An independent, non-profit, public service student press covering the University of British Columbia community since 1918.

The Ubyssey

Published in Vancouver, British Columbia, on the traditional, ancestral and stolen territories of the Coast Salish peoples including the xʷməθkʷəy'əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.

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Protesters Gather at AI Conference

By Community Reporters: **Madeleine Semple, Harper Jasinski, Suhani Dosanjh** & Senior Copy Editor & Deputy News Editor: **Saba Majd**

On Monday morning, going up the stairs of the AMS Student Nest was more challenging than usual.

Dozens of protesters huddled on the landing. Some wore pointy green hats while others rattled pots and pans. "Big tech, hell no," they chanted. Private security guards stood between them and the Great Hall, where tech professionals and aficionados sporting conference lanyards chatted casually.

The demonstrators had gathered in the Nest in opposition to the Global Summit AI Vancouver 2026 — a two-day event self-advertised as a place for "bold ideas, practical insights, and meaningful connections," offering a range of activities from startup pitch showcases and workshops expert panels to "fireside chats."

In the lead up to the summit, posters advertising an "AI Summit Shutdown" protest began appearing throughout campus and in social media. They invited students to "Bring joyful noise to drown out the AI summit and celebrate humanity carnival-style." Multiple student groups collaborated on the protest, including Climate Justice UBC, Palestine Solidarity Action, the UBC Social Justice Centre, the No AI UBC Committee, and the UBC Greens.

Continued on page 4.

STUDENT SENATORS WEIGHING PROPOSAL TO DEDICATE SEATS FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

By **Omera Mohsin**
Governance Reporter

The Indigenous Student Society wants to see more representation in the Vancouver Senate, but its specific proposed pathway hasn't secured unanimous support from the Student Senate Caucus (SSC). AMS Council was expected to discuss endorsing the move on Nov. 4, but deferred debate to their next meeting on Nov. 25.

UBC's Vancouver Senate is the university's highest academic governing body. Their responsibilities include creating policies that affect admissions, approving course curriculums, and creating new departments. The Senate has over 80 faculty, staff, and alumni representatives, 18 of whom are student senators — one representative for each faculty plus five for students-at-large.

All student senators are members of the SSC, a group that aims to bring a united student voice to Senate. Previously, the SSC was mandated by AMS Bylaw Six, though that was repealed in 2013. Since then, the caucus has operated independently from the student union, but its co-chairs have a seat on the AMS University Advocacy Committee.

Since October, the SSC has been considering a proposal from the Indigenous Student Society to amend the Senate's composition. It's advocating for two of the five student-at-large seats to be dedicated to Indigenous students: one for undergraduate Indigenous students and the other for Indigenous graduate students.

The initiative — the result of discussions between ISS executives and members — was approved at the organization's general council meeting last month. ISS President Chelsea Neepin told The Ubyssey that all interested Indigenous students were welcome to participate.

Neepin said the purpose of the proposal is to amplify Indigenous voices in UBC governance — which she said is consistent with with the first goal of UBC's Indigenous Strategic Plan, to "prioritize the advancement of Indigenous peoples' human rights and respect for Indigenous peoples at all levels of UBC's leadership and accountability structure."



AMS President Evans, ISS President Neepin and ISS Councillor Tourangeau spoke before council was set to discuss endorsing the proposal. The discussion was deferred to next Council without an explanation. Ashley Manhão Izidro for *The Ubyssey*

The plan, released in 2020, aims to support the university in "becoming a leading voice in the implementation of Indigenous peoples' human rights" as defined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other sources of international law.

"This is a way to ensure that Indigenous perspectives are valued and heard here at UBC," Neepin said. She added that developments in B.C.'s political climate underscore the need to thoughtfully consider Indigenous representation, pointing to Premier-designate Lorne Doerkson and the BC Conservatives' promise to repeal the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA).

The First Nations Leadership Council has called for Doerkson's incoming government to keep DRIPA as the framework for reconciliation in British Columbia. In a news release, Union of British Columbia Indigenous Chiefs President Grand Chief Stewart Phillip said, "We are at a historical crossroads: Battleground B.C. or reconciliation through the principles and road map of the [DRIPA]."

Continued on page 5.

WHERE TO EAT?

Check out the latest food reviews from our Food Critic and Deputy Arts & Culture Editor Jack Paransky. *Page 12.*





SPORTS | GAME ANALYSIS | Page 15

3 Years of Conference Ownership

The upstart Wolf Pack have given the Birds fits this season, but in the final, UBC showed TRU who owns Canada West with a 3–1 win.

SPORTS | GAME ANALYSIS | Page 14

Kings of the West, Once Again

The incredible Brennen Fuerst drags the Thunderbirds across the finish line in the most evenly-matched game of the season.

NEWS | Page 05

Long-Distance Students Paying Extra Fees after Changes to AMS Code

AMS Vice-President Finance Nathan Shack said this was an "unintended consequence," and called the issue a top priority.

ARTS | REVIEW | Page 10

The Last Living Pickpocket in N.Y.

Noah Segan's new film paints a captivating, long-gone image of New York City. Perhaps that's all it does.

NEWS | Page 05

Ottawa Issues New Penalties for Immigration Misconduct

Penalties begin at $5,000 and could be of up to $1.5 million. Canada's immigration agency says they are meant to protect applicants from fraudsters, UBC advisors called them "a positive step."

ARTS | REVIEW | Page 10

Dracula

Arts Club's comedic staging of the Bram Stoker tale is extravagant in appearance, but humble in intent.

It's your campus, stay informed.

Read *The Ubyssey*.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The date printed in the folio of all pages says November 9, 2026, 2026. *The Ubyssey* regrets this error, it could not be corrected for this edition due to issues with Adobe Indesign and lost files.

A Guide to Carney's New Budget

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Ubyssey's* news reporters are breaking down the Canadian 2026 federal budget's 511 pages into short explainers to guide you through the document — topic by topic. We have focused on economic policy, health care, transportation, climate & energy, housing, immigration, research, and technology.

Last Thursday, Canada's Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne wore new shoes and tabled the second federal budget of Prime Minister Mark Carney's tenure — titled Masters of Our Destiny.

"Canadians know that we are living through extraordinary times. The rules we counted on no longer seem to hold ... But Canada has met moments like this before ... As Canadians, we know how to turn global volatility into national opportunity," Champagne said in a speech to Parliament that day.

In a press release accompanying the budget, the federal government said their plan "catalyzes growth," "delivers for people," and "strengthens Canada's sovereignty." Carney and Champagne are betting on the country's projected growth by taking on more debt to invest in large infrastructure projects and cut taxes on businesses.

Even after calling six by-elections, Carney's Liberals hold 173 seats in the House of Commons — just enough to ensure the budget is approved by Parliament (172 is the minimum for a majority).

That has not stopped opposition parties from criticizing the proposed budget.

In a speech to Parliament, Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre argued the budget should have been titled "Mastered by Debt." He said "the first priority of this budget should have been to save Canadians money ... This is a costly credit card budget that Canadians can't afford."

In French, the budget is titled Maître chez nous, a popular slogan from the "Révolution tranquille" — a period of significant political reforms in '60s Quebec. Bloc Québécois Leader Yves-François Blanchet has criticized the budget for utilizing the name while failing, in his view, to respond to the demands of Quebec's government.

The Bloc's position on the budget compounds tensions between Ottawa and Quebec after the election of Paul St-Pierre Plamondon as the latter's premier last month. Despite holding a minority government, PSPP has continued to promise a referendum on Quebec's separation.

Two weeks ago, PSPP withdrew from the Canada-EU summit in Montreal, after Carney denied him the possibility of a speech. This tension could impact Ottawa's focus on sovereignty.

NDP Leader Avi Lewis — who does not yet have a seat at the legislature — told CTV News "Christmas came early for the billionaires," criticizing what he considered a lack of consideration toward affordability measures, as compared to "business incentives."

Green Party Leader Elizabeth May called the budget a "mega-nothing burger," arguing it has more "buzzwords than substance."

If the vote on the budget fails, which is unlikely given the Liberal's majority, Carney will have to dissolve parliament and call a general election.

Even if approved, Masters of Our Destiny's execution will depend on budget implementation acts (BIAs) and interim supply acts, both of which are independent bills that have to go pass three readings and get royal assent.

Read our full piece — *"A 5,000 word guide to 500+ pages of the budget"* — at *ubyssey.ca/news*.

Callout from News:

Deputy News Editor Saba Majd and Community Reporter Madeleine Semple are working on an investigation of UBC's handling of sexual misconduct (violations of SC17) reports. If you (or someone you know) have experienced sexual misconduct at UBC and feel comfortable sharing information about your experience with UBC's support systems (the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office, the Investigations' Office, and Office of the University Counsel), please reach out to *news@ubyssey.ca*. If you wish to remain anonymous to the publication, submit a tip at forms.*ubyssey.ca/tips*.



News

UBC Scientists Call on Ottawa to Amend Building Canada Strong Act

The federal government says the bill will speed up projects of national interest. Several UBC scientists are warning it will endanger the environment and Indigenous rights.



Aleah Kippan for *The Ubyssey*

By Jhalak Garg
Climate Reporter

Prime Minister Carney has called Bill C-39 the most consequential piece of economic legislation in his tenure to date. But scientists across the country, including at UBC, have written to him saying that in its current form, the bill will cause "irreparable harms to species, ecosystems, natural resources, and human wellbeing and health."

Bill C-39, formally the Building Canada Strong Act, is a proposed federal law introduced to the House of Commons on Sept. 21.

Fifty-six fellows of the Royal Society of Canada — Canada's senior national and bilingual academy for distinguished scientists, artists, and scholars — are calling on the federal government to amend the bill. They say it could weaken environmental protections, warning that efforts to accelerate major infrastructure projects could come at the expense of Canada's biodiversity and natural ecosystems.

The fellows outlined their concerns and recommendations in an open letter dated Oct. 22. UBC Professors Sarah Otto, Rashid Sumaila, and Villy Christensen have signed the letter.

The Ubyssey spoke to Otto, who outlined six areas of concern in Bill C-39: allowing preliminary construction activities before environmental assessments are completed; permitting financial compensation in place of restoring damaged fish habitats; making environmental conditions subject to economic and practical feasibility; expanding the designation of regions of national interest; imposing a one-year timeline for project assessments; and granting individual ministers greater authority to over environmental conditions.

Concerns about Bill C-39 have also been voiced by Indigenous leaders and organizations who question whether the bill would adequately protect their rights to participate in decisions affecting their traditional territories.

In a joint statement on Oct. 8, the Chiefs of Ontario, the B.C. Assembly of First Nations, the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador, and Nishnawbe Aski Nation said the legislation would "override the inherent Treaty and constitutionally-protected rights of First Nations." They also criticized the federal government's push to pass the bill before Indigenous communities had sufficient opportunity to scrutinize it.

"First Nations' rights and responsibilities are inseparable from the health of the lands, water, fish, wildlife, and ecosystems that have sustained First Nations peoples since time immemorial. Accelerating project approvals cannot mean weakening the safeguards intended to protect them," the statement reads. "Any path towards economic growth must respect First Nations rights, jurisdiction, and responsibilities to lands and waters."

The federal government says the changes would make project reviews more efficient while maintaining environmental standards and respecting Indigenous rights. It argues that overlapping regulatory requirements and lengthy approval processes can discourage investment and delay economic development.

But that assurance has not allayed concerns among some members of Canada's scientific community.

Environment Minister Julie Dabrusin has maintained that the legislation would preserve existing environmental assessment requirements and safeguards.

According to the federal government's explanation of the bill, the legislation would establish a maximum one-year timeline for federal reviews and decisions once project proponents have submitted their comprehensive applications and finalized studies. It would also introduce a single federal approval process to establish regions of national interest to facilitate coordinated development. The government maintains that environmental standards and Indigenous rights will remain protected throughout the process.

Dr. Otto said the compressed assessment timeline could limit the opportunity for scientists and regulators to identify and consider less harmful alternatives. "[The] one-year timeline prevents that back-and-forth interaction that makes sure not just that a project gets built, but that the best projects get built."

She added that the review period may not provide sufficient time to identify missing research or request additional investigations into complex ecosystems.

As part of their proposed amendments, the government says it "will explicitly allow timelines to be extended to complete Indigenous consultations." It remains unclear whether that would apply to environmental assessments.

Another concern raised in the fellows' letter involves provisions in the bill that would allow preliminary activities like dredging, site clearing and road construction, to begin before a full a impact assessment is completed.

"If you're clearing and building a road, you're already having the impact," Dr. Otto said. She also said the "law is too vague" when it comes to defining preliminary activities and questioned what could be approved as such.

The letter also challenges propozed changes to the Fisheries Act that would allow companies to pay fees to offset harmful effects on fish and fish habitats rather than necessarily restore affected areas directly.

Dr. Otto said environmental protection should follow a mitigation hierarchy, which she explained as first avoiding damage wherever possible, followed by minimizing unavoidable impacts, and repairing affected habitats. Only then would offsets be considered.

A 2025 report on the protection of critical habitats for species from the Auditor General of Canada found that Fisheries and Oceans Canada had not assessed whether its habitat offsetting plans were effective overall. More than half of the studies needed to fully identify critical habitats were overdue while federal departments had limited records of whether conversation measures were working.

Dr. Otto shared a similar assessment. "Canada has a really bad track record with offsetting," she said.

Concerns raised by the fellows extend beyond individual ecosystems to the broader implications of allowing the federal government to designate regions of national interest.

Under the original Building Canada Act, the federal government had five years to designate projects as being in the national interest, after which it could no longer add new projects. Bill C-39 would remove that time limit, allowing the government to continue making such designations beyond the original five-year period.

Dr. Otto said that these provisions would give Dabrusin the power to dismiss environmental conditions attached to projects designated as being in the national interest.

The potential consequences are particularly concerning for coastal ecosystems, said Beatrice Frank, executive director of Georgia Strait Alliance, a nonprofit environmental organization dedicated to the marine environment of the Georgia Strait.

In an interview with The Ubyssey, Frank cited the Roberts Bank Terminal Two, a proposed expansion of the Port of Vancouver, as an example of a project that could be affected by the legislation. The project has undergone an extensive environmental assessment, identifying potential impacts on salmon, Chinook populations and migratory birds.

A few days after Frank's interview, the project was designated as one of national interest.

