Campus finally WIRED!

Wireless Internet “substantially complete”
by Megan Thomas

Thanks to the $30 million project to rewire UBC, students can surf the net from one end of the campus to the other.

The University Networking Project required the installation of close to 20,000 wired ports and is "substantially complete" six months ahead of schedule and on budget.

UBC can now claim to be one of the best-wired universities in the world, said Program Director Susan Mac.

"The network is important. It is sort of like plumbing; if you haven't..." See "Wireless" on page 2.

NO WIRES HERE: UBC is now wireless. PETER KLESKEN PHOTO

WOMEN NOT IMPRESSED: Members of the AMS Women's Centre are not pleased with plans to eliminate the Women Students' Office.

MICHELLE MAYNE PHOTO

that many students deal with.

"It will allow much more comprehensive coverage. It will allow us to form a better interface with, particularly, many of the AMS resource groups," he said.

But some AMS resource groups, which fight oppression on campus, have concerns about the reorganization and the consultation process.

Women's Centre members say that while they support any efforts on campus to fight oppression, there has not been ample consultation about the new arrangement.

"They are trying to make it accessible to everyone and that is a really positive thing, but I think it really undermines the WSO and the DRC," Sullivan added.

While Sullivan would not discuss the cost of operating Access and Diversity, he said the reorganization is not a cost-cutting measure and will result in more resources for students.

"This should strengthen those services," he said. "There will be more people in the unit, more..." See "Women" on page 2.

UBC tenant protection in peril
by Jonathan Woodward

If a new provincial law passes as early as this month, some residents of UBC will no longer be protected by the Residential Tenancy Act. The Act prevents landlords from evicting tenants without cause, conducting arbitrary searches and unjustifiably increasing rent.

Bill 70, a revision of the Act, awaits only the proclamation of the Lieutenant-Governor to become law. Under the new bill, housing for staff and students of an educational institution will not be covered by the Act.

The exemption will mean volatile rents on campus, said Acadia Park resident Norman Richard.

"They will have carte blanche to do whatever they want," he said.

Richard said the blanket exemption will be detrimental for campus residents.

"There is already a shortage of housing everywhere in Vancouver and more so on campus," he said.

"They will be able to raise the rents to what the market will bear. This means that whoever has the money gets in and whoever doesn't is out of luck."

He also alleged that the university will be free to raise the rents of market-rental housing planned for University-Rosedale.

But operating under Bill 70 would not alter the way faculty housing in Hawthorne Lane is rented, said Janice Goulais from Village Gate Homes, a UBC-owned property management firm.

"We follow the Act. We try to run..." See "RTA" on page 2.

Campus finally WIRED!

NO WIRES HERE: UBC is now wireless. PETER KLESKEN PHOTO

Days numbered for Women Students' Office
Plans for Access and Diversity in the works
by Megan Thomas

The UBC Women Students' Office (WSO) will be combined with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) to form a broader anti-oppression centre by November 1.

UFC VP Students Brian Sullivan informed an Alma Mater Society (AMS) resource group meeting of the decision last week, leaving some student leaders fuming about a perceived lack of consultation.

The decisions [Sullivan] was running by us had already been made," said Anke Chamberlain, a member of the Women's Centre.

Under the "administrative reorganization," the director of the UBC will run the new centre and two new staff members will be hired to run the new operation tentatively named Access and Diversity, said Sullivan in an interview.

"What this will enable us to do is to continue to have a strong focus on issues related to women and sex-ism but to add to it," he said.

"Advocacy efforts should be directed at the systemic level and should include other areas of potential areas of inequity and disadvantage."

UBC currently does not have a structure in place to deal with inequities, such as sexual orientation, race and classism, that are out- intersecting inequalities.

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"We follow the Act. We try to run..." See "RTA" on page 2.
When I first started at the Ubyssey, we used to call the hour between 11am and 1am our grace period. Our deadline was technically at midnight, but if we finished before 1am College Printers would let us off. However, if we got the newspaper to them after 1am we were charged for two hours. There was a chance for redemption or double the pain in the form of financial cost. During this final 60 minutes, we would be making the final corrections to pages while squinting at the screen with tired, bloodshot eyes, hoping that we could finish before 1am and avoid those extra hours. It is the Ubyssey, striving for objectivity, enforcing accountability and encouraging heavy drinking since 1918.

March 22 will mark the Ubyssey’s 85th birthday. The first issue was published in 1918, and since then the Ubyssey has grown to become one of the largest student newspapers in the country leading a similar lifestyle. There were two of us on the last papers still submitting on flats in the country in 1995. After being shutdown for 15 months over funding and editorial issues, a referendum in January of 1995 approved a student levy that would support our paper for years to come.

Autonomy has provided us an opportunity for truly objective and critical coverage of the AMS, university and far-reaching national affairs. Some of our largest stories in the past eight years include coverage of the WTO, APEC, a Freedom of Information lawsuit with the AMS over their Coke contract and the September 11 terrorist attacks.

