points out that it's surprising what can become a body of work.

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CULTURE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2002

11

Sandler salvaged

PUNCH-DRUNK LOVE

by Sara Young
CULTURE WRITER

What seems interesting about Punch Drunk Love is that most people is the presence of Adam Sandler in the lead role. Sandler's recent film roles have been in a string of mind-numbing films, such as Mr. Deeds and The Wedding Singer and Billy Madison. After so much cinematic crap, it is clear that even Adam Sandler didn't want to see Adam Sandler play another idiot man-child tripping through scene after scene of irreconcilable mishaps. It is also an added surprise that director Paul Thomas Anderson (Magnolia, Boogie Nights) would cast Sandler as Barry Egan, the bumbling, self-conscious toilet plunger manufacturer with a violent alter-ego brought out by his sister's verbal abuse—a character that matches Sandler's strengths. What is surprising is that Sandler's performance is matched by the ebulliente if-co-stars in this film. Sandler is especially effective when he plays angry scenes with humour, or funny scenes with a sad seriousness. Punch Drunk Love boasts a cast of incredible actors who are sometimes overshadowed by Sandler's presence, including Emily Watson, Luis Guzman and Philip Seymour Hoffman. Watson debuted in the heart-wrenching film, Breaking the Waves and recently starred in Saving Private Ryan. Guzman's abilities or versatility is more a reflection of the racism endemic in Hollywood than it is of Guzman's abilities or versatility. Guzman's character in Punch Drunk Love is Lance, an employee of Egan's who appears more capable than his boss. If Lena is the force that finally pulls Barry Egan out of his self-deprecating malaise, then Lance is the force that quietly pushes him forward. The most interesting feature of this film is its cast, but the inclusion of audio-visual interludes are nearly as fascinating. Anderson intercuts the film with moments of colourful light and sound. Colour bars, pulsating blocks of light, white dots twinkling on blackness are combined with hushed dialogue and music. The presence of these experimental elements, along with the excellent cast and strange events of this film, turn Punch Drunk Love into something greater than the typical love story that underlies the film.

Bowling for answers

BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE

by Sophie Leevers
CULTURE WRITER

Why do Americans kill one another more than any other country in the world? With every pointing the finger at some- body else, this is the question Michael Moore searches to answer throughout what I think is his best film yet. Rarely have I seen a film that has me laughing, crying and sick to my stom- ach all within two hours. Bowling for Columbine, which last week won the Vancouver International Film Festival's People's Choice Award, Moore explores one of the country's greatest problems, raising wide- ranging issues than his previous well-known documentary Finger and Me. He follows all of the accouctanies and convincings up with revealing conclusions, making it clear that high school shootings cannot be blamed on video games, violent music or gun accessibility. It is great to see such an extensive critique on America, made by the American panning down the barrels of guns. Moore's approach creates closeness to the subject that I do not think could have been achieved by a non- American. Moore's hometown happens to be Flint, Michigan, site of America's youngest shooting victim Keila Rolland and the shooter was both six years old.

In Bowling for Columbine, Moore is humor- ous, cynical, sympathetic and critical. He con- nects many different sides of the spectrum, interviewing everybody from US National Rifle Association President Charlton Heston to Marilyn Manson, from South Park writer (and Columbine High School alumnus) Matt Stone to camouflage-clad members of the Michigan Militia, to the brother of an Oklahoma City bomber, and many more. Moore is relentless and determined, going so far as to take two students from Columbine High School to the main headquarters of K-Mart to talk to the man responsible for distributing the bullet that is still embedded in their classmates' bodies.

The documentary is extensive, with footage that is at times hard to look at. Parade.com revealed through searing montages from security camera tapes in Columbine High and news coverage of American military interven- tions over the past 50 years. The way Moore chooses to coincide different stories in a mosaic of television news headlines evokes

break the film's rhythm.

Don't think this short summary does justice to the film. The superb execution of the main mi- nuscule score are wonderfully put together, while the characters are spectacularly drawn with colours that scream at you. The action is fast paced, and the tight dialogue spars few unnecessary words.