Frank said Bill C-39 would allow decisions-makers to reconsider or remove existing environmental conditions attached to projects. She also warned that increased industrial activity could add to environmental pressures that already threatened marine life in the region.

For instance, she spoke about the cumulative effects of industrial development on the Salish Sea, particularly for the endangered southern resident killer whales, which face existing pressures from underwater noise.

"The Salish Sea has already reached a threshold of underwater noise that is beyond the species' survival," Frank said.

But while these whales are often the poster child when advocating for this issue, Frank also named other species that could also be impacted.

"It's salmon, it's herrings, it's kelp, it's all of our communities that then will be affected by those big expansions," she said.

Beyond environmental impacts, Frank is not sure whether shorter consultation timelines would allow Indigenous governments and smaller organizations sufficient opportunity to participate "meaningfully" in decisions affecting their territories.

While acknowledging that Indigenous communities can face overwhelming consultation demands, Frank said requiring multiple complex consultations within a single year could further limit their capacity to respond.

"Consultation is a two-way discussion around important pieces of legislation, and this is not allowed when the timeline is so compressed."

The government argues that its proposed Crown Consultation Hub within the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada would help coordinate consultations across federal departments and reduce administrative burdens on Indigenous communities.

Keith Stewart, a senior energy strategist with Greenpeace Canada, told The Ubyssey he questions the federal government's argument that fossil fuel developments are necessary for Canada's economic security. He said Canada is better off pursuing renewable energies if energy independence is the goal.

"Wind and solar are the cheapest forms of energy in the world right now, and you cannot blockade the wind or sun in the Strait of Hormuz," he said.

Stewart said the consequences of the legislation extend beyond the policy itself: "It's your health, it's your future, and it's your future livelihood."

Federal government spokesperson Kathryn Serieux said, "The proposed changes under Bill C-39 are designed to help project proponents successfully and responsibly build projects. These will boost Canada's economy while upholding environmental standards and respect for Indigenous rights," in a statement sent to The Ubyssey after publication. She added that "projects will continue to follow existing laws and regulations for federal approvals, including environmental reviews."

The Build Canada Strong Act is set to undergo a review by a special committee of House of Commons this month.

EXTENDED BYLINE

Juan Pablo Sastoque Vega was this story's backfield editor. **Sophie Gunn** was the copy editor. **Aleah Kippan** took the photos. **Irisa Rao** designed this page in print.

YVR Workers Head into Bargaining with Privatization Hanging over Them

Speakers at the Saturday rally said they have seen no details of the federal plan to bring private investors into Canada's four largest airports.



Aleah Kippan for *The Ubyssey*

By Naomi Brown
Transportation Reporter

"Whose airport? Our airport!" the crowd shouted outside Vancouver International Airport on Oct. 31 to oppose the federal government's plan to bring private investors into airport operations.

The plan was announced by Prime Minister Mark Carney at the Canada Investment Summit in September. He said the federal government "will seek private investment through long-term concessions to operate Canada's four largest airports" in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal.

A news release from the Prime Minister's Office says the "tens of billions of dollars" raised would be reinvested in infrastructure like regional airports and local transportation. Speakers at the rally said the government has not shared enough detail about what it's proposing.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) and one of its components, the Union of Canadian Transportation Employees (UCTE), organized the rally alongside airport workers, politicians, activists, and members of the public.

YVR is currently run by the Vancouver Airport Authority, a private corporation that doesn't sell shares and reinvests its profits into the airport and community. It makes its financial statements publicly available and pays rent to the federal government. Devin Glass — president of PSAC Local 20221, which represents about 1,000 workers at YVR — said airport authorities across Canada return roughly $500 million to $525 million a year in federal rents.

Business in Vancouver reported on Oct. 27 that the Musqueam Indian Band, private investors, and government representatives were in "early-stage discussions" about YVR's operations.

UCTE National President Barry Tchir said in an interview with The Ubyssey that his first concern is that no one knows the direction private investors might take the airport in. "We have no idea what their plan is or what their mandate will be," he said. He added that YVR already runs efficiently, and that private investors will want a return that has to come from somewhere, possibly community support, jobs or safety regulations. Tchir said the airport's finances are currently public, and he fears that would end under private operators.

"Over 26,000 people work on Sea Island, so it has a trickle down effect to a lot of people," he said.

Sharon DeSousa, national president of PSAC, came from Ottawa to speak at the event. She told The Ubyssey that she doesn't know the government's plan, only that it's opening the airport to private investors. "The monies, the revenues that come from this should be reinvested into YVR. It shouldn't go into private investors' profits and their pockets," DeSousa said.

Glass, who has worked at the airport authority since 2004, said job security is the main worry among members. Their contract expires Dec. 31, and Glass said it will be a bargaining priority.

"I want Canada to invest in us and ensure that the workers and the public are protected. I was at the bargaining table with YVR in 2016 when the government was looking to privatize at that time. It appears to be something they like to explore every single decade," Glass said.

Don Davies, NDP MP for Vancouver Kingsway, was not on the speaking list but was invited to say a few words. He expressed solidarity with the "sisters and brothers" of PSAC-UCTE "on behalf of Avi Lewis, our federal leader, and the entire NDP caucus." He said "selling off public assets is no way to build a country strong," and argued privatization would mean higher costs for travellers, layoffs and reduced services.

Jenny Kwan, NDP MP for Vancouver East, couldn't attend and instead sent a written statement. It was read aloud: "YVR is not for sale." Two newly elected Richmond city councillors, Sheldon Starrett and Kevin Lai, also attended.

Starrett, who described himself as a conservative, told The Ubyssey he was there on his own and doesn't see privatization as a partisan issue. He said he's worried about affordability for local businesses and consumers, particularly seafood and fruit exporters in Richmond and Delta that ship through YVR. He said a private operator could add surcharges and fees for businesses and travellers, and that he expects food prices to rise as a result.

Starrett also said opposition parties and the cities on the YVR board, Vancouver and Richmond, haven't had time to study the plan and haven't been "adequately consulted."

A student from Douglas College said they enjoy participating in labour movements and protests, because it makes them feel connected to people and like they are making a difference.

Tchir ended his speech by asking attendees to "contact [their] Member of Parliament. Ask them to demonstrate how privatization would make air travel better or more affordable," he said. "Tell them we need answers about costs, jobs, safety, and the future of their airports. Tell them that the airport workers and communities deserve a say."

EXTENDED BYLINE

Saba Majd was this story's backfield editor. **London Clark** was the copy editor. **Aleah Kippan** took the photos. **Irisa Rao** designed this page in print.

Attendees, Protesters Find Common Ground Outside AI Conference

Protestors said the demonstration was a celebration of how "silly" humans can be as they chanted "big tech, hell no." Inside, small entrepreneurs and software engineers discussed the future of AI. Some attendees even shared agreement with the protestors.

By Community Reporters: Madeleine Semple, Harper Jasinski, & Suhani Dosanjh
& By Senior Copy Editor & Deputy News Editor: Saba Majd



Aleah Kippan for *The Ubyssey*



Jason Zhang for *The Ubyssey*

Alex Dabbs was one of the most vocal participants on Monday, leading the crowd's march throughout the Nest and delivering speeches.

"The AMS is supposed to be our student union, and yet they seem to just follow the interests of big tech corporations," Dabbs said through a megaphone during the protest. "Here today is the wife of the prime minister, Diana Carney, UBC officials, [and] representatives from major U.S. tech companies. This is not a space for that ... That is not acceptable. That is despicable."

Diana Fox Carney, an economist and wife of Prime Minister Carney, delivered the summit's opening remarks. The conference also brought speakers from companies such as Google DeepMind, Microsoft, Anthropic, Meta, and Cohere, as well as UBC staff and faculty. Nonetheless, the summit mostly featured researchers, software engineers, data scientists and small entrepreneurs, the most notable exception being Andrej Zdravkovic, AMD's Senior Vice President & Chief Software Officer. Rabab Ward, professor emeritus of electrical engineering at UBC, had a unique perspective on the protest. Her lanyard marked her as a summit attendee, but she walked with the protestors as they chanted, observing. "We have to learn about AI," she told *The Ubyssey*. "The most important [thing] is how to control it, and ... the government and the CEOs of the big tech [companies] don't want to be controlled. But it doesn't mean the technology itself is bad."

Ward thought many would agree with what the protestors were saying. "The big tech [companies] are really in bed with Trump and these governments. And that's of course wrong, because there have to be checks and balances."

Last week, The Guardian reported the world's first trillionaire, Elon Musk, spent US$446 million to help elect Republican candidates in the United States midterm elections. Most of Musk's money went to Texas, home to his car manufacturer Tesla and rocket-maker-to-AI company SpaceX.

The historic investment will pay little dividends, as Democratic nominees James Talarico and Gina Hinojosa are projected to become the next United States senator from Texas and the state's governor, respectively. Talarico and Hinojosa's are the first state-wide victories for the Democrats since 1990.Hijonosa has pledged to put in place a moratorium on data centres in Texas.

On Monday, students inside the Nest moved up the stairs and began to march around the third floor. "No big tech in our Student Nest," they shouted, later switching to "We need water, not data centres." They sang Bella Ciao, accompanied by fiddles and harmonicas.

The summit and the protest weren't the only events happening in the Nest that day: two floors below, the Mexican Student Association (MEXSA) — an AMS Club — was hosting their Day of the Dead celebration. This year, it involved collaboration with the Consul General of Mexico in Vancouver and a performance from Cirque du Soleil. MEXSA President Tayde Asbun said she had been working on the celebration for months and was worried the protest would cause problems for their event.

"I found out about the protest two days ago ... I started taking [down] all the posters," Asbun told *The Ubyssey*. "Of course, we are also against AI, but this is a huge event for us. This is the biggest celebration of the Mexican culture ... we don't want this to get out of hand. We don't want security."

She said both protesters and summit organizers had been cooperative when it came to sharing the space, with protestors moving their banner away from the student association's flags and summit workers providing MEXSA executives passes to access all areas freely.

Around noon, the protestors moved outside to congregate on the hill in front of the Nest. Some sat in a circle, singing anti-war songs and making signs with paint and cardboard. Others stood further up the hill talking.

Josephine Trigg and Sadie Musselman, both first-year forestry students,took part in the art circle.

"I like the idea that this is a celebration of humanity because AI can be very dehumanizing," Trigg said. "It's unregulated ... there are so many things happening, and these big tech companies aren't being stopped by anything."

When asked about the gnome hats protestors wore, Musselman described them as a "celebration of how silly" humans can be. "If we use our creativity ... it can create a lot of joy and whimsy."

Marcus MacGregor, the writer of the daily UBC Bus Loop pamphlets, briefly observed the protest. He told *The Ubyssey* he is "glad to see people out, doing a good thing."

Luka Santiago, president of the UBC Greens, was also in attendance at the protest. In a written statement to *The Ubyssey* after the event, Santiago criticized the event's pricing, describing it as a "searing indication" that it was "simply not designed for UBC students." Two-day access to the summit started at $349 for a general pass. VIP access was priced at $1699. Santiago said that while the UBC Greens were not involved in initial protest organization, they joined after being "disappointed with the AMS Council's decision to let this event happen within the AMS Nest."

"[The Nest] was not designed to be an avenue for American tech corporations to advance their own interests, whose operations involve participating in genocide and environmental destruction."

One of the protestors' main talking points was the presence of representatives from multinational technology corporations like Cisco and Nvidia at the summit. Protestor Dayla Hart criticized the event for featuring Abhishek Kumar, a senior engineering leader at Cisco. Kumar delivered a speech titled Agents Work in Demos. What Breaks in Production? earlier that morning.

"Cisco is absolutely integral to the genocide of Palestinians, and big tech companies in general have been really profiting off the death of Palestinians and the stealing of their lands ... This is techno-colonization," Hart said.

The American Friends Service Committee, which tracks United States companies that have provided Israel with military equipment, has listed Cisco as having sold Israel US$2 million in servers and "professional services." This summer, the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission found that Cisco had likely violated the civil rights of Southwest Asian, North African, and Muslim employees by failing to address hateful rhetoric on company forums online.

While standing on the stairs listening to another protestor speak, Hart held a sign that read "Cisco and big AI are complicit in genocide." A woman walked up to Hart and smeared it until it was illegible. "She said 'there is no genocide' and called me a jihadist ... I was not physically harmed, but she did destroy my sign."

Inside the Great Hall, UBC students and Global Summit volunteers Jeffery Qi, Carter Chung, and Jared Shum lingered by the water cooler. For the three first-year students, volunteering was a way to network with tech professionals and get to know the AI landscape. Shum said he was eager to speak with AMD's Zdravkovic but was unable to.

When asked about the protestors outside, Qi expressed support. "We are in Canada ... This is a place where freedom of speech is absolutely encouraged, and they were doing it in a very peaceful way ... I think that should be encouraged at a place like UBC," he said.

Shum was more critical of the protestors than Qi. "I completely understand their point and where they're coming from ... But when I asked [them] specific questions about content, they wouldn't really respond." Shum claimed he was "verbally attacked" in response to his questions.

He said "these types of protests" tend to focus on the negative aspects of AI over its benefits. "I'm sure that every single person that's ever used the hospital or any other type of infrastructure that is provided by the government has always [benefitted from] using AI to actually help them,"he said.

The Government of Canada currently uses AI-based models to accelerate applications for temporary and permanent residence.

In a blog post by the Canadian Medical Association, they outline how AI is being used to diagnose patients early, analyze DNA samples, and monitor vitals across the country. However, they say "some AI programs have been known to 'hallucinate,', providing information that's inaccurate and, at times, just plain weird," and recommend human medical professionals are always trusted first.

"The reason [protesters] are able to live right now is because of these systems that use AI," Shum claimed.

When asked whether he believed general attitudes on campus towards AI were better aligned with protestors or summit attendees, Chung said he thought neither group accurately represented UBC students as a whole.

"They're both extremes on either side ... I don't know if either of us are a good representation of how people feel about it."

The Ubyssey reached out to AMS VP Administration William Sparks for comment on the event. When asked what the UBC community stood to gain from the summit, he said events held in the Nest raise revenue for the AMS and its businesses.

Sparks said the AMS "does not make or cancel any bookings based on ideology ... given that the event does not have the effect of promoting discrimination, hate speech, or violence according to AMS policies or relevant legislation."

In response to the UBC Greens' criticism, Sparks said they currently have no policies against hosting commercial events. "As this event did not breach any of our internal policies or legislation, we did not see sufficient cause to cancel the event. However, we appreciate that different students might have their own opinions on companies with a presence on campus and absolutely have a right to express those beliefs.