In recent years our offices have also been moved from the middle of serious writing or toss garbage into the bins from up top. We can’t stop and stare at squirrels in the middle of the basement. Engineers invading our offices. Editors no longer sit on weathered couches on the balcony and smoke under the beacon light into the depths of the basement. We can only mourn the loss of our beautiful third floor view and laugh at old photos of Gage towers. We can’t stop and stare at squirrels in the middle of serious writing or toss garbage into the bins from up top. We can’t stop and stare at squirrels in the middle of serious writing or toss garbage into the bins from up top. There will always be the photos—use our waxer to mount them after lam we were charged for two hours. There was a chance for redemption or double the pain in the form of financial cost. During this final 60 minutes, we would be making the final corrections to pages while squinting at the screen with tired, bloodshot eyes, hoping that we could finish before 1am and avoid those extra hours. It is the Ubyssey, striving for objectivity, enforcing accountability and encouraging heavy drinking since 1918.

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After three years in the basement the photos are beginning to overlap, each layer a testament to a time period, and acting as long standing indiscriminate evidence for old Ubysseyers.

The walls show what happens in between the production nights that otherwise punctuate our lives.

The Ubyssey is a forum for students to express opinions, delve into politics and learn about local culture, sports and news. We are also a resource to train writers, photographers, designers and, ultimately, journalists.

I tried the first evening that I was employed as Production Manager. Our ancient network of Macs—somewhat updated now—was not cooperating, the pressure of deadlines and my first night on the job overwhelmed me. Two years later in my role as Coordinating Editor my worries have expanded to a more general heartache as opposed to one specific ulcer.

A long legacy can be traced between the hard covers of the thick, yellowing bound volumes littered—and often lost—around our cluttered office. The bloodlines are traceable in ink. They run long across pages and continue in other publications in Vancouver and around the world.

Ink belies a permanence that is true work, hard work, frustrating phone calls, bad concerts, worse books and football upsets, but also tangibly represents our victory as a newspaper that sits on stands every Tuesday and Friday.

These long hours and long nights are something that stick with us, like wax on flats.
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UBC Swap Meet is a peer-to-peer exchange

of items to help students save money and

reuse UBC's resources.

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**The Ubyssey resurrected**

After a feud with the Alma Mater Society (AMS), the Ubyssey, a publication of the AMS since 1918, was shut down for a period of 15 months starting in April 1994.

It was a combination of funding and politics that pushed the Ubyssey's relationship with the AMS to its breaking point, and the AMS refused to provide the Ubyssey with the funds needed to continue publication. The Ubyssey was forced to lay off most of its staff, and the AMS took control of the publication.

This was not only a blow to students, who were the Ubyssey's main audience, but a loss for UBC overall as the Ubyssey was widely regarded as a valuable source of independent coverage.

**Sports**

**WTOH my gawd!**

The third World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference was held in Seattle in 1999.

**On our own two feet**

Independent coverage since 1995

**Not so special issues**

Covering a tragedy: the September 11 attacks

In 2001, the Ubyssey was one of the very few newspapers to cover the events on September 11 comprehensively.

**How we beat Coca-Colisation**

In 1995, the AMS, UBC, and Coca-Cola incorporated an exclusivity deal. Coke would be the exclusive provider of pop at the Frieda Roger Student Union building, and the AMS and UBC would get 10% of the profits.

But the deal, the first of its kind in Canada, was secret. Attempts to find out how much money was changing hands, where the money was going, and how much Coke each student was expected to drink were met with silence.

The Ubyssey revealed that the deal was a disaster, with students and faculty alike expressing concern about the implications for the autonomy of student publications.

**Down by the dumps**

At the end of August in 2001, the Ubyssey moved offices from the top corner of the Student Union Building to a new location on campus.

**Oh those crazy engineers**

The Ubyssey's columns often feature humorous and satirical perspectives on engineering work. In one column, a group of UBC Engineers fled the scene February 5, 2001, leaving a gutted red VW Beetle dangling above the water from San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.

Similar pranks have been pulled to mark the annual Engineering Week activities.

**The Ubyssey's**

**85th anniversary**

The Ubyssey is a student newspaper at the University of British Columbia, established in 1918. It is known for its independent coverage and role in UBC's student community.
Buses still too crowded, say students

Many routes still over capacity more than a month after start of U-Pass

*THE UBSYSEY*

**NEWS**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2003**

By Darren Altman

**NEWS WRITER**

Students say they are still struggling with public transportation on busy UBC routes more than a month after the implementation of the U-Pass.

"Usually between one and three buses pass us in the morning," said UBC student Christine Boyle.

On weekday mornings buses are often too full to let on more passengers, she said, "We have bunched it in, it's ridiculous."

The U-Pass provides three-hour bus passes to full-time SFU and UBC students and was expected to put a strain on Vancouver public transit.

