



## SURF'S UP! ..... 6/7

Looking for something different to do this spring break? Give the old snowboard a break and try something a bit wetter: surfing. Tips on where to surf, how to pick your board, surfing etiquette, and how to do it with a student's budget

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# the Voice

PRODUCED BY LANGARA JOURNALISM STUDENTS

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## Men warned to stay out

*Women's centre wants to guarantee sanctity of its female-only place*

By DEVON GOODSSELL

An unknown man has repeatedly entered the female-only space at the Women's Centre in the Langara Student Union building says the Naomi Moyer, the LSU Women's Centre liaison.

She said the man has been accompanying a female friend into the space, although the centre is specifically designated for women.

Once Moyer found him in the centre and she asked him to leave. "I made it clear it was a women's space," she said.

Moyer said the man has been seen in the Women's Centre at least three times, but in most instances the women present have felt too uncomfortable to ask him to leave.

She said a huge part of the problem is there are no official rules concerning the Women's Centre, and the plan for the centre needs to be updated and clarified. Moyer plans to meet with LSU staff to set up formal regulations concerning the Women's Centre.

"I think there needs to be [a rule] that stays with the centre so the people who are using it know that these are the guidelines, these are the rules, this is why the centre is here," Moyer said. "I don't think that's very evident now."

Since the incidents, Moyer has posted signs inside and outside the centre stating that it is a space intended for women only.

The Women's Centre had a similar incident last semester when Langara history student Bob Wilkins also entered the Women's Centre with one of his female friends.

In this case, Wilkins was pushed out the door and informed that he was not permitted to enter.

There was a verbal altercation, and LSU executives were called in to resolve the dispute.

Because of the collective agreement between the LSU and the union representing the employees, the issue was not dealt with publicly and no official rules were set up for conduct in the Women's Centre.



NAOMI MOYER  
LSU Women's  
Centre Liaison



## THE FIRST VOTE IS IN

Fabien Simpson, a 27-year-old arts and science student at Langara College, drops his votes into the ballot box in the main foyer. For more information on candidates, refer to the story on p. 3

KRISTEN THOMPSON  
photo

## Students question award system

### LOAN information

- Langara College offers more than 70 bursaries to students.
- Applicants must provide financial aid with all their living expenses.
- Financial aid randomly verifies if expenses claimed on application forms are accurate.
- Most Langara bursaries are between \$700 and \$1000.
- One student rarely gets more than three bursaries while at Langara.

*Financial aid says process for rewarding bursaries works fine the way it is*

By HANNAH SUTHERLAND

Some students are worried financial aid doesn't do enough to ensure bursaries go to needy students, but the manager of Langara's student aid programs says the process is fine.

Bursaries are non-refundable awards given to students based on financial need and academic standing. When students apply for a bursary, they must provide the school with an estimate of their living expenses including the cost of tuition, books and school supplies, utilities, rent or mortgage, food, and clothing.

Shirley Kamerling-Roberts, the manager of student assistance programs, said students who fill out the bursary application form give the financial aid department permission to verify the cost of rent with a landlord.

However, financial checks are done randomly, so she wasn't able to say how

often information on bursary applications is verified.

Students at the University of British Columbia are required to have a loan before they can apply for a bursary.

Barbara Crocker, the associate director of student financial assistance and awards at UBC, said financial information that is given on loan applications serves as a comparison for the information given on bursary applications. Their checks are also random.

Crocker said if the information provided on the two applications is significantly different, it may mean a student is not being truthful about their financial situation.

Kamerling-Roberts said a student has never been caught lying on their bursary application.

"Students are required to declare with a signature that information provided is accurate and truthful," she

said. "If it is determined that a student has misrepresented his or her financial situation, that student would receive no further financial assistance."

Mirian Chung, a Langara arts and science student, said more checks should be done to make sure the person applying for a bursary really needs it, so a bursary isn't awarded to someone who may lie about how much money they really need.

"They shouldn't do [verifications] randomly to find out whether or not they're lying," Chung said. "Some other student who needs the money may not get it. It's not fair."

Sofia Lagoutine, a university transfer student, said, "In order for me to receive a bursary or loan, I have to bring myself down to a lower income or maybe even lie to say I don't make as much money as I do."

Langara offers over 70 different bursaries that are funded by many external and internal donors.