EXTENDED BYLINE

Juan Pablo Sastoque Vega was this story's backfield editor. **Saba Majd** was the copy editor. **Jason Zhang** and **Aleah Kippan** took the photos. **Irisa Rao** designed this page in print.

BC Supreme Court Dismisses Professor's Lawsuit Over Research Grant

The judge found the dispute falls under UBC's collective agreement with the Faculty Association and dismissed the case.

By Danylo Korsei
Law Reporter



Dr. Christopher Shaw's case against UBC was dismissed on October 22. Aleah Kippan for *The Ubyssey*

The Supreme Court of British Columbia has dismissed a UBC professor's lawsuit alleging the university mismanaged his research funding after it placed him on unpaid leave because he was not vaccinated against Covid-19.

The decision came on Oct. 22 — but the court did not decide whether any of the professor's allegations are true. Justice F. Matthew Kirchner concluded that the dispute belongs before a labour arbitrator, rather than a civil court.

In March 2025, Dr. Christopher Shaw — a tenured professor in UBC's Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences who has researched amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) for about 30 years — filed a civil claim against the university.

In February 2021, Shaw secured US$219,069.40 from Neurodegenerative Research Inc. (NDR), which his claim describes as one of the largest private funders of ALS research. The grant contract was between NDR and UBC — Shaw was named project lead but was not a party to the contract. He was responsible for leading the research and accounting for the funds, while UBC was responsible for supervising how the money was used and reporting to NDR — typical procedure with research grants.

Shaw began the research in June 2021. On Oct. 14 of that year, B.C.'s provincial health officer issued a public health order barring people who weren't vaccinated against Covid-19 from Vancouver Coastal Health Authority facilities, where Shaw's lab was located. Shaw had chosen not to be vaccinated and could no longer enter.

According to his claim, he asked UBC to move the project to UBC-owned property, not covered by the order, and UBC refused. He says he warned the university his reputation would suffer if he couldn't continue the NDR-funded work.

UBC put Shaw on unpaid leave on Dec. 10, 2021, telling him it was because he couldn't access the lab his work required. He says the projects were about 50 per cent complete and on track to finish on time. The Faculty Association, his labour association, filed a grievance over the leave in April 2024 — but withdrew it in January 2025. The court's decision doesn't mention why.

Shaw alleged that while he was on leave, his staff worked without supervision and made little progress, the project missed its completion date, and UBC failed to report to NDR.

In June 2022, UBC appointed another professor to oversee the work, and in August it agreed with NDR to make that professor the project lead. Shaw claimed the new lead did not supervise his staff or submit reports to NDR, and that UBC and the professor diverted some of the funds to unrelated projects without NDR's consent. He also alleged NDR asked UBC about the project's status in August 2022 and May 2023 and got no response.

UBC moved Shaw's lab to UBC-owned property in May 2023, and he returned to work. He said that's when he discovered the unfinished research and the diverted funds. According to his claim, NDR told him in June 2023 that he and UBC had breached the grant contract, and that it would not fund any future projects involving either of them.

Shaw argued the fallout damaged his reputation in the ALS research community and his ability to win grants. He said he is no longer invited to ALS panels or conferences, that his ability to publish and train researchers has dropped, and that his earning capacity has fallen. He attributes the losses to how UBC managed the grant after putting him on leave.

Shaw sued UBC on the grounds that it induced him to breach a fiduciary duty he owed to NDR, and that UBC intentionally interfered with his economic interests by deliberately breaching its own contract with NDR to harm him. Though the claim doesn't say so directly, the judge wrote that it suggests UBC acted because Shaw is an outspoken critic of Covid-19 vaccines and vaccine mandates, and to protect its own government funding. The claim "implies that UBC intentionally sought to harm Dr. Shaw's reputation to protect UBC's own funding sources," Justice Kirchner wrote.

UBC denied the allegations. In its response to the claim, the university said it was Shaw's personal choice not to be vaccinated — not anything UBC did — that kept him out of his lab, and that he has no standing to allege a breach of a contract he wasn't a party to. In June 2026, UBC applied to have the claim struck, arguing the dispute is really about Shaw's employment, which is governed by its collective agreement with the Faculty Association. The application was heard Oct. 6.

Kirchner dismissed the claim in its entirety and awarded costs to UBC.

On the fiduciary duty issue, the judge found it is "plain and obvious that Dr. Shaw could not possibly owe a fiduciary duty to NDR." A fiduciary duty is a legal obligation to act in another party's best interests. Kirchner wrote that Shaw never promised to act in NDR's best interests — at most, he agreed to lead and conduct the research NDR was funding.

Such a duty, Kirchner added, would conflict with Shaw's academic freedom as a university professor. A fiduciary must put the beneficiary's interests above all others, and a researcher "must go where the science takes them," even when that isn't what is best for the funder. "It is inconceivable that a university professor would (or could) sacrifice all other interests in the conduct of their research to act only in the best interests of an entity that funds their research."

On the second claim — that of intentional interference with economic interests — the judge looked at the "essential character" of the dispute. Under section 84(2) of the Labour Relations Code, every collective agreement must include a process, such as arbitration, to settle all disputes over the agreement's interpretation, application, or alleged violation without a work stoppage. When a dispute arises from a collective agreement, courts lack jurisdiction over it.

Kirchner found that Shaw's research, and decisions about where it was done and how it was supervised, fall under the collective agreement between UBC and the Faculty Association. He wrote that the essential character of the claim is that UBC managed and directed the NDR-funded work "in a way that was purposefully intended to cause harm to him."

Shaw argued the claim is really about UBC's failure to meet its obligations to NDR and to account for the grant money, which the collective agreement doesn't cover. Kirchner accepted that some pieces, such as reporting to NDR and possibly diverting funds, might fall outside the agreement, but said the claim has to be considered as a whole. An alleged intent to harm Shaw, he wrote, doesn't change the underlying actions.

Kirchner wrote that Shaw's remedy is to pursue his claim through arbitration under the collective agreement. The ruling does not address whether arbitration is still open to him.

In an email to The Ubyssey, Shaw said he and his lawyer, Umar Sheikh, view the decision as "badly flawed." He took issue with what he described as the judge's framing of the case as a Covid-19 issue, which he said it is not. He said they are exploring next legal steps but did not specify.

When asked for comment, UBC said it is pleased with the court's decision. "We believe that the dispute resolution processes in our collective agreements are the appropriate way to handle employment-related disputes," the university said. UBC declined to comment further, citing potential future legal proceedings.

EXTENDED BYLINE

Saba Majd was this story's backfield editor. **London Clark** and **Alicia Wendland** were the copy editors. **Aleah Kippan** took the photo. **Sophia Clearwater** designed the page in print.

Student Senators Weighing Proposal To Dedicate Seats For Indigenous Students

The Indigenous Student Society is proposing the initiative, which is under discussion at the Student Senate Caucus.



AMS President Evans, ISS President Neepin and ISS Councillor Tourangeau spoke before council was set to discuss endorsing the proposal. The discussion was deferred to next Council without an explanation. Ashley Manhão Izidro for *The Ubyssey*

By Omera Mohsin
Governance Reporter

Continued frome page 1.

Graduate Senator Bryan Buraga — who co-chairs the SSC — told The Ubyssey they consulted with the ISS during their campaign for Senate. After months of looking for options to add Indigenous student seats, he said, he landed on converting senator-at-large seats into Indigenous student seats. Buraga said they sought advice from the Senate's professional staff before consulting with the ISS again and before proposing one graduate and one undergraduate seat.

Buraga said the caucus is generally supportive of having increased Indigenous student representation, but acknowledged some senators aren't convinced that two of five seats strikes the right proportionality.

Student Senator-at-Large Drédyn Fontana, who is one of the most experienced students elected to the body, told The Ubyssey that while he supports increased Indigenous representation in principle, more conversation surrounding the logistics of the proposal in question is necessary. Fontana said he has not spoken with the ISS since the SSC discussed adding the seats.

"I'm missing context here," he said.

For instance, Fontana said the caucus has discussed how creating a seat for Indigenous graduate students would create a relatively narrow pool of eligible candidates.

"I think there's still a lot of conversations that need to be had on it. I'd like to get some context ... on why specifically [the ISS] would want undergraduate and graduate student representation separately," he said.

Buraga and Neepin said the size of UBC's Indigenous population is a result of Indigenous Peoples being disadvantaged by centuries of settler colonialism, with repercussions that continue broadly across Canada today. For Neepin, this makes Indigenous representatives in the Senate even more pressing.

"History is important to know during these types of conversations," Neepin said. "This is ... highlighting the systemic barriers that have caused Indigenous students to not be a part of these conversations."

"I think denying Indigenous graduate students a seat just because we don't think they're going to be able to fill it is almost like speaking on their behalf about what they are and are not able to do," Buraga said.

"I think we need to consider all our options here ... it feels like we're moving pretty fast," Fontana said.

In the 2025–26 school year, 403 of the 11,144 students enrolled in a UBC graduate program were Indigenous — roughly 3.6 per cent of the group.

According to Neepin, the ISS and SSC have planned to meet in the near future to further discuss the proposal. She said she is looking forward to meeting with the SSC, and that collaboration and open communication are the way forward.

On the Senate, Neepin said "these are colonial systems that haven't included Indigenous voices until recently ... All we're asking is just for our voices to be heard."

The replacement of both seats is not necessarily in the hands of the student senators, though, and may stall on the Senate floor. The ISS is looking for support from AMS Council and student senators for their proposal.

The Ubyssey reached out to Student Senator Zarifa Nawar, AMS President Dylan Evans, and Vice-President Academic & University Affairs Jaiya Panchi, to speak in their capacity as student senators. None replied to multiple requests for comment.

On Nov 4. AMS Council was expected to vote on a motion which said: "Whereas the land, water, air, and beings holding the institution of University of British Columbia (UBC) is on the unceded, illegally occupied, unextinguished territory of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ speaking xʷməθkʷəy̓əm people ... be it resolved Council adopts the position that the AMS is in support of converting two of the UBC Vancouver Student Senator At-Large seats to one Indigenous undergraduate student seat and one Indigenous graduate student seat."

Instead, the motion was deferred after a conversation between AMS President Evans ISS President Neepin, and ISS Councillor Jaylenn Tourangeau outside Michael Kingsmill Forum, where the meeting was set to begin. Reasons for deferral remain unclear. The motion is expected to return on Nov. 25 at the next meeting of Council.

EXTENDED BYLINE

Juan Pablo Sastoque Vega was this story's backfield editor. **Saba Majd** was the copy editor. **Ashley Manhão Izidro** took the photo. **Sophia Clearwater** deisgned the page in print.

Long-Distance Students Paying Extra Fees After Changes to AMS Code

AMS Vice-President Finance Nathan Shack said this was an "unintended consequence," and called the issue a top priority.

By Reese Harper
AMS Reporter
& Wilson Wang
Governance Reporter

Long-distance students have expressed frustration over having to pay fees for on-campus services they cannot access. AMS VP Finance Nathan Shack called remedying the issue a top priority.

Under UBC's Academic Calendar, most active members are required to pay full AMS fees, including the U-Pass. The AMS defines active members as "all students who are enrolled in a degree or diploma program at UBC or its affiliates taking a credit course."

Last November, AMS Council voted to amend its Code of Procedure, removing an exemption that reduced fees for students "taking only distance education courses." The wording was changed to students "taking only courses designated as online." This means long-distance students — who take in-person courses away from UBC's main campuses — are no longer exempt and must pay full, active member fees, including the $191.40 per term U-Pass fee.

Dan Graef is a student enrolled in a real estate distance program offered by UBC Sauder School of Business. In September, he began email correspondence about the new requirement with Sauder's admissions department. After going back and forth for a month, claiming he had not yet received a refund, Graef emailed AMS executives to express his frustration.

Graef shared those emails with The Ubyssey.

In an Oct. 20 email to the student union, Graef wrote, "It has been over 30 business days and we have not been refunded ... This is beyond unethical. Please reply so we can get this sorted out and not have to go through this every single time in the future."

Although there is an AMS U-Pass exemption available, the application for it can take up to 25 business days to process. The 2026 Term 1 application for the exemption opened on Sept. 8. The deadline to pay Term 1 fees was the next day.

If payment is late for these fees, students risk being placed on financial hold, which could prevent them from registering in new courses, enrolling in course waitlists, or switching course sections. They can also be charged a $35 late fee. Graef wrote to Sauder's admissions that he was "advised" to pay his fees immediately to not be charged late fees.

VP Finance Shack told The Ubyssey that the code change came in an effort to align the AMS's code with that of other student unions, which he said have reduced fees for online students. Simon Fraser and Capilano Universities have reduced fees for online or off-campus students.

Shack added that the impact on long distance students who aren't enrolled in fully online courses was an "unintended consequence" of the change.He told The Ubyssey that the AMS finance committee, which he chairs, is in contact with UBC enrolment services, and reaching out to the affected groups to hear their concerns. He added that the AMS is working to ensure the fee assessment is "equitable and accessible."

According to him, the committee is also planning to extend the deadline of subsidy applications for "students facing genuine financial hardship." He did not share a timeline. On Oct. 22, Shack told AMS Council, "You can receive up to 100 per cent subsidy if you're facing financial hardship," referring to the U-Pass, AMS General Membership, and SUB Renewal fees.

All available subsidy applications require the fees to be paid first. Between two opt-out, one U-Pass exemption, and two subsidy applications, long-distance students have to fill out at least five separate forms for fees they did not previously have to pay.

The code changes primarily impact students at field school programs, where they attend in-person learning entirely off-campus. In the faculty of education, students in the Remote and Rural Teacher Education Program (RRED), Indigenous Teacher Education (NITEP) field centres, or the West Kootenay Rural Teacher Education Program (WKTEP) do not attend class on UBC campus but are nonetheless being charged full student fees.

AMS Councillor and student Senator for the faculty of education Ash Dennis told The Ubyssey, "Some students in these programs have expressed concerns that the fee structure does not fully reflect their day-to-day access to, or use of, AMS services and facilities."

These programs are specifically designed for rural and Indigenous communities and students — in consequence, the changes disproportionately affect them.

"A vast majority of these students ... have experienced longstanding issues with accessing equitable education, and as such, are more likely to give up on education like this because it is too expensive of a cost to take on," Dennis said.