The story line itself is a swell treat for a mati- ter. However, it is not worth the price of a full prime-time ticket unless you're an anime/ani- mation buff. Part of the reason for this is that some of the metaphors and logic of the tale are lost in the translation, so that certain parts of film seem a bit disjointed. Nevertheless, this award-winning film, pre- sented by Disney, is a fun movie to watch. And just because it's a cartoon doesn't necessarily mean it's just for children. After all, it's the lat- est rave in Japan.

spirited away

by Jose S. Velasquez
CULTURE WRITER

Hayao Miyazaki's film is not your typical cutesy Disney movie. If you've ever seen Alice in Wonderland, The Wizard of Oz, and Little Nemo: The Dream Master, mix it with Nemo, Chiharu got through sometimes hilarious, sometime- times hair-raising, sometimes overly imaginative adventures that make and sometimes nearly unesparable thought and revelation. Also telling is some of the information left out by the popular media (for example, the day of the Columbine shootings also happened to be the same day of the most savage US bomb- ing in Kosovo). Towards the end of the docu- mentary I was feeling slightly nauseous, won- dering if the overload of information and images was ever going to end. Whether inten- tional or not, this was an effective way to emphasize the overload Americans receive from the media, and the endless cycle of his- torical horror stories involving guns and killings.

This is not only a film about the boys who went bowling before killing their fellow high school students, it is also a clever look at a whole history of lives lost to violence in America and around the world by Americans. Moore attempts to unravel why Americans kill each other more than any other country in the world. Could it all be related to fear? I do not want to give away too many details, because this is a film everybody should see.

animation for all ages

spirited away in theatres now

by Jose S. Velasquez
CULTURE WRITER

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LIFE IN A DINER

OF DINERS AND BUSES
by Brian Zandberg
CULTURE WRITER

While I couldn’t wholeheartedly agree with the menu dished out by the septuagenarians seated ahead of me—“That’s the trouble with young people these days”—I did find myself enjoying the contemporary metaphors of Sarah Deakins’s latest play, “Of Diners and Buses.” And metaphors abound in this play, no doubt aided by a mature blend of video, music and a stunning set, in this case a meticulously constructed diner (curiously enough in a 70s motif) and appropriately spartan bus stop. These metaphors are rendered easily from the musings of the sober poet Brad Steiner and a stunning set, in this case a roof-topped aural onslaught by Hugh Fraser, himself. Hugh Fraser himself, as the audience and the grannies as they put on their jackets. 

Indeed, how could this undulating web of meanings and metaphors not be achieved by such an alter ego vest? Each one of the actors and actresses has a list of film and stage credits as long as my arm, the kind of experience that is evident during their couple and earnest interactions with each other. Also telling is the way these players build the drama to its surprising conclusion (or beginning, I should say) as they deconstruct in their own haibun, “Diners and Buses” in a powerhouse performance, wonderfully spilling out beyond Deakins’s script to engage the audience, and successfully creating the kind of vibe that made me feel I was somewhere else, somewhere much bigger than this intimate 100-seater at the Jericho Arts Centre. That is, until the spell of words and lighting was over and I re-awoke to more gabbling of the grannies as they put on their jackets.

We had all been engaged and entertained. The neon light behind the counter of the diner went out for the last time, but I was content with the play and the metaphors for the frightening and the funny in human relationships.

Hugo Fraser hard to beat

HARD RUBBER ORCHESTRA WITH THE HUGH FRASER QUINET
at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre

by Vamyr Macula CULTURE STAFF

Hard Rubber Orchestra and the Hugh Fraser Quintet played an awesome show last Thursday night, showcasing Fraser’s many talents as both a pianist and trombonist in the first half of the show, and as a composer in the second.

The show began with a smokin’ set by the Hugh Fraser Quintet with Strings. All of the set was simply amazing, playing what I like to call trash jazz, which is perhaps not the best description if you don’t like trash metal, but I think newly describes the incredible energy, volume, intensity and near-ficacy of the music. The musicianship was incredible on the part of every player, and all the members of the group had outstanding solos throughout the set. It’s hard to pick a single favourite solo, but the solo that stood out in my mind are the sopranino saxophone solos by Campbell Rya, a great, intricate slap bass solo by Ken Lister, a riveting and intense drum solo by Dave Robbins, who was so into the music that he locked total- ly out of it. Needless to say, Hugh Fraser himself had several great solos, on both piano and trombone. That was just the first set. The second set had the full on sound onslaught of the Hard Rubber Orchestra. Hugh Fraser conducted the HRO for the second set, comprised of two of his works, an old piece arranged by Kenny Wheeler called “Looking Up,” and then the premises of Fraser’s new piece “Dialogues for Jazz Book Two.” This new piece was made up of nine movements, five of which featured the entire orchestra blasting away in their usual big band splen-
dor, alternated with four shorter written as conversations between two solo instruments.