TransLink—the Vancouver transit authority—did increase service to ease the pressure, but many UBC routes are still overcrowded at peak hours.

"At night the #411 is every half-hour. It's too infrequent," UBC graduate student Katherine Baffington said, "They consistently fill up until it's standing room only."

"It should only take me 15 minutes in the morning, but I have to give myself an extra half-hour," added UBC student Dan Waldman.

The adjustment to the extra volume on UBC routes is ongoing, says Doug McDonald, a spokesperson for Coast Mountain Bus Company—the company that operates the buses for TransLink.

"There's an ongoing process to adjusting services and adding more on routes," he said. Early September is in particular a very busy time for buses, added McDonald.

"Complaints since the beginning of September have dropped off, but we're dealing with the fact that too many services are overload at new times."

McDonald said changes to services will continue in the short term and a new bus schedule will be implemented in December.

Relations between dependent transit users and TransLink are also strained, say members of the Bus Riders Union (BRU) of Vancouver.

The union was banned last month from TransLink board meetings until they sign a document promising not to disrupt future meetings.

"The cancellation of night owl shows a grave disregard for transit dependent people," she added.

Created three years ago, the BRU is modeled on a similar Los Angeles based group with a wide mandate for justice for public transit dependent people.

"A lot of our leaders are young, new women are visible minorities. We are many of the people that are dependent on public transit everyday," said Effing.

One bus driver, who did not want to give his name, says that people must complain to TransLink and the company it won't be easy.

"Things won't change until people start complaining," he said. "There's no use complaining to the driver, they don't listen to what we have to say."*

**NEWS**

**GET IN LINE:** May as well grab a seat before you get on the bus because chances are you won't be getting one on your ride home.

UBC fails to keep its cool

When the power went out in May 2002 at the UBC Obstetrics and Gynecology department at the Vancouver Hospital more than a little food was spoiled—the department lost the sperm samples of over 150 men.

It was not until December 2002 that UBC sent out letters informing people of the lost sperm, but no guarantee is given.

The university is planning on fighting the suit, until the clients are required to sign a waiver that says "the best efforts will be made to preserve the sperm, but no guarantees are given." According to Scott Macrae, director of public affairs for UBC, the department did not know that there were issues regarding the power supply when the sperm was kept.

Once the power went out in May however, the university moved to deal with the problem.

**CLASS ACTION SUIT AGAINST UBC.**

Beer garden hours changing

Improved relations between the Alma Mater Society (AMS) and the RCM mean that beer garden hours will return to traditional times starting this week.

Beer gardens can now be held from 4-8pm, 9-11pm and 7-11pm, as opposed to the 9-7pm or 7-7pm time slots used so far this year.

The 8-11pm time slot could also be upgraded to 8-12am with approval from the appropriate bodies, such as the Student Administrative Commission and faculty representatives, said AMS president and Managing Editor Josh Bowman.

He also said the AMS will work towards having a manageable number of events on campus to avoid situations where many events close at the same time on the same night, so that the RCM can confidently approve licenses for events.

To preserve the new beer garden times, the AMS will work to discourage public drunkeness and the public consumption of alcohol on campus, added Bowman.

**NEWS**

**Former NB premiér swipes at red tape**

Post-Enron regulations are too much, says McKenna

By Jonathan Woodward

**NEWS EDITOR**

The pendulum has swung too far on the number of regulations controlling corporate governance, Frank McKenna, former premier of New Brunswick says.

Business, government and universities should also work together to cut red tape, said McKenna.

Business, government and universities should also work together to cut red tape, said McKenna.

"For an institution that should be an agent of change and capable of changing the rules of governance that literally go back a hundred years," he said.

Before the Enron scandal, public US and Canadian companies were not required to show their books to government.

"Businesses at one time felt they could play in their own sandbox and everything would be fine," McKenna said.

In the aftermath, new regulations were formed to create more transparency in corporate bookkeeping to help pick up the pieces of investor confidence.

But these rules can be fatal to quick, low-cost business administration, said McKenna.

"Medium-sized companies in the US have reported that their governance costs are doubling as a result of over-regulation," he said. "Some 37 per cent of CEOs are considering taking their companies private to try and avoid this huge regulatory burden."

Companies that make minor accounting errors must now walk away from the contract under current regulations, said McKenna.

"I would suggest to you that this is a perverse result from what, on the surface, seemed like a logical set of rules," he said.

But McKenna also provided some solutions for rebuilding investor confidence.

One way would be to allow people of diverse backgrounds to sit on the board of directors to create meaningful corporate debate, he said.

"In a situation where a business person would say, "This makes perfect sense," another person would say, "Yes, it does, but we can't get it through the regulatory process,"" McKenna said.

The different worlds of government and business must also come together, he said, but McKenna recognizes it won't be easy.