The Ubyssey scheduled an interview with Dennis for further information, but Dennis was unable to attend.

The Ubyssey requested to speak with Karen Ragoonaden, associate dean, teacher education, at the faculty of education. We received a statement from UBC spokesperson Thandi Fletcher. In the statement, Fletcher wrote "We are committed to helping students understand their fee assessments and access available supports," but said questions about these fees would be "best directed" at the AMS.

According to Shack, Ragoonaden told him that some students under genuine financial hardship may not have known about subsidies. Shack said this is why the AMS is looking to extend the subsidy application deadline, but clarified they planned to "just [extend] the deadline," not the subsidies themselves.

EXTENDED BYLINE

Juan Pablo Sastoque Vega was this story's backfield editor. **Isabella Donn** was the copy editor. **Quyen Schroeder** took the photo. **Sophia Clearwater** designed the page in



Quyen Schroeder for *The Ubyssey*

Ottawa Issues New Penalties for Immigration Misconduct

Penalties begin at $5,000 and could be of up to $1.5 million. Canada's immigration agency says they are meant to protect applicants from fraudsters, UBC advisors called them "a positive step."

By Ishita Sharma
Immigration Reporter

The federal government can now fine people who break the rules when providing paid immigration advice, a change that could impact international applicants or other people at UBC working towards permanent residence.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) announced on Oct. 28 that penalties of up to $1.5 million for fraudulent representation are now in force. Under the new regulations, penalties begin at $5,000 for knowingly providing paid advice or representation without authorization, and $15,000 for knowingly giving false or misleading information on an applicant's behalf, or helping an applicant do so. The final amount is adjusted based on the impact of the violation, any money the person received in connection with it, and the person's history of prior violations.

The rules apply to lawyers and licensed consultants as well as people who give paid advice without authorization. IRCC says it will publish the names of penalized people and the details of their violations in an online registry, expected to launch in 2027.

The penalties target representatives, not applicants. IRCC said a penalty on a representative does not automatically affect their clients' applications, which will continue to be assessed on their own merits. If IRCC has concerns about the information in an application, it said, those may be examined separately.

Nonetheless, applicants remain responsible for what is submitted on their behalf. If a representative submits false or misleading information without an applicant's knowledge, the applicant may still face consequences under Section 40 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, depending on the circumstances, IRCC said in a statement to The Ubyssey.

An applicant can be found inadmissible for misrepresentation if material facts are misrepresented or withheld. The consequences can include having the application rejected, being barred from coming to Canada for five years, or being removed from the country.

IRCC also said an application that uses an unauthorized paid representative may be returned or refused.

The final regulations came into effect on Oct. 23, but their text wasn't made public until Nov. 4. Draft regulations were published for public consultation in December 2024.

A person suspected of a violation will first receive a preliminary notice, which gives them 30 days to respond. If, after that period, an immigration officer determines the person likely committed a violation, they can issue a notice of violation. The person then has 30 days to pay the penalty or contest it before an independent reviewer.

The regulations say a penalized person's name, business, the violation, and the penalty must be published, but not until the 30-day window to contest has ended. A single notice of violation is capped at $1.5 million. The regulations also set an additional $10,000 penalty for failing to provide documents requested during an inspection, with the amount adjusted for prior violations.

In a press release, Immigration Minister Lena Metlege Diab said the measures will "help protect people from fraud and misconduct and hold those who break the law accountable."

Providing paid immigration advice without authorization was already a criminal offence under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, and people convicted could face fines, prison time, or both. The Canada Border Services Agency investigates those cases. The new penalties are administrative, meaning IRCC can issue them through its own notice-and-review process without a criminal trial. Consultants were already regulated by the College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants, and lawyers by their provincial law societies.

Victor Ing, a partner at Sas & Ing Immigration Law Centre in Vancouver, has been an immigration lawyer since 2011. He told The Ubyssey that applicants choosing a representative should keep two things in mind. Making sure the person is licensed, and guaranteeing their involvement is disclosed to immigration authorities.

"The first partis easy," Ing said. Regulators have websites where "you can just search the person's name, and you'll know right away whether they are licensed." The sites also show whether there are any marks on their records.Applicants can check a representative's status in the regulator's public directory.

Until IRCC's registry launches, the burden of checking falls on applicants. Ing said people "should do [their] homework," claiming online reviews are less reliable than they used to be. He added that getting a referral from someone they know is a good place to start. Applicants should also ask any representative up front about how they will work together, whether they will get a copy of everything, and make surethe arrangement is in writing, according to Ing.

The second might be a bit trickier. Ing said he has seen cases where a licensed person works on a file behind the scenes without being declared, which can come back to hurt the client.

One of the major mistakes applicants make, according to Ing, is thinking that hiring a representative means they no longer are responsible for the file. "The application is still yours," Ing said. A representative's job is to advise on whether someone meets the requirements and what challenges to expect, but the applicant is responsible for the content.

Ing said red flags for applicants include not knowing what is being filed or when, not signing forms, and not receiving copies of the materials. He advised applicants to review and keep all documents, and to trust their intuition.

If a relationship doesn't feel right, Ing said, "you should probably trust your gut."

According to him, courts have shown little sympathy in misrepresentation cases where an applicant took a "hands-off approach," including when the representative was unlicensed or undeclared. In many of those cases, he said, courts have upheld decisions against applicants.

Ing said he was skeptical that the new penalties will change how applicants find representatives. He also doubts the changes will affect people working without licences. "It's hard to enforce these things," he said. The regulations cover violations committed outside Canada, but Ing said finding and collecting from someone abroad is "virtually impossible."

"The practical reality is that the fine is more symbolic than anything else."

IRCC says consultants must be members in good standing of the College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants. Lawyers must be members in good standing of their provincial or territorial law society, and Quebec notaries must be members of the Chambre des notaires du Québec.



Lauren Tran for *The Ubyssey*

In a statement to The Ubyssey, UBC's director of international student development Karin Kosarzova said its international student advisors are Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultants (RCICs) or Regulated International Student Immigration Advisors (RISIAs). Both certifications authorize them to give immigration advice within their scopes of practice. Kosarzova wrote that international applicants "can be particularly vulnerable to misinformation or misleading advice" and that stronger penalties are "a positive step."

Kosarzova stated UBC has long encouraged applicants to get immigration information from qualified sources and to verify that anyone giving immigration guidance is authorized and in good standing. She added that UBC regularly hosts information sessions and workshops with government and community partners, including with representatives from the B.C. Provincial Nominee Program.

Past sessions have included a webinar on B.C. immigration pathways to permanent residency with provincial program staff, and Q-and-A sessions with IRCC on pathways to permanent residence.

For applicants who think a representative has made a mistake, Ing said the first step is to look for independent advice from a lawyer. Some issues are "relatively minor things that can be corrected pretty easily." A lawyer can explain the risks and whether it makes sense for the applicant to come forward on their own and correct the mistake with immigration authorities, known as a voluntary disclosure. "It's never too late to disclose it and to fix it," he said.

IRCC encourages anyone who believes someone is committing immigration fraud or misconduct to report it on its website.

EXTENDED BYLINE

Juan Pablo Sastoque Vega was this story's backfield editor. **Ella Kiciman** was the copy editor. **Lauren Tran** took the photo. **Sophia Clearwater** designed the page in print.

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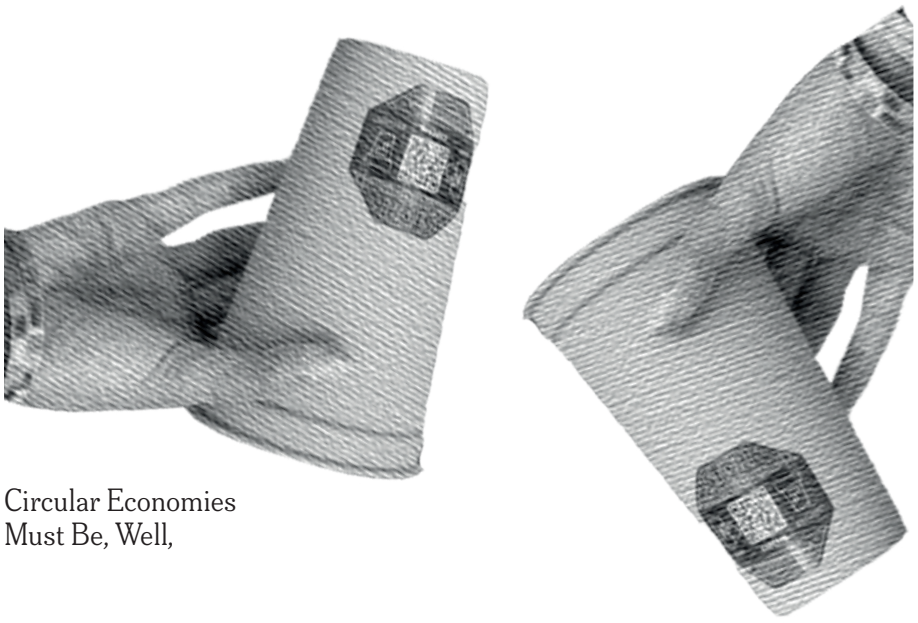
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Opinion



Circular Economies Must Be, Well,

Friendlier

By Astrid Maiz
Climate Columnist

While running to lecture, you realize you're holding the scratchy, frosted plastic of Friendlier. With no bin in sight, you're left with a sticky cup and are out 85 cents.

For UBC-goers, this frustration is now familiar, with eateries across campus starting to use Friendlier containers.

The basis of Friendlier's reusable container program is simple. Instead of receiving a disposable to-go cup or box, customers pay a 50–100 cent deposit, and receive a reusable item. Once they are done, a customer scans a QR code on the container and returns it to a designated Friendlier return bin. The deposit is returned and the container is sanitized then reused.

On paper, it seems like a, well, friendlier option. But after over a year on campus, I remain unconvinced the system is effective.

Students regularly criticize Friendlier for reasons ranging from long refund times to sparse return bins.

These reasons may sound minor. But despite being a project in partnership with UBC Food Services and the AMS, Friendlier relies on individuals' choices to work.

I don't accept that a system reliant on the impeccability of flawed humans is at all sustainable.

Climate journalist Mark Kaufman has criticized institutions that unduly place the burden of climate action on individuals, pointing to the rhetoric of the British Petroleum Company and how it explains the climate crisis. BP has skirted responsibility for its environmental impact by advertising "low carbon diets" while still supporting exploitative oil and gas extraction, Kaufman argues. Individuals are encouraged to focus on their personal consumption while institutions retain significant power over emissions and the context in which individuals make climate choices.

In an ideal world, every customer would return their Friendlier containers promptly. But the tens of thousands of students and staff across campus have hectic lives where the payoff of a few cents and an invisible carbon offset isn't worth the hassle.

That doesn't mean individual actions are entirely meaningless. Any lifestyle choice that benefits the environment is important, whether it reduces emissions or allows for building community and improving mental health. But these individual actions become all the more impactful when the system makes these choices easy.

Consider plastic bags. Instead of relying on shoppers to remember a reusable bag, a plastic bag fee creates an incentive, making it the cheaper and easier choice. These charges have increased reusable bag use and led to major reductions in disposable bag consumption.

Nudges like the plastic bag charge work best when the surrounding system is designed to support making the environmentally-beneficial choice.

If I need a quick cup of joe before class, the system in place should be effortless. The return bin should be where I naturally pass, the app should be intuitive, and deposits should be quickly returned.

If those things happen, individual responsibility becomes a small part of a system rather than the system itself.

The effectiveness of Friendlier still relies on whether the reuse of a hard plastic cup is better than a paper one.

Certainly, reusable containers align with UBC's aims to move away from a linear economy, where items are harmfully extracted and discarded, to a circular economy, where items are reused until they cannot be used anymore.

This concept is integral in the fight against climate change and has many fiscal and environmental benefits.

But a reusable cup is not by default superior to a disposable one. It has to be reused enough to outweigh the heavier initial environmental impact.

On campus in 2025, cups were being returned less than expected, leaving some student representatives worried the upfront emissions were worse than disposable cups. Friendlier says even reusing a container once is environmentally beneficial.

In response to concerns, changes were made before the program was renewed for another year by both UBC and the AMS. Friendlier added more return bins, and many venues brought back disposable cups as another option.

Students now have easier access and more control over their participation. Return rates have since increased, likely from a combination of increased familiarity and these changes.

Going forward, UBC needs to focus on making the environmentally beneficial decision the easiest.

Again, there's nothing wrong with allowing students and staff to have their morning tea in a reusable cup. I'm not dissuading individuals from caring for the environment, and frankly, I think many students on campus could do with some composting education.

If return rates stay up and the cups are carried back into circulation, I'm sure the environmental and financial benefits will prove themselves. But the success of Friendlier and UBC's other zero waste food ware strategies should not be entirely dependent on the individual.

I see our time with Friendlier as an opportunity to learn.

The program has proven somewhat effective already. As of September, the Friendlier program on campus has reused over 140,000 containers and prevented over 19,000 kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions.

I think Friendlier has potential. Institutional strategies, whether environmental or otherwise, rarely work perfectly from the get-go. Starting over would only waste what progress has been made; the system doesn't need perfection to be worthwhile, only to be adaptive to improvements.

In that regard, the university should work towards perfecting Friendlier's application on campus. If the system creates unreasonable barriers, such as financial or technological issues, UBC needs to offer alternatives while solving them.

And it should be clear about the results.

Environmental initiatives can't be exempt from scrutiny simply because of good intentions. The program should continue to address feedback publicly.

UBC has touted its intentions for a circular campus economy for years. The decisions of students and staff are vital. To succeed, this cyclical behaviour must be second nature.

EXTENDED BYLINE

Quyen Schroeder was this story's backfield editor. **Gabby Paradis** was the copy editor. **Sophia Clearwater** created the graphics. **Sophia Clearwater** designed the page in print.

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metrovancouver | ELECTORAL AREA A VOTES

Notice of Election by Acclamation

Public Notice is given to electors of Electoral Area A, Metro Vancouver Regional District, that the Director has been declared elected by acclamation, eliminating the need for an election.

David Hocking has been elected for the 2026–2030 term. The Director is your elected representative for Electoral Area A who sits on Metro Vancouver Boards.