The overall feeling of the piece was very vocal, with the full orchestra sections of both parties where everyone was chattering away at once, though always maintaining a cohesive and powerful sound, even as though the audience had stumpled upon a quiet corner at that party where private conversations were occurring.

The mood ranged from very funny one-upmanship scenes, as in the dust between Brad Muirhead on bass and Dennis Miles Kane on baritone sax, to quieter moments, as in the call and response duet between hardbender/BRO leader John Kershaw on trumpet and violinist Rebecca Whiting. As with all Hard Rubber Orchestra concerts, there were also a number of great solos even in the full orchestra movements. The ones I particularly liked were a smooth, wailing alto sax solo by Saul Boren, one of trumpeter Vince Mai’s solos towards the end of the piece, and Dennis Escoff’s trombone solo, which explored the number of different emotions possible with the use of a single trombone mute.

The entire evening was basically a demonstration of the meeting of great composition and great playing. Everything was well arranged, well orchestrated, and very well played, as being immensely entertaining to watch and listen to.
NORDIC NUANCES

MUSICA INTIMA at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre
Oct. 8

by Vampyra Draculea
CULTURE STAFF

Choral ensemble musica intima began their tenth anniversary season with a concert simply titled North. The first of three concerts this season, North featured a variety of sacred and secular vocal music from each of the five Scandinavian countries.

I will not attempt to list out one of my biases here—I don’t like sacred music. At all. But even I have to admit that three works, which comprised about half of the program, were beautifully sung and pleasant to listen to from a purely musical standpoint.

What I truly enjoyed were the secular pieces, which were mostly lullabies and folk songs sung in the native tongues of their respective countries. My particular favourites were the three Finnish folk songs that began the concert. I’ve been trying to learn Finnish and found it a real treat to hear these traditional songs. Other highlights of the show were the beautiful Icelandic lullabies and the Danish nature songs. Of these, I think I liked the Danish song “Kerner”—arranged by Erling Rallwog—most of all, because of its beautiful modal harmonies. I also found the Robert Sund’s Swedish song “Dana till skaddefitt” (Magpie’s Dance) very amusing in its imitations of magpie calls and its vow to never grow old.

Every piece was superbly sung, impeccably arranged, and best of all, the singers allowed both their own and the songs’ personalities to shine through. Throughout the concert there were also some wonderful solos. However only Andy Hillhouse was introduced to the audience, so unfortunately I can only list that one name.

In addition to the beautiful, perfectly pitched singing, I also quite liked the way the members of musica intima talked to the audience, informing us of some background cultural information. About the songs and joking about the wonder nature of some of the pieces. They all seemed to be genuinely relaxed, just happy to be performing, which is far too rare in the world of chamber choirs. They even closed the show with an encore comprised of a Swedish pop song. I think it was by Abba, but I don’t know for sure.

All in all this was a very enjoyable evening filled with some gorgeous music, and I’d highly recommend musica intima to anyone with a passion for choral music.

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VOLUNTEER PAID PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

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You may be able to participate if you are:

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The Ubyssey is an autonomous, democratically run student organization, the Ubyssey, vice president of the Student Union Building.

AD DESIGN Shalina Takara

Karen Leung

The Ubyssey is recognized by the League of Nations in 1917 as being one of those communities whose existence as independent nations can be provisionally recognized.

For nearly thirty years, following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire after World War I, the international community deliberated on the fate of Palestine's indigenous population.

When Israel took matters into its own hands, declaring its independence in 1948, it subsequently renounced its right to be occupied by the United Nations (UN), which had partitioned the region into both Jewish and Arab states.

Perhaps Mr. Carroll has forgotten the first half of the 20th Century, when Jewish and Arab concepts like proportional nationhood and international law were so much more of those 'facts' than the 'hearsay' of the 'anti-Semitic world's'.
uncertain twenty years later, but a brief synopsis of some of the established facts might serve to inform Mr. Carroll and other skeptics of the complexity of those issues he is so quick to whitewash. On September 15, 1982, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) surrounded and sealed off the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Lebanon, following the Israeli invasion. The Lebanese President-elect Bachir Gemayel had been assassinated the previous day, by what was then thought to be a PLO terrorist. To say that Lebanon-Palestinian relations were strained at this point would be a polite understatement. In this violent political contest, that Defense Minister Ariel Sharon elected to send a proxy Lebanese militia with a notoriously undisciplined and violent background—at the behest of times—into camp of largely Palestinian refugees, who were among the most vulnerable people on earth, was the first and necessary step towards any kind of meaningful reconciliation. I hope that Mr. Carroll will acknowledge in the future that propagandas is a tool employed by all sides in this conflict—not just Arabs and anti-Semites.