"A company board meeting is a greased affair, but cabinet is the closest thing to a legalized cockfight there is," he said.

Universities also face challenges that could hinder cooperation between business and government, said McKenna.

"For an institution that should be an agent of change and capable of changing the rules of governance that literally go back a hundred years," he said.

To fix this problem, students should know more about how businesses, universities and governments are managed to improve communication between the three sectors, said McKenna.

Currently, UBC has a mandatory, undergraduate course entitled 'The Rules of Government and Business in Economics,' which addresses these issues, said Keith McEachrane, head of the economics department at the Sauder School of Business.

**ALL BUSINESS:** Frank McKenna talks shop while Tom Ross from the Sauder School of Business looks on. **MICHELLE MAYNE PHOTO**
Anatomy of a germ

American Society of Microbiology honours UBC specialist

by Peggy Truong

A UBC science professor has received top honours from the American Society of Microbiology.

Microbiology and Immunology Professor Bob Hancock was given the 2003 American Society for Microbiology Pharmaceuticals Award honouring the development of new antimicrobial agents, the clinical use of those agents and the investigation of resistance to antibiotics. "This is the top award in the world for antimicrobial research," said Hancock.

He was rewarded for his novel approach to looking at mechanisms of innate immunity and the ways this immunity can be enhanced to promote microbial resistance.

But he was quick to give credit to his team. "One of the things you have to emphasise is that microbiology is a team-driven field," he said. "I'd like to think that I've helped move things along, but the actual research of antimicrobial resistance is a team approach to finding the best deals."

Hancock's first laboratory research was on penicillin and he hasn't looked back since. On October 2, he was inducted into the UBC Quarter Century Club, a society which recognizes faculty members for 25 years of service at the university.

Hancock is also the co-founder of Inimex Pharmaceuticals, a UBC spin-off company working to develop novel drug candidates that use the innate immune response to prevent or treat human disease.

The company has identified drug candidates that target drug resistance in bacterial infections.

Working with private industry has supplemented rather than taken away from his UBC research, said Hancock. "Working with companies allows you to make your research relevant and to move towards practical applications which I think is an important part of knowledge transfer."

"I would suggest that this is a good area to get into."

Hancock also believes he has more work to do. He is enthusiastic about the growth in science in Western Canada and hopes to provide research funding for future scientists.

"I think that my major career goal has been to see my science have an impact on society," he said.

AIDS research pioneer recognised

Head of the Department of Health Care and Epidemiology with search award

by Emilie Stevens

A UBC researcher has been rewarded with the Alumni Award for Research for his pioneering work in the area of HIV/AIDS.

Martin Schechter, head of the department of health care and epidemiology, was also recognized for his study of disease susceptibility among marginalized Canadians.

The Alumni Award is given to a UBC graduate whose research achievements have advanced UBC's reputation as a leading research university.

"The themes of [my] research has always been dealing with marginalized people who have tremendous health inequalities relative to the reductions of the population," he said. "[This is] health not just for the middle and upper classes, but for everybody."

Schechter has attracted international attention to UBC as national director for the Canadian HIV Trials Network (CHTN), and head of epidemiology at the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, but his pioneering work began in the early days of the AIDS crisis.

In the early 1980s when AIDS had been identified in the US, but not in Vancouver, Schechter became part of a research team investigating the health of several Vancouver gay men.

While the men appeared healthy, several suffered from swollen glands. Investigation into the symptoms led researchers to suspect AIDS. An analysis of the men's common risk factors led the researchers one step further.

"People who had the swollen glands had greater numbers of sexual partners, and were more likely to put themselves in a situation where they were at risk for sexually transmitted diseases," said Schechter.

They began to think that whatever was causing the swollen glands was sexually transmitted. Their suspicions were confirmed in 1985, when the first antibody test for AIDS was developed. A large portion of the men had AIDS.

"It was a shock because at that time the AIDS virus was just a speculation and there was a hope that it was very rare," said Schechter. "At that moment we thought we were staring at a potentially massive epidemic rather than a rare phenomenon."

St Paul's Hospital was one of the few Vancouver hospitals accepting AIDS patients at the time. There was a wide range of expertise at the hospital from clinical trials to public health research, and to coordinate their efforts Schechter and his colleagues founded the CHTN. A year later, the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS.

While still involved with the Centre, Schechter has another project with CHTN. His program, the North American Opiate Medication Initiative (NAOMI), is the first medically supervised heroin trial in North America.

"NAOMI is an innovative and groundbreaking initiative in a North American context," said Mark Tyndall, an epidemiologist and infectious disease specialist, and a colleague of Schechter.

"The purpose of NAOMI is to evaluate the impact on the health and social stability of people who are provided medicinal heroin," said Tyndall.

This differs from a safe injection site which provides a place for people to inject outdoors with access to health and addiction services, he said.

Both Schechter and Tyndall continue to work on AIDS by investigating the transmission of disease among injection drug users in the Downtown East Side.