Learn More

View Electoral Area A election information online.
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Contact

For questions about the 2026 General Local Election or acclamation process, contact:

604-432-6200 elections@metrovancouver.org

Less Digital, More Physical

By Tyler Luft
Guest Contributor

Mobile devices are an integrated part of our academic, social, and personal lives. Professors post to Canvas, clubs organize through Instagram, and friends share their socials. In between classes, students pass time by scrolling. For better or for worse, technology pervades UBC, helping students and staff work smoothly and efficiently.

A few years ago, I started to wonder whether this prevalence was a good thing. I noticed that the majority of people — myself included — spend the majority of their time tethered to one of their many mobile devices. It didn't surprise me to learn that the average student likely spends around eight hours per day looking at a screen.

Feeling overwhelmed by all the digital noise, I decided to try distancing myself from my devices. I scrapped my iPad, traded my iPhone for a flip phone, left my laptop at home most days, and deleted my social media accounts. The change felt refreshing. Three years later, this experiment has shown me how viscerally attached I had been to screens. Most of my screen time stemmed from habit, not convenience.

This made me wonder: do our devices really help us, or have we just become accustomed to using them?

Now, I wouldn't say this experience has turned me into a Luddite. Many devices make our lives easier, and this is especially true at UBC. I use my laptop for homework, and not having an Instagram account has made it difficult to get involved in any clubs. I still need to access Canvas, email professors, and research library databases. I would not get by without a laptop, and I have had to find workarounds with my flip phone. (For instance, I had to download the Duo two-factor authentication app on my mom's smartphone.) Admittedly, scaling back screen usage has been a challenge.

Online learning is — and seemingly always will be — a mandatory part of our education. Despite the benefits technology brings, its ubiquity ought to raise more concerns among students and professors. Long hours online are linked to worsening mental health, shorter attention spans, sleep disruptions, and physical ailments like eye strain and poor posture.

But what we most often lose to screens is our time. When our primary workspace is online, it takes only a few clicks to open multiple distracting tabs, check social media, or stream videos. These counterproductive habits follow the deep screen fatigue driven by long hours of legitimate studying. Even when we intend to focus, a constant digital environment breeds unnecessary screen time. If UBC is concerned about students' wellbeing and their study habits, they should help keep students off their devices. Here are two practical ways they can go about this.

The first method is to enforce handwritten notes during lectures. To follow through with my commitment to disconnecting, I switched to pen and paper during class. At first, I worried about missing important information without a laptop to type verbatim. But soon, I realized I was less distracted and better able to hone in on the professor's most important points.

In contrast, I've noticed that many students using laptops for notetaking drift into online shopping, texting, or playing games. When the laptop lids open, attention vanishes. Students should be active listeners — asking questions, making eye contact, and nodding in agreement. Laptops can transform lectures into monologues, as clicking keys fill the room like crickets chirping.

Some professors I've had at UBC share this sentiment, forbidding devices during their lectures. While some students bemoan the tedium of physical notetaking, I think that faculties should mandate this approach, where reasonable. The University of Toronto has already set this precedent. Its law school requires students who can take handwritten notes to do so in order to encourage better classroom engagement.

A blanket ban on digital devices everywhere is neither a viable nor equitable solution. In a rapid-fire STEM lecture where students must code or handle large amounts of data, using computers for notetaking is far more justifiable. In a seminar-heavy history or philosophy course, however, where critical thinking and dialogue are valuable, a zero-device policy can have a substantial impact on engagement.

Likewise, a rigid "handwritten-only" rule should not apply to everyone. Some students with disabilities rely on assistive classroom technologies (such as the novel AI notetaker Genio used as an accommodation for some students) — they should not be robbed of the tools that accommodate their learning. Professors should curtail laptops only when they become superfluous and distracting. The goal should not be to police the medium, but to curate the environment.

If laptops are indispensable, there is a second option: professors ought to assign physical, paper-based homework.

This might seem regressive, but I believe that the vast majority of students could reduce their screen time with even minor take-home assignments. Because so much time is spent doing digital coursework — where distraction is a click away — paper assignments are an opportunity for students to avoid digital diversions. (You cannot open a new tab or receive notifications on a sheet of paper.)

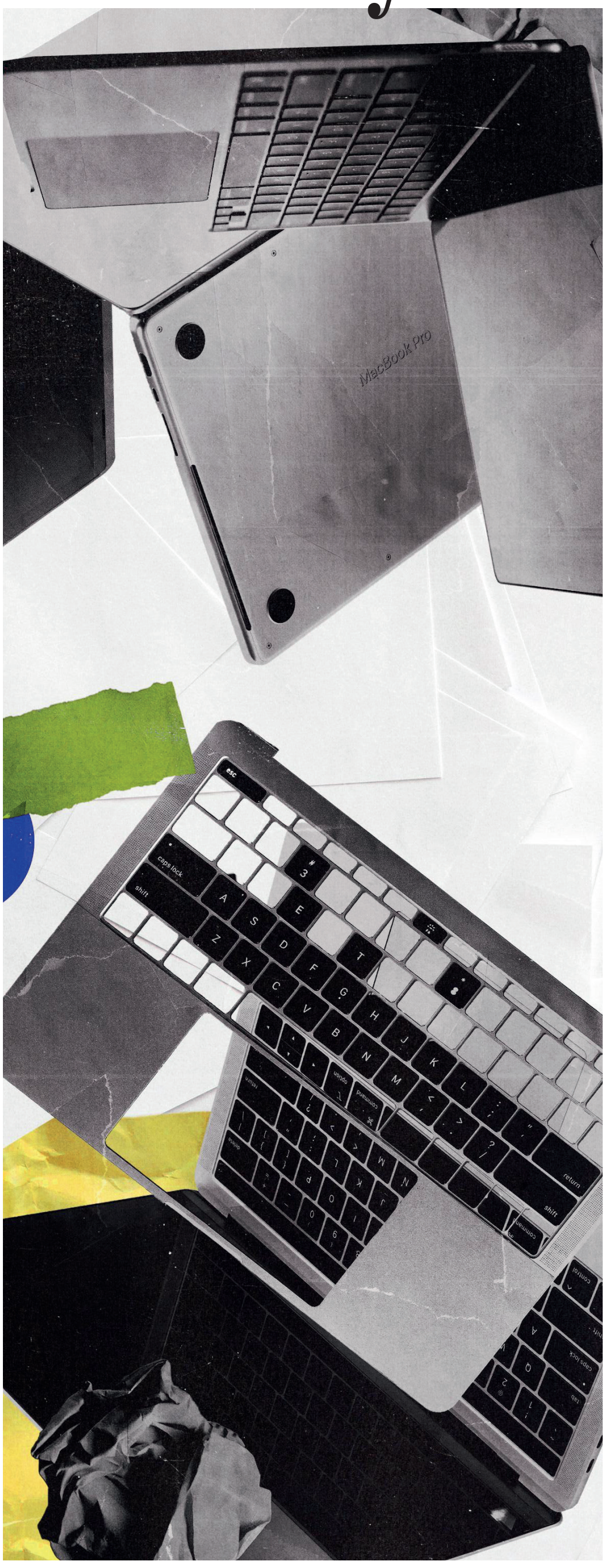
But not only do physical worksheets provide a structured window of time to disconnect, they can also help students develop healthier academic habits. By requiring an in-person hand-in, physical assignments incentivize attendance. One professor I had gave the class short paper-based quizzes at the start of lecture, which led to a high turnout throughout the term. If the quizzes had been assigned through Canvas, students could have easily completed them from home. But when students must be physically present to receive and submit their work, they are far less likely to skip class.

Physical homework can be a way for the professor and TAs to get to know their students. Online quizzes and assignments yield histograms of students' scores that do not demonstrate any understanding of the topic was ever reached. By creating the opportunity for in-person assessments, professors can see their students as individuals on a learning journey. On the other hand, digital learning puts students in a relationship with machines, not humans, changing the way both students and professors perceive their work.

This leads to another overlooked advantage of physical homework — the social opportunity it creates for students who feel isolated on campus. Meeting friends at a commuter-heavy school like UBC is notoriously difficult. Physical homework is a natural icebreaker. When assignments are completely on screens, students quietly turn to Google or AI for help. But when dealing with a physical worksheet, it becomes easier to turn to the person next to you and discuss a specific question. This simple shared medium lowers the social barrier, sparks conversation, and makes large lectures feel less lonely.

What I have learned by stepping away from digital distractions is that excessive screen time has real consequences. Opening a laptop or holding up a phone creates a barrier between you and the people around you. Not only does this reduce the quality of learning, it also reduces the quality of life. It disconnects us from the world, prevents new friendships from forming, and drains hours into mindless scrolling. When it comes to education, an extravagant use of technology supercedes the responsibilities of instructors and reduces students' learning. Limiting technology in the right ways can keep our education humane.

But our digital devices are here to stay, so the solution will be to build healthier boundaries around them. This means universities should redesign our learning environment to include more physical alternatives, rather than simply revoking digital education. Professors may sometimes need to wield the "stick" of classroom device policies, but students also need the "carrot" of engaging, paper-based learning alternatives. If I have learned anything from being offline, it is that avoidance is not the answer, but moderation is.



EXTENDED BYLINE

Quyen Schroeder was this story's backfield editor. **Saba Majd** was the copy editor. **Skye Shen** created the graphics. **Sophia Clearwater** desigend the page in print

Arts

The Only Living Pickpocket in New York Says Goodbye to the Old Guard

Noah Segan's new film paints a captivating, long-gone image of New York City. Perhaps that's all it does.

By Thomas Favelle
Film Critic & Video Editor



Courtesy IMDB

Somewhere between the LCD Soundsystem needle drop and the corner store turned vape shop, writer-director Noah Segan shapes his thesis. New York City, as his camera examines it, is not what it used to be. Unused pay phones, dingy pawn shops, and subway screeches remind us of the city that once was — relics of history as the modern day seeps into every street corner food truck and newsstand.

Harry Lehman (John Turturro) is just another artifact from a time long passed. He's sported the same watch for decades and has probably had his haircut for just as long — and by god, he's not gonna let anyone take them away from him. Day in, he works as a professional pickpocket, harmless enough to befriend a detective (Giancarlo Esposito) but skilled enough that he can eke out a living. Day out, he tends to his catatonic wife Rosie (Karina Arroyave) — yet another part of his life he can't let go of.

Times aren't so wild for a man of Harry's disposition until someone who should've been just another schmuck turns out to have their nose in the wrong person's business. Harry's just crossed Dylan (Will Price), and if finding a gun in his duffel bag wasn't bad enough, Harry's also unknowingly entered a game of cat and mouse with more than his own life on the line.

A jazzy score by Gary Lionelli backs Harry's mad rush to pay his debt. It's a fitting tone for a character so slick; he lies, charms, and cheats everyone in his path, but he can only keep up the jig for so long. As Harry runs through the city, the film starts to show life's wear on him. His tricks don't work like they once did and he can barely keep up with the changing times. How is a 60-something supposed to know what crypto-currency is?

What Segan taps into with Pickpocket isn't just a longing for the old New York City, but a nostalgia for all the films set within it. A bounty of screen time is devoted to showcasing the beautiful city that Harry treats like a playground, populated with old faces and even older technologies. Harry obsesses over the analogue: his watch, his shoe shine, his vinyls, and rented tapes from the library. They're creature comforts for a man who's steadily aging out of the city around him.



Turturro is a delight on screen; Harry fits him like a glove, and it's hard to imagine the role being written for anyone else. You'd be hard-pressed to find many movies boasting Turturro as the lead (aside from those he's directed) and Harry is someone who's similarly dodged the spotlight his whole life. He's a guy who could've populated the streets of Taxi Driver or had a small part in 25th Hour. Making Harry the star feels like another sign of the changing times; a world increasingly devoid of Travis Bickles is left scrambling for the few remainders of that period.

The only times Pickpocket stumbles are over its own simplicity. The scope is far from grand — thank an intelligent Segan for that — but it could benefit from more depth. Harry and his cast members wear their ambitions on their sleeves, so much so that it takes no more than five seconds to understand the totality of their lives, with every ounce of nuance saved for Harry and only Harry.

Dialogue, flavoured only as sentimental or witty, is unfortunately keen to lean on phrases almost as old as its stars, as they reminisce on how "those were the days" and complain about the uselessness of mobile phones. Meanwhile, the second the aggravatingly smug Dylan entertains the concept of non-fungibles, it's evident he's the new-age alternative to classic criminals like Harry, and stands to offer little more than a youthful — if not naive — perspective.

A hokey attempt at redemption for Harry's past puts the final scene in similarly shallow territory. It doesn't leave a sour taste in the mouth — seeing his relentless thievery take him to the end of his road is a bittersweet conclusion — but there's little surprise or intrigue as to how things will play out. He always has a card (or a candy bar) up his sleeve and the film delivers on his master plan; it could've tried unravelling in a way that wasn't so mundane as a car ride monologue with flashbacks.

But the film didn't promise to dazzle. Segan and cinematographer Sam Levy were much more concerned about conveying the feeling of walking the streets to screen than crafting a sweeping narrative. The characters are nobodies, has-beens, and cockroaches. The places are dark and dirty, and the 88-minute runtime keeps things loose and fun. If Segan had aspired for much more, he would've lost what made this project worthwhile: bottling up the charm of living in a city so vibrant.

Pickpocket is to New York City what The Irishman was to gangster films: a goodbye, or, an acknowledgment of how times have changed. The city certainly isn't going anywhere, but the Hollywood image of it has long passed.

Gone are the days of Dog Day Afternoon, Coming to America, and Home Alone 2, where New York City felt just as dangerous as it did exciting. Gone are the men like Harry Lehman, whether he's willing to accept it or not.

EXTENDED BYLINE

Elena Massing was this story's backfield editor. **Alicia Wendland** and **London Clark** were the copy editors. **Aarna Upadhyay** designed the page in print.

Dracula:

A Comedy of Terrors is a Life-Giving Performance

By Zachary Kanevski
Theatre Critic

I work this restaurant job on weekends, running fancy dishes to fancy people at their white-clothed tables with picturesque views of downtown Vancouver. It's good money, but it's a lot of heavy lifting. Almost every shift, at about the two-hour mark, my neck starts to hurt.

Come my break, I'm tired and sore, and with the few minutes I have before getting back to ferrying guests (never 'customers,' no, these people are guests) their lobster tail or rack of lamb, I pop in earphones and search for something to watch while wolfing down lunch. I scroll past the video essays and current events updates that usually dominate my attention outside of work and always land on some form of comedy.