Violence and hatred in the Middle East can't be dealt with clearly in terms of black and white, right and wrong, victim and terrorist, and being able to admit culpability for part of the problem is the first and necessary step towards any kind of meaningful reconciliation. I hope that Mr. Carroll will acknowledge in the future that propagandas is a tool employed by all sides in this conflict—not just Arabs and anti-Semites.

Michael-Owen Liston is a fourth-year Arts student.

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With a civic election on the way, a controversial Liberal government in power and the echoes of Expo '86 ringing louder and louder, debate about Vancouver-Whistler's 2010 Winter Olympic bid has heated up.

by Duncan M. McHugh

Features Editor

For many in the DTES, the memory of what happened to the area is still fresh in their minds, and it's this lingering frustration that's pushing them to oppose the bid.

"You've got the same players there," says Jim Green, UBC professor, longtime DTES activist and member of the Impact of the Olympics on the Community Committee (IOCC), a group that is calling on those organizing Vancouver's bid to be more accountable and socially responsible.

"We've got the same players there," says Green, who is running for Vancouver City Council on November 16 as a member of the Community of Electoral Voters (CDEV). "They've got the same type of attitude, and the attitude with these hallmark events is virtually the same always, which is 'We're not responsible for anything that is not directly related to what we are doing. So if hotel owners are kicking people out of their hotels, we have nothing to do with that.'"

While concern about low-income housing being cut is one of a number of worries that critics have of the games. Most critical of all are the tremendous cost of hosting the Games. An estimated $8 billion will be needed to build the games, and the 2000 dollars that -- given BC's current state of near-universal government, that's a lot of money that is not being directed.

"We've certainly concerned about the cost of the bid, how it's being financed," says Green. "It's a very hard issue to talk about -- the cuts that we see to the welfare, the disabled, to education, all the things that are being cut but that are not human rights commissions -- all of those are being done, in part, to finance the Olympic bid." 

"The Olympics aren't just about sports," says Jim Jobal, a former Alma Mater Society executive and spokesperson for the IOCC. "In fact, they're about public spending priorities, because we have to decide how to invest our dollars. (The Games don't do it for themselves.)

A major target for criticism of Olympic spending is the proposed upgrade of the Sea-to-Sky Highway, a somewhat treacherous two-lane road that links Vancouver to Whistler. While critics see it as an unnecessary Olympic expense, the bid corporation and the province disagree.

"What the bid corporation sup-
ports is an upgrade to the road for port related safety issues, not for a super highway, as some people have talked about," says Corea, director of Media Relations for the bid corporation. He says that a modest three-lane road would be sufficient to meet the Olympic standards.

Corea says that the bid corpo-
rati on is not asking for a rail link to Whistler. While critics see it as unnecessary Olympic expense, the bid corporation and the province disagree.

"All the Olympic bid committee needs is a rail link to Whistler, and they're looking at a Translink initiative. If anything, Corea sees the Olympics benefiting a rail link proposal.

"The bid has always said, right from the start, that anything that needs to be renovated or changed on the Sea-to-Sky Highway has to meet the standards of the community," says Corea. "We're going to upgrade the Sea-to-Sky Highway because of safety and capacity issues for the Games. It's not going to be a freeway through the watershed, that is not on the table. He says the improvements will not be more than $670 million, as part of the overall provincial transpor-
tation initiative.

"We're up in Williams Lake right now, and the plan to get a rail service into Williams Lake and Prince George is going to be cut, as of the end of this month. If we can avoid that, we're looking at creating some kind of great transportation system along the Sea-to-Sky Highway by 2010, but -- in the meantime -- the cutting of the roads, the rail, the increased traffic is just going to be a hurdle to which we have to give a questionable investment.

Another potential high cost proj-
ject is a decommissioning of the Sea-to-Sky Highway, a bullet train project, which was originally built for Expo 86 and, while popular, has been criticized for its high infrastructure cost.

"The Olympics aren't just about something's happening here...