It's an epidemic, said Tyndall, and one which "we're largely unco- nscious prior to the work that Dr Schechter and others initiated at the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS."
We wish we looked half as cool as past staff of the Ubyssey. While we do score cute points, these people pull off their thick glasses, carefree hair and unruly beards with such complete nonchalance that our ironic trucker hats and track suits are put to shame. Kids today are obviously trying too hard and not drinking or smoking enough at their desks.
BC teachers' college fee boycott a union scare tactics, says Liberal MLA

by Stephen Hui
BRITISH COLUMBIA BUREAU

BURNABY, BC (CUP) - British Columbia's teachers are threatening to withhold their membership fees from a professional association over allegations that they were misused.

Seventy-six per cent of the province's 34,000 teachers have signed letters asking for refunds, and the teachers' union is demanding that the college's governing council from 15 elected teachers and five government appointees to 12 appointees and eight teachers. Twenty teachers have been appointed by the government to replace the council, which was being dismantled by the present government.

The legislation makes only the present profession in the province without control of their own college.

“Eventually,” the ministry said, “we will get elected, but don’t you say who will get elected,” said Gordon Comeau, the MLA for Westminster.

The legislation creates a process for the public to file complaints against teachers directly with the college. The government also claims the legislation is to increase accountability of the teachers' union.

“A new council will be formed next year. The first is. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening,” said Bob Lindsay, president of the BC Teachers' Federation.

“A majority of the council is appointed by the government. The remainder are elected from the teachers' union,” said Lindsay, who hopes educators, including school administrators, will be represented over 20 per cent of them is recommending its members pay their fees.

“We don’t think that they should be jeopardizing their employment status by withholding or delaying the payment of their fees,” said Bob Lindsay, president of the BC Principals' and Vice Principals' Association.

Rampant speculation about the future of the college is doing more harm than good, added Lindsay, who hopes educators, including school administrators, will be represented over 20 per cent of them is recommending its members pay their fees.

The college is responsible for establishing education standards for the province’s public school teachers, as well as issuing, suspending and revoking teaching certificates. It has about 54,000 members.

BC teachers’ college fee boycott creates unprecedented panaramas

by Robson Fletcher

A UBC student has developed software that can match digital images and "stitch" them together automatically.

What makes Matthew Brown's AutoStitch different from other image-stitching software is that it requires no user input. Given a set of images, it can automatically identify matches and stitch them into a panorama.

"One of the advantages of this thing is that you can generate huge images. I've done 25 megapixel images just by stitching together smaller images, which is bigger than any digital camera right now," said Brown, a PhD student in computer science.

AutoStitch can recognize and create multiple panaramas while at the same time ignoring unrelated or "noise" images.

It surpasses existing software that demands images in a fixed order and limits the ability to rotate or zoom, said computer science Professor David Lowe, Brown's PhD supervisor.

The software may eventually be integrated directly onto digital cameras, said Brown.

"I think that's the end of the game: when you look at any digital camera pixel at the back and you see basically the images being shown... and you go around and paint the whole panorama and you can see which bits you need to fill," he said. "I look forward to when that happens because I'll buy one."

But Lowe added that this technology is five to ten years away. In the meantime, Brown hopes to sell his software.

"We've had quite a bit of interest so far," he said. "Local companies have been interested in licensing it."

Brown will present his AutoStitch software at the tenth International Conference on Computer Vision in Nice, France, on October 16. After that he will be doing an internship at Microsoft with Rick Szeliski, a pioneer in the field of computer science research.
Protesters pan BC privatization efforts
Public-private partnerships called first step to sell-off

by Stephen Fisz

UBC's 2003 AGM proceedings will be webcast from UBC at Robson Square. All students, faculty and staff are invited to view and participate by submitting questions to the speakers and university administration via the web.

Special guest speaker: Alexandre (Sacha) Trudeau, B.C. Premier

You are also welcome to view the webcast of the AGM on campus at The Chan Centre in the Royal Bank Cinema. To do so, please RSVP to UBC's 2003 AGM. Special guest speaker: Alexandre (Sacha) Trudeau, B.C. Premier.

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For more information, please contact the study nurse at 604-875-4111 ext. 66797.

— Staff report

Characters up the wazoo

Tale of a small Irish village meets Hollywood in this hilarious play

STONES IN HIS POCKETS

by Hywel Tusciano and Donal Hanrahan

THEarts STAFF AND CULTURE WRITERS

The Playhouse's presentation of Marie Jones' "Stones In His Pockets" tells the story of a Hollywood film company's effects on a small Irish village, County Kerry. The production truly shines in its transitions as two actors on stage assume up to fifteen different roles and scenery swiftly changes through the Playhouse's consistently well-built set. The scene easily shifts from the main plot to hillside takes of the Hollywood crew trying to film in the countryside to contextual flashbacks in the middle of dialogue.