As much as I adore a politically-salient performance, a work that questions humanity's relationship with technology, or a dystopian story that is itself about storytelling, sometimes what you need most from art is relief: a show that puts you at ease, that just wants you to have a good laugh, that stops your neck from hurting so damn much.

I walked into the theatre looking for exactly this, and for all 140 minutes of its runtime, Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors delivered.

Despite its deathly source material, this Arts Club Theatre Company production directed by Whistler Film Festival Society executive and UBC alum, Josh Epstein, was a life-giving performance. The show's fountain of thrills and carousel of campy characters are medicine for the spirit and, in the case of this reporter, a much-needed remedy to midterms-induced fatigue (both of the university exam and American election variety).

This show is the latest spoof in over a century's worth of adaptations of Bram Stoker's classic novel. Thanks to the long history of works preceding it, the play had a wealth of tropes to draw from when crafting its gags. A Comedy of Terrors trusts that we already know the Transylvanian count's deal, and instead, sets to work at subverting him.

The core story is a love triangle between Dracula himself (Synthia Yusuf), Lucy Westfeldt (Kate Besworth) — the adventurous and dashing woman our count hungrily desires — and Jonathan Harker (Vincent Tong), a timid young man who is fiancé to Lucy and Victorian real estate broker to Dracula.

We begin with Jonathan trekking to Dracula's castle in order to finalize the count's new property acquisitions in jolly old England. Upon seeing a photograph of Lucy, Dracula becomes obsessed with Jonathan's betrothed and embarks on a quest to seduce her, and thus our tale begins.

In total, the play has 16 roles but limits the cast to five actors, meaning almost everyone is pulling double, triple, or even sextuple duty (puppets inclusive). The cast's frequent role-switching gave the story enough momentum to plow past the occasional dud joke without time to look back. Steffanie Davis's whiplash-inducing character and costume changes between Lucy's posh, old-fashioned father Dr. Wallace Westfeldt and Renfield — the Westfeldt family's bug-eating servant — were particularly propelling and preserved a sense of freshness, even after we'd long settled into the bizarre world before us.

Davis's performances also granted her a chance to flex her range. Both Dr. Westfeldt and Renfield are absurd, but in almost opposite ways; one a cheeky caricature of British aristocracy and its snobbishness, the other an unstable but lovable fool. Jeff Meadows also showed off in his dual performances as Mina Westfeldt — Lucy's romantically unlucky sister — and Dr. Van Helsing, who arrives later in the play to help our heroes sort out the reasons behind the vampiric happenings suddenly tormenting the land. Davis's and Meadows's high-camp roles were a treat to watch. The actors are unmistakably having a ball portraying them, and that feeling — real or perceived — layered an infectious, giddy joy into the performance.

Dracula would (unsurprisingly) be the most thrilling character in a Dracula play. Even so, Yusuf did a staggering job as the titular count. She commanded the stage with an enthrallingly goofy accent, agile dance moves (courtesy of choreographer Nicol Spinola), and frequent use of a "seductive" facial expression I can only describe as Bieber-esque.

As the only cast member with one role, Yusuf has time to sink her teeth into the part and conjures a lovingly ridiculous take on the count. The extra time with Dracula also gives us a familiarity with his personality as he inserts himself into the Westfeldts' lives and makes his not-so-subtle attempts to woo Lucy and then Mina and then Jonathan and then Lucy again without revealing his vampiric nature. The show's presentation of a consistently self-obsessed count is hysterical, but it makes a certain late-in-the-game and rather selfless change of heart feel unearned.

In a more solemn production, this might've bothered me more, but A Comedy of Terrors isn't trying to solve society's ills or reveal some ineffable quality of the human condition. It's there to make you laugh, to make your neck hurt less — so while some character choices were contradictory, they didn't linger in my mind.

This comedy is at its peak when characters greet the absurdity of the production with in-story seriousness: when Dr. Van Helsing and Dr. Westfeldt heroically ride out on cartoonish stick-horses, when a spectre ominously drifts about on a plastic hoverboard, or when unrelenting ocean storms are represented by spurts from a spray bottle set to mist. I'm a sucker for this sort of gag, and the show supplies them in droves.

The more meta jokes, however, never hit for me. It can be fun to have your characters suddenly be able to hear the sinister music indicating something dangerous is coming or acknowledge that they're really just a peripheral character. But every time you break the fourth wall, it gets harder to build it back — harder to re-immerse the audience, and to accept that Westfeldt and Van Helsing are on real horses and not sticks.

Every time that the play reminded me it isn't real, I started to remember that I have real things to deal with — returning that faulty IKEA shelf tomorrow, or cooking dinner when I get home. Immersion is precious. It shouldn't be abandoned lightly, and the fourth-wall-breaking jokes aren't good enough to warrant the departure.

But such breaks in cohesion are few, and this show moves fast. I was always pulled back in soon enough.

The cast and crew have achieved something special here. A Comedy of Terrors is extravagant in appearance, but humble in intent. It doesn't try to be anything it's not, and it works for its laughs. I entered the theatre in need of relief, and relief I was supplied.

EXTENDED BYLINE

Elena Massing was this story's backfield editor. **Alicia Wendland** and **London Clark** were the copy editors. **Aarna Upadhyay** designed the page in print.



Courtesy Moonrider Productions / Arts Club Theatre Company

November Culture Queue

By **Selina Hay**
Film Critic

It's the time of year for leaving lecture halls to pitch black skies — but a piece of art might brighten up the season.

Culture Queue provides a monthly overview of the best in arts and culture, so you can mark your calendar before the late-night IKB grinds begin. This edition will focus on the month of November, with events divided into film, visual arts, theatre, music, and community.

Film

BC Environmental Film Festival
Date: November 22,
10:00 a.m.–7:30 p.m.

The dust is still settling on the whirlwind film festival circuit of October, but the film festivities truly never end in Vancouver. In the Norm Theatre, the BC Environmental Film Festival will hold its fifth annual presentation. The festival — which features over 30 works — centres films about sustainability and solutions-oriented approaches to the climate crisis. The full day of screenings will also include filmmaker Q&As and panels with environmentalists. If you can't make the in-person event, the films will also be available online from Nov. 1–30.

Vancouver Asian Film Festival
Date: November 5–15

The Vancouver Asian Film Festival celebrates its 30th anniversary this month. Featuring more than 100 films and 78 premieres, this is VAFF's largest program yet. The festival's opening presentation will be Quentin Lee and Justin Lin's dark comedy Shopping for Fangs, which opened the inaugural VAFF. It also features my personal VAFF favourite, First Comes Love: Nakabingwit, a touching documentary on the dynamics of interracial relationships.



Music

Allison Russell
Date: November 9

Allison Russell, the Montreal-born, Grammy and Juno-winning artist, is coming to the Chan Centre. Her debut solo album Outside Child — a raw exploration of Russell's life — was released in 2021, then followed by the equally heartrending The Returner in 2023. She's now set to perform her newest album, In the Hour of Chaos. Her delicate lyricism and honest vocal performance are just what everyone needs to soothe the winter blues.

Prodaná nevěsta
(The Bartered Bride)
Date: November 28 to December 4

UBC Opera will premiere their production of Prodaná nevěsta at the Old Auditorium. Set in a Czech village, the lively comic opera follows Mařenka and Jeník, young lovers determined to marry despite their family's involvement. With a script filled with betrayal, trickery, and devotion, I expect the production to be just as dramatic as it is sonically enthralling.

Theatre

She Kills Monsters
Date: November 18–21

The UBC Players Club's new production She Kills Monsters traces Agnes Evans's life as she leaves behind mundane Ohio following the death of her teenage sister, Tilly. After discovering Tilly's old Dungeons & Dragons notebook, she begins to understand her younger sister's imaginative and joyous inner world. The story is action-packed, filled with mythical creatures, '90s pop culture, and a healthy dollop of self-discovery.

Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy, Really
Date: November 18 to December 5

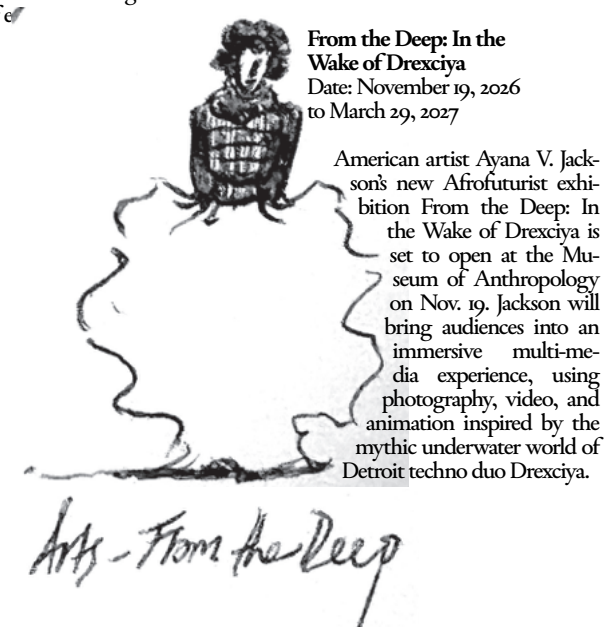
What's better than a modern retelling of Bram Stoker's iconic novel Dracula? A feminist retelling — one that doesn't reduce women to cautionary tales of sexual deviance. When the charismatic Count Dracula reaches England, it is only due time before young wife and soon-to-be mother Mina Harker and Dr. Van Helsing begin to fight back. With a blood-soaked script and shrouded in gothic aesthetics, audience members should prepare to experience all the gore of the classic tale through a different set of e



Art

The Under $100 Art Show
Date: November 19–22

The Under $100 Art Show returns to Vancouver for its third year. Organized by ART SPOT, an organization committed to supporting the artistic work of local emerging artists, the show helps artists sell their work, and makes fine art more accessible to those who may not otherwise be able to afford the pieces. From photography to jewelry to woodwork, this art exhibition showcases a breadth of work from artists all across Vancouver.



From the Deep: In the Wake of Drexciya
Date: November 19, 2026
to March 29, 2027

American artist Ayana V. Jackson's new Afrofuturist exhibition From the Deep: In the Wake of Drexciya is set to open at the Museum of Anthropology on Nov. 19. Jackson will bring audiences into an immersive multi-media experience, using photography, video, and animation inspired by the mythic underwater world of Detroit techno duo Drexciya.

Extra

Heart of the City Festival
(pay-what-you-can)
Date: October 30 to November 7

The Heart of the City Festival returns to the Downtown Eastside with its 23rd annual lineup of arts and culture events. The festival works for and with the Downtown Eastside community to bring forward stories of cultural tradition and ancestral memory through music, poetry, theatre, film, dance, and more. This year's theme is Belonging, celebrating being valued for who you are.

An Evening with Min Jin Lee
Date: November 5, 7:30 p.m.

Min Jin Lee, known for her breathtaking debut Free Food for Millionaires and brilliant follow-up Pachinko, makes her first-ever Canadian event appearance at the Chan Centre. Writing primarily about the Korean diaspora, Lee investigates the complexities of identity, migration, and belonging. She'll be discussing her latest novel, American Hagwon — the third in her diaspora quartet — a story centred on the Koh family and their complete faith in education as the one-way ticket to success and security.

EXTENDED BYLINE

Jack Paransky was this story's backfield editor. **London Clark** was the copy editor. **Skye Shen** made the illustrations (fun fact: they were drawn on paper and scanned). **Sophia Clearwater** designed the page in print.

Where to Eat?

Reviews from our food critic, Jack Paransky



We're all feeling that familiar change in the air — November's chill sweeps away October's vibrant oranges and warm weather. The sky slowly weeps as the seasons themselves mourn nature's death come winter. Bears will start their hibernation, Canadian geese will migrate south to terrorize unsuspecting Floridian retirees, and we will make our humble approach to soup vendors to cure what ailments November brings (flu, studies, or sickness of the heart). As temperatures start to meander downwards, LienHiep should be on the cold Vancouverite's mind.

LienHiep is nestled between the larger restaurants on Victoria Drive. Having opened in 2025, they serve Vietnamese food on a street already bustling with established Viet locations. Unlike their neighbour Bun Cha Ca Hoang Yen — whose 3,000-square-foot interior boasts the opulence inherent to those who own a central water feature with their name engraved upon it — LienHiep is a family-run hole-in-the-wall.

There aren't dozens of staff to greet you; no busboys to precede waiters who carefully measure the flow of your meal through constant check-ins. Quite the opposite. A sign taped to the wall reads: "Hello! Thanks for your patience! There's Just One Chef, Two hands, and lots of love going into every meal. Thank You!" I immediately trusted what they would give me.

Their space is greater, homelier, and warmer than the square footage they had to work with. Paintings and photos fill any available surface on their walls. Images of food with their associated menu numbers carefully huddle in the ranks of oil paintings and old flyers. While more restaurants try to push for clean minimalism (don't get me started on McDonald's), LienHiep is lived-in.

Two men and their daughters came in. The kids, as children tend to do, screamed and cried out of some unholy combination of spite, rage, and juvenile malice. The chef, one of two people working that night, came out and gingerly asked the children what they wanted to eat. He double- and triple-checked with them, bringing their food 10 scream-filled minutes later. Peaceful silence immediately seeped into their table under the warm aroma of the soup.

That might seem an insignificant moment in a meal, one every parent reading this may roll their eyes at and say, "well, they were hungry." But the interaction speaks to how the owners of LienHiep care for their customers. It's the attention that can only come from being in a mom-and-pop shop.

The Bánh Cuốn Nhân Thịt ($16) were quartz-coloured rice rolls adorned with slices of Chả lụa (Vietnamese pork sausage).

The dish delicately orchestrates conflicting textures into a cohesive product. The rice rolls were saccular and membranous. The ground pork inside the rolls was well-spiced, and mixed with mushrooms. Paradoxically, even though meat famously is better tender, I preferred the dry pork here. It acted as an internal spice benefitting the rice roll around it.

The Chả lụa was sweet and light in a way pork so often is not. Its squeaky, almost rubbery texture complemented the Bánh Cuốn. It offers counterbalance — nearly crunchy to break out of the chewiness of the rice rolls. It's impressionistic clouds painted onto a clear sky.



Vancouver's pho scene is oversaturated — a foam bubbling to the surface of each street corner. I can get good pho within a short bus ride or a walk down the street. But that also means good Vietnamese soups of other varieties can be harder to find. Luckily, LienHiep's menu has so much more.

The Bún Chả Cá Đặc Biệt ($18) was a behemoth of a light orange soup. It looked like a gently-cooked ocean — bobbing buoys of tomato, fish balls, and fried fish cohabitated dill-filled water. Warmth and a slight acidic smell radiated off of it.

The fish balls were chewy and rich, teetering towards sweet. They had a surprising peppery aftertaste that snuck up on me minutes after finishing them. Fried fish fillets carefully rested atop the dish — still incomprehensibly crunchy after tens of minutes in the broth. Soft noodles melted into the soup as time went on.

Whatever cold lies dormant in my lungs or sadness crystallized in the ventricles of my heart could be cured by this soup. Slightly acidic from the tomatoes, the lighter (most likely fish, but I can't say for certain) stock pushed into the far reaches of my sinuses and purified my lymph nodes. Drinking it felt like the popping relief after a migraine — a blissful moment of tranquil healing.

Maybe what cured me that night was the high volume of dill in the soup, concentrated in each spoonful. Maybe the cure was the hot tea served by someone who cares. Maybe I just needed a hot meal in a small shop on a cold, rainy night.



Fluorescent light pours out of Duffin's Donuts onto the cold sidewalks around it. Light from a lesser establishment — maybe a more soulless place — would sterilize the ground, killing the serene dark and warm yellow of cheap street lamps. Duffin's spirit turns its unnatural glow into a beacon. It's a lighthouse beckoning the tired and hungry to its doors, asking them to come as they are and enjoy a hot meal.

Duffin's Donuts was born from its founders' years of immigration, putting pins into different parts of the map before building port Duffin's in East Vancouver. Founders Tony Chhuon and Paula Sim fled from Cambodia to escape the dictatorship of the Khmer Rouge in 1980. They walked with flashlights, following their small beams through mountainous darkness into Thailand. The runway lights guided their plane as they immigrated to Ottawa three years later. In a chance meeting with Ted Ngoy — called the "Donut King" — they learned to run a doughnut establishment under the Southern California sun.

Chhuon and Sim opened Duffin's in 1987, and it has since become a Vancouver institution. It's in countless guides across the internet or travel books. I knew the Hailee Steinfeld and Woody Harrelson film The Edge of Seventeen was shot in Vancouver because one of its most melancholic scenes is very clearly next to where I have salivated over an apple fritter the size of my head. For God's sake, over the summer, they had a collab with clothing brand Roots for their "Pit Stop Summer '26" collection. Though I will not be buying a $168 crewneck, I'm happy that we're represented in national brands.

I need to explain my word choice in this article. The word "institution" has been made meaningless in this age of attention-grabbing articles. I usually tread lightly around its usage. Here, however, I dive headfirst into that description, because it's the only one that's apt.

Duffin's is a department store of food. The most worldly emperor from 100 years ago would be overwhelmed by the plethora of choice laid before him, spanning cultures and continents. Would his liege care for a Teriyaki Beef Torta for $7.49, a Vietnamese Mixed Ham for $7.19, or United States-style fried chicken for $3 an appendage?

It's an infinite Library of Babel: no one person can eat each dish at Duffin's in one lifetime. There's too much, it's too diverse, and after you think you've seen everything, another item appears in the margins between two others. As restaurants try to offer less for more money, Duffin's brings the world to you while not draining your bank account for the import.

We ate our dessert first, because joy is not defined by a preordained set of food laws. You will still make it to heaven if you eat sweets before the meal. The apple fritter ($2.99) was a gorgeously fried amalgamation of dough and crusty frosting. The whole thing



looked like it was encased in marble, sculpted by the tender arms of a master craftsman.

The taste was light and brightening. The sweetness of the fritter hit the top of my mouth just as my teeth broke through the frosting. This fritter had crunch — a bite that spoke to how well-reinforced the pastry was. Inside was a pillow of thick dough, which is what I'm sure young children see when they look at wall insulation, found tantalizingly out of reach and edibility.

Small apple slices surreptitiously added on the outside gave the illusion that this was healthy, before the fluffy dough went back to wreak melodious havoc in my cardiovascular system.

Aleah — the photojournalist — seemed equally enraptured with her strawberry-filled donut ($2.05). Of it, she said "Amazing. There is so much jelly in there. It's incredible."

We got the fried chicken combos. I got the three-piece with fries ($10.29), and Aleah the two-piece with fries ($7.79). These hulking pieces of poultry arrived atop gorgeous French fries — you know the kind. It's the double-fried variety you tend to see at expensive burger restaurants that are so good you forget you're eating a $20 hamburger. Duffin's just had them as part of their infinite stock. Of course they did.

The fried batter was golden, crunchy, and well-seasoned without ever jumping to spicy. It was some of the first fried chicken I've had where pepper permeated each level of the batter. The casing was made by artisans — the fried skin didn't rip off the meat after one bite, but accompanied each bite of meat.

The meat itself was tender and juicy, retaining its fat even under the well-fried exterior. This is difficult to accomplish, and anyone who has tried to execute it understands the pain. To make fried chicken, one must dance with near-certain culinary death, either seeing the salvation of crispy exteriors to have rubbery poultry interiors or undercooking the outer shell to have a better meat. Duffin's chicken was cooked by those who knew their waltz. Of course it was.

I challenge you not to feel the weight of the institution while staring at the yellow and red sign, watching a line of people coming from work or beginning a night on the town diligently wait for food. Stand in the gentle warmth of the fluorescent glow, take a donut, and tell me you don't feel like you're in Vancouver — I'll buy you a wing if it's true.



Poutine — my love, my everything — is tantalizingly unkosher. My love for it could only begin once I left home. I was raised to follow the laws of kashrut, even if my family has denied that fact each time I've written about it in this publication. This means I couldn't eat the mesmerizing congress of meat and dairy, nor any meat found in a non-kosher establishment. But its slow-cooked, informal qualities are everything I yearn for in a food. It nourishes the stomach in a way that melts the stomach of the frugal college student within.

La Belle Patate was not my first poutine, but it's now etched into the history of my life and will be played before Jewish St. Peter (Lenny Bruce) on my way to heaven's gates. La Belle Patate inspired my reverence towards the alchemical concoction of curds, gravy, and fries, and I am humbly grateful.

Keen-eyed readers who follow my pieces (hello Bubbie) may notice the level of objectivity I try to maintain within my pieces. I wish each assertion in these food reviews to be a reasonable description of the meal, without undue hyperbole or veneration. I apologize to you, because I can't promise this here. Poutine is not a culinarily complex dish that I could write about like an orchestra crashing into distinct combinations of perfectly recherché ingredients. Its simple ingredients make a heartwarming and filling food for cold or inebriated nights. I can't ask for anything more in a dish.

Poutine has few literary odes. Born from the frostbitten experimentation of the Quebec dairy region, for years, people saw it as an unrefined drinker's snack. It became popular for restaurant workers and late-night fare, greasily spreading across the province to become a direly-protected Quebecois folk food.

One could describe poutine as the simple addition of gravy atop fries and cheese curds. Similarly, one could describe a burning sunset in late July as light hitting air molecules. People who cannot appreciate either's beauty should look inward and wonder if their world can hold magic within it.

To say that it's "Canadian" is an oversimplification which invites hordes of angry francophones to your door. Actual political careers have died by this misrepresentation. The famous quote I've seen repeatedly in my monastic research into this art form comes from Paul Wells in 1990. He (seemingly exasperatingly) wrote, "it's become Quebec in a bowl, a shorthand symbol for the province which finds its way into editorial cartoons, comic monologues, and anywhere somebody needs to evoke Quebec and get a laugh at the same time." But it's defended by a French-speaking knights templar who take up the sword for their heritage.

La Belle Patate is as Quebec-ish as my Montrealer mother. This tiny wooden location is tucked into Davie — the Vancouver street that has clubbing stewed in its very essence. It looks like a small town pub even as respite from rave weary travellers finding epilogues to EDM-filled nights. Habs merch, statistics, and signs surround the patrons in glass booths or one high communal table with plastic stools. You can barely see the kitchen tucked behind a small window, where one or two people intently pour gravy or deep-fry spuds.

Unlike brisket places in this town, which use American license plates to condescendingly appeal to Yankee authority, La Belle Patate earns them. These acolytes of the curd earn cheesy iconography through dedication to their craft. They serve poutine and nearly poutine only — bold customers can add bacon, onions, chicken, or even eggs in seemingly limitless combinations (if limitless was 37).

The restaurant fills me with familial nostalgia for childhood moments where I'd head to town with my grandparents in Montreal. When I got to La Belle last week, I ran into a man who looked suspiciously like my grandfather. We talked for a bit; he looked different from my grandfather and talked distinctly. Still, I couldn't shake the feeling that my Zadie flew in from the YUL. Something about this place bubbles my own brief white-and-blue memories to the front of my brain.

The medium smoked meat poutine ($14.95) is a huge tray of deep amber gravy, adorned with fries and bright white curds like stars in a beautiful, fatty sky. Flecks of Montreal-style smoked pastrami are deposited in the meal like flecks of crystal. You can feel the heat of the dish hit you moments before the smell of the gravy lazily glides to your nostrils.

Poutine is the only food that humbles the eater. You kneel at the altar of fat and melted cheese, praying for forgiveness on behalf of your currently-clogging arteries. La Belle Patate made a triumphant church for this. The gravy was beefy and flavourful, covering crunchy fries that melted with the curds into the heaping, wonderful, warm mass in front of me. To call it liquid gold would blemish the poutine's shine.

The smoked meat tasted like every perfect pastrami piece I grew up with. I felt each grain of beef break under my tooth. It was smoky and tasted almost bread-like. It was corned beef derived from delicatessens deep within Jewish Côte-St-Luc. Despite this goyishly unkosher meal, I couldn't stop thinking of the Yiddish cuisine I grew up with. It was nice not to feel like I was running away from those traditions.

We devoured our poutine like it held secrets to eternal life. It was heavy in a benevolent way — sitting in front of a campfire and gently being rocked to satiation. It left us tired, happy, and with Quebecois reverence for this food.

EXTENDED

Check out the stories online for the full extended bylines. **Sophia Clearwater** designed this page in print.

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Game Analysis

Kings of the West, Once Again

By **Wiktor Chojnicki**
Men's Soccer Reporter

All photos by Jormthai Tohtubtiang for *The Ubyssey*





On Fridays like this, even a snarky European sports purist like myself must give credit where credit is due — chapeau bas, T-Bird fans.

Half a thousand supporters in the stadium ensured that the 3–2 Canada West final against the University of Alberta sounded like war: drums, trumpets, violent threats against the referee, vulgar parodies of John Denver, interwoven with plain old "Defense! Defense!" The trust shown by fans always makes its way into the locker room. It's a true game-changer.

Asked about the team's morale, captain Eric Lajeunesse said:

"Oh, the vibes are very high. Everybody's so excited, I don't think I've been with a team that's ever been this close, we're all brothers."

The personal aspect was at the forefront of this victory for everyone, even the coach himself. After 31 seasons and 13 Canada West titles, one might expect boredom or indifference. Nothing could be further from the truth.

What made the season special for Mike Mosher?

"The quality of the people. They're obviously good footballers, but they're just really really good people that you just love being around every day."

In finals, it's often the pressure and hype that take over — it's borderline impossible to maintain clarity of thought, let alone tactical cohesion. In such moments, it's the personal side that takes over: trust in your teammates, muscle memory, doing things because a voice in the back of your head tells you it's the right thing to do.

This leaves many players unrecognizable. Brennen Fuerst, the rational and reserved defensive midfielder, simply played out of his mind.

As a deep-lying playmaker, he was often the one who stayed behind while his midfield partner Oliver Herbert stretched the pitch, or the fullbacks, Nicolas Nadeau and Eric Kim, joined the attack. Every attack began with Fuerst, and any opposition pressing attempt failed when he bailed out the defence.

Not this time. On Friday, having gone 1–0 down in the 19th minute, he decided to do it all himself.

His movement showed his thirst for the goal — any attentive viewer would've seen that Fuerst was going to be the one to draw first blood for his team. His box-crashing attempts entirely disturbed the Golden Bears' game plan.

I don't blame them — this play wasn't in the data set. This man has never been this unreasonably fast in his entire life. He didn't need to be: a CDM of his archetype plays with his brain, not his physicality. For 70 minutes, Fuerst evolved into the complete player.

After two failed attempts, all the stars aligned for the fourth-year player. Following a post-cross scramble, the ball found itself perfectly in sync with the box-crashing No. 11 for a highlight-reel-worthy long-range volley. The kind of goal you never forget. A brilliance that cannot be taught — one just has to have "it" in him. 1–1.

"It's a spur-of-the-moment thing. Two years ago, same thing for me, had one goal all season and it was in the final. I don't get forward a lot but when I have a chance like that, you know I gotta score," Fuerst said.

This really underscores how underrated Fuerst has been. The 2023 U Sports rookie of the year has played at least 1,400 minutes in every single season of his varsity career. That's meaningful even in a professional 30-game season. In 20, that's incredible.

To me, he's the standout player teams should be scouting and drafting — the fact that he's not on a development contract yet is a misunderstanding. Fuerst just has the maturity of a seasoned midfielder. "Good performances get you places," he said.

Although both Lajeunesse and Mosher are confident about a win at nationals, not everything is sunshine and rainbows. Alberta pushed UBC to its limits and a draw would've been an equally fair standard time scoreline.

Despite scoring the second goal to secure the lead, Lucas Dasovic has looked out of his depth ever since his injury. In the 19th-minute goal for the visitors, he got humiliated by Alberta's Justin George in a physical challenge — his individual mistake was entirely at fault for the score line. Physicality used to be Dasovic's trademark. Ahead of nationals, I hope to see Joshua Tome as Lajeunesse's partner.

In prior games, it's been easy to praise the T-Birds' structured press. This time, however, particularly when trailing, it was more reminiscent of running around like headless chickens. It's brilliant to enforce an advantage, but in times of crisis, it leaves players exhausted. By the 80th minute, UBC looked completely out of steam, hoofing the ball and parking the bus, while Alberta, who took it slow in the first 30 minutes, kept pressing on. Not conceding a last-minute equalizer was a miracle.

Another caveat to the victory is Luke Norman, or rather his playoff absence. He's been injured, but he'll be back next week. Should he be?

Eleven goal contributions in 15 games is spectacular, but the tally itself doesn't reveal the whole picture: to score seven goals, he needed 40 shots, only 22 of which were on target. His dribbling and flair are beautiful to watch, sure, but he's been by far the most wasteful player on the roster this season. In his absence, the T-Birds played their best soccer of the year. He needs to become more selfless.