Both Vincent Gale and Dean Paul Gibson impress in challenging roles, particularly Gale's portrayal of a drug addicted local youth, drawing on his experience as a crystal queen in the popular TV series. Queen Asa Folk Gibson plays his characters with the same charisma he displayed portraying Mercutio in last season's "Romeo and Juliet." However, the Irish accents of the two actors are an odd mish-mash of dialects, perhaps partly as a result of the swift and frequent transitions between all the characters that they play. Though somewhat of a distraction for those who recognize a genuine Irish accent, it's doubtful that the majority of the audience were too concerned, thanks to the script that elicited much laughter from the full house.

Gale and Gibson are convincing and charismatic in their respective leads as Jake and Charlie, and are a marvel to watch as they transition into a plethora of characters: posture, accent and vocabulary dramatically shift in animated conversations with themselves. In one moment they are gossiping about the hot actress across the room and the next they are mesmerizing as they talk about what it means to be gay and working in Hollywood.

Though the set is more involved than the original UK production's bare stage, it is still simple enough to appropriately who the script's emphasis is. The play's hillside locations and misplaced dreams, while allowing smooth transitions between scenes. Ambition and big Hollywood dreams persist throughout the play but the audience is briefly punctuated by tragedy within the village.

The play does end on a hopeful note, however, as Gale and Gibson build moments of acceptance by a dream again.

Nothing but a moor-onic play

Delivery of Shakespeare's classic tragedy a grave disappointment

OTHELLO

by Hywel Tusciano and Donal Hanrahan

THEarts STAFF AND CULTURE WRITERS

The Arts Club theatre's production of "Othello" is a travesty but also a deliverable press pass, perhaps due to the wasted evening and unequivocally placed upon the play.

The key weakness in the portrayal of "Othello's" naivety, which is the audience eclipsed by the absurdity. At times, the dialogue was so audaciously insincere that it was impossible to love someone too well. In Shakespeare's "Othello," one would truly believe so. Probably one of Shakespeare's strongest tragedies alongside "Hamlet," "Othello" offers the appropriate opportunity to explore the deep recesses of love and hatred, breathing full life into the green-eyed monster known as jealousy. Unfortunately for the Arts Club theatre's production of "Othello," the only thing explored are the cast's reading abilities.

Being an obsessed fan of this particular work, I was excited to see the Arts Club's rendition of the masterful piece. But by the end of the three hour too long play, I honestly felt cheated despite having a complimentary press pass, perhaps due to the wasted evening and unequivocally placed upon the play. The lead performance of "Othello" is a travesty, as the audience was unable to grasp the butchering of the beautiful dynamic character of Othello. However, the Desdemona portrayed is generally unrecognizable despite the ruin of her marriage and the abuse she suffers. The only spark that Leitch lights is child-like defiance against the accusations of her husband despite facing certain death. Although it is common to play on the wildness of the war-fascinated noblewoman, any passion implemented in Desdemona in this case is a gross misinterpretation.

In an attempt to prove any acting talent in the production, Ben Bass took the reins by portraying the character of Michael Cassio to life. Though the performance was by no means exceptional, in comparison to the rest of the cast he was a saviour to acting as an art. His Pockets' tells the story of a Hollywood film company's effects on a small Irish village, County Kerry. The production truly shines in its transitions as two actors on stage assume up to fifteen different roles and scenery swiftly changes through the Playhouse's consistently well-built set. The scene easily shifts from the main plot to hillside takes of the Hollywood crew trying to film in the countryside to contextual flashbacks in the middle of dialogue. Both Vincent Gale and Dean Paul Gibson impress in challenging roles, particularly Gale's portrayal of a drug addicted local youth, drawing on his experience as a crystal queen in the popular TV series. Queen Asa Folk Gibson plays his characters with the same charisma he displayed portraying Mercutio in last season's "Romeo and Juliet." However, the Irish accents of the two actors are an odd mish-mash of dialects, perhaps partly as a result of the swift and frequent transitions between all the characters that they play. Though somewhat of a distraction for those who recognize a genuine Irish accent, it's doubtful that the majority of the audience were too concerned, thanks to the script that elicited much laughter from the full house.
Domo arigato Mr Tarantino

Kill Bill flick slices into everything good about campy samurai movies

by Greg Ursic

KILL BILL now playing

The Ubyssey

The driver in the other lane just cut you off and flipped you the bird. What do you do when someone does you wrong and you don’t know how to write a catchy song? Sages through the ages have advocated that we exercise restraint because if you’re set on revenge you’ll have to dig two graves.

But, every so often, there are those days when you just need to get mad and get even. And in the case of Quentin Tarantino’s fourth film, Kill Bill, there’s nothing sweeter than cutting that ignorant driver’s middle finger off with a freshly sharpened samurai blade.