Although they've both been very consistent throughout the season, the final game is one to forget for both Markus Rukavina and Yuan Yu-Hsuan — both were invisible and, frankly, should've been subbed off at halftime. Against Alberta, almost all of the threat in the final third came from Henri Godbout and Max Comsia, who had to cover more ground as the other two looked completely lost in Mosher's dynamic system.

Granted, both Rukavina and Yuan have proven their worth in previous matches, but if big games are their kryptonite, it might be time to re-evaluate their roles. Theo Afework was much more effective, while Comsia and Godbout couldn't do it on their own. Most of the Thunderbirds' offensive output came from masterfully crafted set pieces.

Coach Mosher must've taken inspiration from the notorious corners Arsenal developed during their 2025–26 Premier League-winning campaign. At times, he lined up as many as six players directly on the goal line to reduce the enemy goalkeeper's vision and movement. This manoeuvre could be UBC's strongest weapon at nationals.

Having played their last home game of the season — for some of them, their last-ever game at Thunderbird Stadium, the squad knows just how much is on the line:

Glory — anything short of a national championship win will disappoint the critics and the players themselves.

Friendship — no dream of theirs can be achieved alone.

Future — the upcoming draft will be a deal-breaker: Comsia, Fuerst and Kim are essentially pro-ready, but they're still uncontracted. The competition is stacked.

Will their childhood dreams come true as they get the privilege of making a living doing what they've always loved? Or is university soccer the end of the line, as they fall into the post-grad nine-to-five grind like the rest of us?

The die has been cast and the Rubicon has been crossed. The battleground? U Sports Nationals. Stay tuned.

Three Years of Owning the Conference

By Sam Quattrocchi
Women's Soccer Reporter





After beating the Victoria Vikes in the Canada West semifinals, the Thompson Rivers University WolfPack were hoping to cap off a Cinderella season at Thunderbird Stadium.

Coming off a 5–8–1 season where they missed the playoffs, they reversed their fortunes this year, finishing with the most wins in program history and making the Canada West finals for the first time.

But beating the Thunderbirds? They're not quite there yet.

UBC clinched their third straight conference title, beating the upstart WolfPack 3–1 in a dominant playoff victory.

As convincing as their playoff win was, however, the WolfPack was a formidable opponent — giving UBC all they could handle in the regular season.

The WolfPack finished the regular season in second place, with a record of 8–2–4. They are the pinnacle of team play, with shared scoring and connected defence. "They're a good program," said UBC head coach Jesse Symons. "They've got good players up top to find goals, and they take advantage of their chances."

TRU doesn't rely on one star. Allison Hill led their regular season scoring with three goals, but Sophia Branby, Kat Stewart, Joss Olcen, Esi Lufo, Sara Kuusimäki, and Hannah Saxon were all in second, each recording two goals in the year.

It wouldn't be enough, however. They were facing a juggernaut.

With three consecutive trips to the U Sports National Championship finals and two straight Canada West championships, the Thunderbirds entered the season with sky-high expectations.

To find any holes in their operation, you have to nitpick. Allowing any goals against or not scoring enough is as close as you can get to a flaw. Their high-flying offence includes Maddy Norman, who tied a conference record with 22 points and was named Canada West MVP. Defender Sophia Ferreira won Canada West Defensive Player of the Year. They finished the season with a near perfect 13–0–1.

The one blemish on their record? Courtesy of TRU.

Throughout the 2026–27 season, the Thunderbirds allowed only two goals. Both were scored by the WolfPack.

Their first matchup ended the Thunderbirds' multiple season Canada West shutout streak. Then, the WolfPack one-upped themselves, ending UBC's 44-game Canada West winning streak with a 1–1 tie.

The WolfPack gives the Birds fits. They limit UBC's scoring opportunities, and seem to be the only team to solve the T-Birds' defence. They had a chance.

It was an exhilarating first half, highlighted by a flurry of chances for UBC. Their dominant pressure culminated in a tap-in goal for the graduating Jayda Thompson, assisted by playoff MVP Bailey Doerksen.

The Birds seemed to be on their way, coasting to another title. Then, in the 17th minute, a shocker. UBC's Sabrina Nascimento Carreira was called on a hard foul in an aerial battle with Lufo. Inches outside of the box, a free kick was called.

Lufo spotted her free kick, walked back, regarded the pitch, and ran up to the ball.

With a laser right kick, the shot just got past goalkeeper Marilena Spagnolo, who made a spectacular effort, reaching out to the bar — but beneath the ball. The WolfPack had tied it.

Instead of being deterred, the Thunderbirds put the pedal to the metal. With incredible saves from WolfPack keeper Floor Ursem and missed chances aplenty, the Thunderbirds looked on the cusp. They were desperate to regain the lead before halftime.

In the 44th minute, their work paid off. Doerksen scored a near-identical goal to the one she assisted on, thanks to a wonderful setup from Norman.

The second half was more of the same. In the 58th minute, Sienna Gibson scored a blistering shot, once again assisted by Norman. With a two-goal cushion, the Birds had survived the scare.

When the dust settled, the difference between the two teams was clear. The WolfPack continue to be clinical with the chances they're given. They convert when given the chance, making them an anxiety-inducing opposition. But that efficiency matters little when they don't get chances to begin with.

The Thunderbirds were suffocating. They recorded 15 shots and 10 corner kicks, while limiting the WolfPack to three shots, only two on target, and zero corner kicks.

The WolfPack can still hold their heads high, despite the loss. Their silver medals represent their first-ever podium finish in the conference. In a week's time, they will be back in Point Grey, playing at nationals for the first time in their team's history. They don't have to feel let down by not beating the T-Birds. Few teams do.

With their 19th Canada West title — by far the most out of any team — UBC continues to be the pinnacle of the conference. Although they allowed a goal — which is always noteworthy, regardless of the Thunderbirds' opposition — the Thunderbirds played perhaps their best game of the season.

While they faced adversity, giving up the tying goal and missing opportunities, they never let up on their pressure. That adversity is something they'll have to get used to.

"We don't get scored on a ton, but we are going into nationals next week, so [giving up goals] could [become] a very common case," Doerkson said.

The Birds' team chemistry was on display, with creative chance creation and patient playmaking. Unlike their draw against the WolfPack, there never seemed to be desperation. Rather, it was an assured persistence without stress.

They were playing to their identity.

"This was one of our best games of the year," Symons said. "I thought from start to finish, we were just unbelievable, defensively, offensively, found ways to attack. It was really a joy to watch on the sidelines today."

Doerkson, the tournament's MVP, had similar thoughts. "'[The game] was electric. Our team has really gelled and moved together this season, so it was really cool to feel like all the pieces were coming together ... I couldn't be more proud."

This award was a cherry on top for Doerksen. Dealing with an ACL injury last season, she had to endure a long road of recovery. With no injury disclosed publicly, she was off the roster for a number of matches this season — but when she was on the pitch, she made her chances count. In only seven matches, she recorded four goals and five assists in the regular season, being named a member of this year's Canada West All-Star team.

In addition to Doerksen, Thompson and Norman continue to be offensive forces. Thompson recorded three goals in the last two playoff games, while Norman continues to add to her historic season, with five points this post-season.

While there were questions at times during the regular season, with another conference trophy on the shelf, the Thunderbirds reminded opponents that they are gunning for a national championship at the peak of their powers.

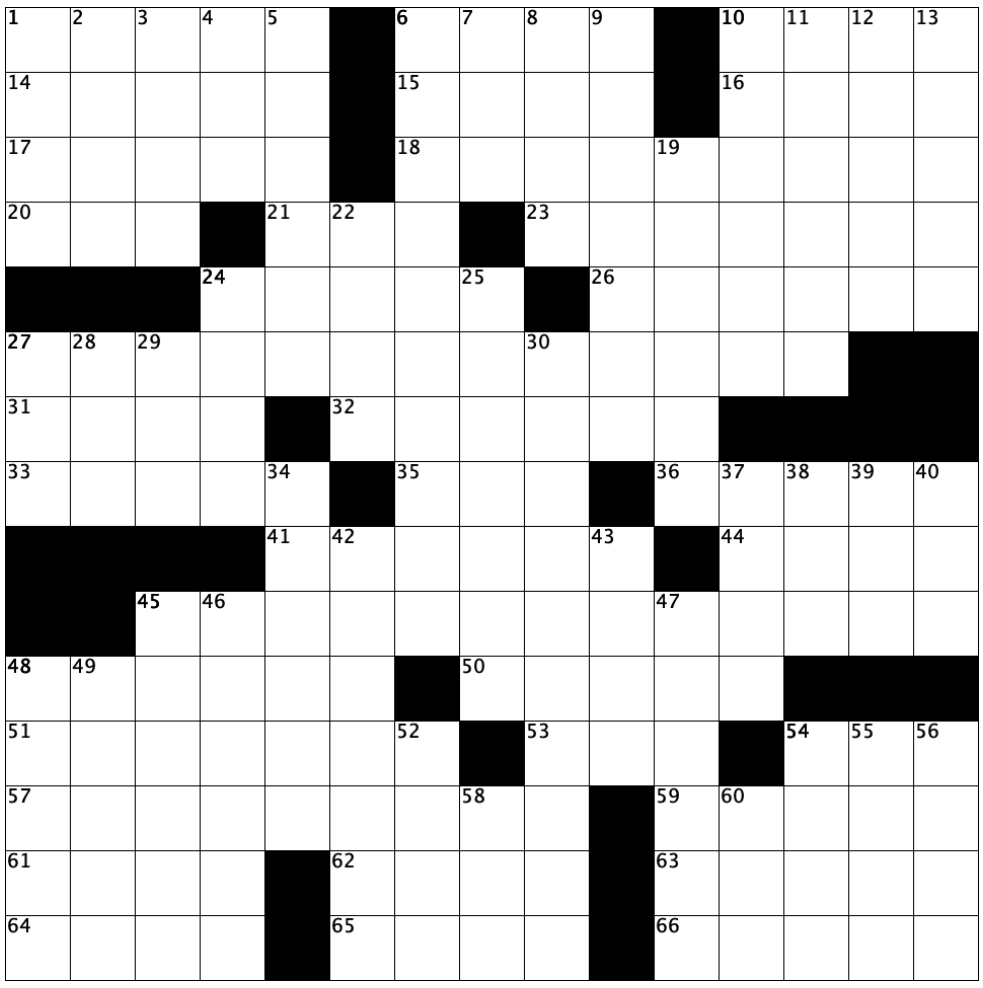
"We couldn't be going into nationals on a higher note," Doerkson said.

The 2023–24 Thunderbirds lost the Canada West, but won nationals. Last year's team won the Canada West, but lost at nationals. This year they are gunning for both, with a home-field advantage.

The Thunderbirds, WolfPack, and rest of the best U Sports women's soccer teams will showcase their talents in the tournament, which is on campus between Nov. 12 and 15.

It has been an extremely enjoyable season to watch, and nationals will be no exception.

THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD



Crossword by Dylan Fitzhenry for *The Ubyssey*

Constructor's Note: When I tell people I make crosswords for The Ubyssey, they sometimes mishear me and say "Oh, for UBC!?" Our newspaper and our school do have strikingly similar-sounding names, by no coincidence. This led me down a path of thinking about other possible mishearings or misunderstandings of our paper's name. So, this puzzle is in celebration of besmirching the good name of local journalism, literally! You'll find six clues in italics with very familiar-sounding pronunciations, yet wildly varying meanings, and it's up to you to interpret them! For questions or feedback, please contact games@ubyssey.ca

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS



Crossword by Dylan Fitzhenry for *The Ubyssey*

If you want to make the next crossword, go to:

ubyssey.ca/join

We want more custom games for our website and print but we need people like you to make them!

ACROSS

1. Abodes for abuelas
6. Popular movements from the last decade
10. Arse
14. Skillful
15. "Whatever you say, pal"
16. Chip in for a hand?
17. *Ewe be she*
18. Field prop known as the "old man of the rooks" in Scotland
20. Genre for Darude's "Sandstorm" (abbr.)
21. ___-en-ciel (rainbow, in French)
23. *Who be sea?*
24. Reach new depths, morally
26. Passed (away)
27. "*You, be easy...*"
31. First of a trio of Pokémon named after magic words
32. Promising reply to "Got any good ideas?"
33. Short-legged dog breed, whose name is literally Welsh for "dwarf"
35. Got comfy
36. "Deadass"
41. Tool for a roofer
44. Cylindrical sight near a stable
45. *"Ew, bees! Eeee!"*
48. Agree
50. Disagree
51. *v*, B.C.
53. Suffix for many an ideology
54. ___-ray
57. Region on the shores of the Great Lakes, named for its heavy snowfall
59. *Hue B's, see?*
61. When green changes to red
62. "Dies ___," Latin hymn used famously in Stephen Sondheim's "Sweeney Todd"
63. Where you're at while wanted?
64. ___ butter (skin care ingredient)
65. Those who spend their time ruminating
66. Frozen waffles

DOWN

1. Job for a detective
2. Condition that might make one... uh... oh, right!... lose focus on the clue they were writing
3. Appear
4. Member of a simian superfamily
5. Green day, in brief
6. Beats associated with heels on wheels
7. Opening line of a kindergarten song
8. British comedy character whose first name is officially "Mr."
9. Scattered
10. Strategic gambit
11. Can't be kept straight
12. Jade, for one
13. Branched off?
19. "When Harry Met Sally..." writer Nora
22. They leap down under, shortly
24. Style, slangily
25. Detective Jake, played by Andy Samberg on "Brooklyn Nine-Nine
27. Spot for ink on a squid
28. "Succession" network
29. NHL legend Bobby
30. Results of an impactfully hot shower?
34. Injury add-on
37. Instrument whose musicians often double on English horn
38. Uber alternative
39. "The Greatest" boxer
40. Pod member
42. Type of exercise meant to help circulate oxygen
43. "Final Fantasy" and "Undertale," for two (abbr.)
45. Lining beneath a tongue
46. Police procedural set in Southern California
47. Like a brag that might earn the response "Weird flex but ok..."
48. You might wear four of them, if being arrested while attending a formal event
49. Famed TV car dealer
52. Emperor of the 60's
54. Common end of a city (or start of a sandwich)
55. Block covered with studs
56. Employs
58. One of three, for Newton
60. Zoom annoyance