For the bride, what should have been the happiest moment of her life is almost the end of it—embattled at her wedding by her former colleagues in the Deadly Viper Assassination Squad, she’s critically wounded and left for dead. Waking from her coma four years later she sets about writing up her to-do list, and that’s one day planner you don’t want to be scheduled in.

Uma Thurman is ideally cast as the bride. Her largely unperceived, English speaking persona with the character’s revenge-hungry drive and her soft spoken, unemotional leaves you slightly unsettled. Thurman undoubtedly did a lot of training to prepare for the physical requirements of the role as she equips herself quite well in the action sequences. Daryl Hannah, looking the worse for wear, has apparently found her niche delivering largely monosyllabic, stoic dialogue. It’s surely the first role where she borders on the believable. And of course there is Lucy Liu, who has made a career of playing off her pan-Asian characters with a proclivity for nastiness, except this time she goes the extra yard and takes a few heads in the process. It’s poetic.

Anybody familiar with Tarantino’s work knows that they’re in for a heavy dose of gut churning, and a little pompousness when the lights go down. This film is no exception. Thankfully, however, Kill Bill is not in the same verbal masturbatory vein that made movies like Jackie Brown virtually unwatchable. It offers other, positive ‘Tarantinoisms’ such as interesting characters, great action sequences and intertwining story lines that fold in on one another.

The initial transition from the kooky warm-up to brutal opening sequence leaves no doubt that the film is going to be an intense ride. Along the way, Tarantino pays homage to 70s martial arts films (evident in the casting of kung fu icon Sonny Chiba and Thurman’s character’s Game of Death inspired jump suit) and Japanese samurai cinema, turning their worst into best.

Ego and acting ability aside, the man must be recognised for his creativity. Tarantino utilises simple techniques to dramatic effect—skewed camera angles, quick edits and near monochromatic shots are powerful without being tacky. Depicted with something completely innovative is the extended biographical anime sequence which is brilliantly executed both literally and figuratively.

Tarantino manages, once again, to achieve an evocative near perfect synthesis of music and scenery which will prove successful in its assassination of the sales charts. The compilation of great tracks both old and new fits perfectly well on and off-screen.

This being the adrenaline installment of the series, you can expect gore-filled deaths with a gaudy touch of panache. It is a testament to his abilities that Tarantino is able to devise hyper-violent scenes that make you laugh and cringe. This is brilliantly executed both literally and figuratively.

Breaking out with something completely innovative is the extended biographical anime sequence which is brilliantly executed both literally and figuratively.

Tarantino delivers a film that is visually innovative, flows well, boosts astonishing action and makes great music. My only question is: why couldn’t this have been his third film?
Dissembled Assembly

History was made last week when the first of 158 citizens was elected to the new Citizen’s Assembly in Fort St. John. This is the first step towards acknowledging that the NDP needs a fundamental reform to provincial governance.

One man and one woman will be chosen from each riding in BC. The citizens will first learn about democracy and how democratically elected leaders. They will then hold public hearings to gather input and, after a period of deliberation, suggest a reformed electoral system be approved by a binding referendum during the May 2005 provincial election.

Oh, we know the current system has its problems. First past the post, the voting system in place now, is a simple system where the candidate with the most votes in a riding wins.

However, its simplicity masks glaring inequities; votes not for the candidates that win simply don’t count, forcing a voter to choose between the lesser of two evils—a Republican or a Democrat. In a contest between the left and right, the middle ground is left to be swept away by an incumbent party, like the Liberals.

And the popular vote is often not considered when choosing a governing party.

Let’s be clear about this. The most recent and jarring example is when the BC NDP won 21 seats in the last provincial election of the popular vote, though they gained 2.5 per cent of seats in the legislature.

On the contrary, we know that the creation of the Citizen’s Assembly is a motion by the governing party to correct that inequity, and to engage in a fair opposition to the BC Legislature.

But the idea of the Assembly comes from a BC Liberal promise before the 2001 election. It came from when the Liberals were defeated in the 1995 election by 33 seats to 33 seats, but actually won by a popular vote margin of 2.35 per cent. That is the glaring disparity that this Citizen’s Assembly is trying to rectify. This is a self-serving political exercise and has always been one.

Since gaining power, the Liberals have not been more venal, petty and gangrenous in destroying their opposition. Though the NDP had 21 per cent of the popular vote, the Liberals held a comfortable opposition status—with the money and staff that is necessary to have an opposition.

A national referendum is the last, important step towards the democratic process. By enacting this assembly, the Liberals will be rewarded for one thing: keeping a self-serving electoral promise.

But it’s happening. So, as citizens, we feel it’s our responsibility to keep the Assembly apolitical. Hey—at $150 a day, you could pay us to reform the đăng Iraq democracy.

A democratic reform should focus on the electoral system. The Assembly should not be looking to make specific changes, such as giving extra representation to the BC’s disenfranchised hinterland (read: anywhere but the Lower Mainland), nor should it seek to rebrand election wounds.

The voting system’s structure is often what gives rise to these inequities. A system that elects more than one seat to a riding might indirectly address these problems. An instant run-off system, where voters rank their candidates, accounts for votes outside the “majority”.

So far, the communism of this Citizens’ Assembly seems to be a step in an unspecified direction. The nebulous mandate and unspecified options for a reformed democracy leaves us wondering what the Liberal government wishes to achieve and how these changes will align with the current flawed and inequitable system.

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LETTERS

White Ribbon Campaign far from “pro-feminist”

I read with apprehension the Ubyssey article on the formation of a new resource group at UBC (“Students have Allies at UBC,” September 16). The Ubyssey quotes a representative describing the group as “pro-feminist.” Unfortunately, this claim is not supported by any information presented in the article.

The article is vague about the purported purpose of the Allies resource group. But it does state that the new group will put on the annual White Ribbon breakfast that was previously organized by a campus club. Participation in the White Ribbon campaign is a mistake.

The White Ribbon Campaign diversifies their attention away from feminists. It puts on glossy cross-Canada fundraising campaign reform with the uncomfortable reality of the Montreal Massacre and with few resources. Local chapters organise other fundraising efforts throughout the year. I don’t know how much of that money earns snow- day, but it raised over $25,000 in its first year. 1991. It seems that most of their income is spent on operating costs. What must be a fraction of the money, only about $50,000 per year, ends up being distributed to a variety of women’s run projects.

Besides taking money under the pretense of supporting an end to male violence against women (I think because there is little concrete aid to feminist), the WRC absorbs the labour of many women and men who might otherwise support feminist projects.

Any man serious about being an ally to women’s liberation should approach an autonomous feminist organisation and ask how he can help. I recommend Vancouver Rape Relief and Women’s Shelter. Rape Relief is in the business of helping women escape from brutal men. Rape Relief provides housing, paralegal assistance, counseling, court and hospital accompaniments, public education and many other important services.

Paul Carr

Electors for British Properties

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Citizen Assembly Reifs for British Properties

BENNIFER

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Objections to University Town Ignored

The Board of Governors recently approved a commercial/residential development on University Boulevard and East Mall in spite of widespread opposition from the university community. In public meetings over the spring and summer the university community expressed a unequivocal opposition to the concept of a “University Town” on the campus. Faculty in particular, expressed strong opposition in impassioned presentations at three public meetings.

UBC Properties Trust argued that the development will make the public entrance to the university more attractive, not only one thing: keeping a self-serving electoral promise.

But it’s happening. So, as citizens, we feel it’s our responsibility to keep the Assembly apolitical. Hey—at $150 a day, you could pay us to reform the đăng Iraq democracy.

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From the OHL to UBC

Mike Gough talks about NHL training camps, the OHL and UBC hockey

by Alexander Leung
SPORTS WRITER

As part of a rebuilding campaign this season, the UBC men's ice hockey team has added some valuable experience and leadership in 21-year-old former Oshawa Generals Right Winger Mike Gough. The 6 foot 3, 220 pound power forward will be a nice addition of size for a team that is relatively small down the middle.

The pride of Kingston, Ontario began his career in 1998 with the Toronto St Michaels of the Ontario Hockey League (OHL). In 2002, with the Oshawa Generals, Gough recorded his best season with 25 points in 62 games. He was an assistant captain for both teams.

How does UBC hockey stand up against the OHL? According to Gough, 'it seems like a quicker pace.' But it can probably never match the honour of being selected for an NHL training camp.

He has been in two NHL training camps, one with the San Jose Sharks, and most recently the Ottawa Senators' training camp. He has played alongside the likes of Jason Spezza, Daniel Alfredsson and Zdeno Chara.

Gough jokingly reflects on his training camp days. 'I thought I played well,' he said. 'I certainly picked a few fights.'

While being a high profile player, Gough's priority is a university education. Being an Arts student, his courses include criminology and psychology. After university, his long-term goal is to play professional hockey. Although the NHL is quite difficult, it is not unreasonable. Gough would also love to play in European or East Coast leagues. "Depending on the level, there are lots of opportunities after university," he says.

Coach Milan Dragicevic is the man responsible for bringing Mike Gough to UBC. "He made a phone call and seemed like a really nice guy. He was very positive and so were all the other players in the dressing room," explains Gough.

Like so many other potential students, he came here and he loved the place. Most importantly, he feels that "the team has a good opportunity this year to turn the organization around."

Gough was part of Coach Dragicevic's plan to bring players with specific skills to the team. But in the pre-season, so far the Hockey Birds have been flailing. They have yet to win a pre-season game but they have been facing some tough competition who they won't face in the regular season.

To make matters worse, Gough has been sitting out of practice with a mild concussion after slamming his head into the boards. With a little luck everything should be back to normal by October 17 when the Birds take on the University of Lethbridge at the Thunderbird Winter Sports Centre in their season opener.

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