Kamerling-Roberts said most bursaries are under \$700, but occasionally donors provide larger sums for disbursement in the range of \$1,000.



MIRIAN CHUNG  
Says students in financial need might be left out.

## Tuition will cost an extra \$100 next year

By JOEL HARRIS

Langara College students can expect to pay an average of an extra \$100 for tuition starting next semester.

Tuition fees will be going up by two per cent in the upcoming spring semester, despite an increase in provincial post-secondary funding.

Fees are increasing to reflect the government's policy of keeping tuition in line with the rate of inflation, says a Langara Students' Union executive.

According to the provincial government, funding for post-secondary institutions will increase by \$132 million over the next two years.

The money will go towards creating space in colleges and universities for new students.

The government hopes to create 25,000 new spaces in B.C. by 2010, 500 of which will be at Langara.

See related story LSU, page 3

# Cartoons tactless -Langara Muslims

Calgary based magazine faces public criticism for reprinting the caricatures

By TROY WATTS

The president of the Langara Muslim Students' Association, Erin Shauchuk, says she believes it's insensitive for a Canadian magazine to publish cartoons of Muhammad that have offended many Muslims around the world.

The controversial cartoons first appeared in the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten and ran for several months. Some portray Islam as a violent religion and Muhammad as a supporter of terrorism. Since the controversy began the cartoons have been reprinted in newspapers in more than 40 other countries.

The cartoons have triggered outrage throughout the Muslim world, sparking widespread demonstrations some of which have resulted in violence.

Calgary's Western Standard magazine will publish eight of the cartoons in its Feb. 27 issue.

Shauchuk said a Canadian magazine should not publish the cartoons, in order to show tolerance for other cultures and religions.

"There is no point in publishing cartoons that have already upset so many people and are available to anyone who wants to look at them," said Shauchuk.

The nationwide bookstore chain Chapters-Indigo announced it will not stock the upcoming issue of Western Standard magazine.

"It's a controversial product and they think it's more hassle than it's worth," said Ezra Levant, publisher of the right-wing magazine. "It's their right. Part of freedom of speech is the freedom not to run something."

The Western Standard is not seriously affected by Chapters-Indigo's decision, said Levant. He said the attention signifies a coming of age for the two-year-old magazine because of the widespread debate it has caused.

"A lot of people are talking about the Western Standard now, and most of them are impressed that we had a little more pluck than the old media," said Levant.

He added that there has been little backlash from the local Muslim community in Calgary.



SONIA ASLAM photo

Decorations like this are deterring buyers from Shiu and Kamla Watr Kumar's home, which is two blocks away from Langara College.

# Home cost based on race

Cultural decorations would likely influence selling price, say Realtors

By SONIA ASLAM and TESSA HOLLOWAY

Even in Vancouver, one of the most multicultural cities in the world, some Realtors say your neighbour's ethnicity could affect the price of your home.

Bob Nayyar, a real estate agent with Remax, said while ethnicity isn't the main factor in pricing a home, it does play a role. He listed cultural examples and varying income levels as reasons for that. For example, he said in his experience people from Chinese backgrounds usually

spend a higher proportion of their income on their homes.

"They can afford higher prices," Nayyar said. "In effect the properties must usually be pretty big, meaning the assessment will be affected."

Nayyar added prices could also be af-

fecting the other way around, with some people preferring to live in mixed neighbourhoods.

Patrick Weeks, an agent on the West Side, said ethnicity doesn't affect his pricing.

"In my experience Vancouver is a very multicultural city, and accepting as people seem to be, it hasn't really affected value," he said.

Warren Li, a real estate agent focusing on East Vancouver, said while ethnicity shouldn't play a part in pricing, it does in some cases. "There are still buyers out there who might think that way," he said.

Nayyar also said cultural or religious decorations affect the salability of a home because they may not appeal to every potential buyer.

"People mostly re-decorate their homes prior to an open house, because it might make a difference," he said. "It's a sad part, but that's life."

Some Langara students are split over whether they would take down cultural or religious decorations.

"It's a part of your religion," said

Shyam Dilgir, 20, a business management student at Langara. "You're disrespecting your religion by doing that to sell the house."

Bilal Hassem, 21, a university transfer student, said he would remove any decorations. "It's not like my stuff is coming with the house, so what's the point?"

Bernice Capalad, 18, a display and design student, agreed it makes a difference. "If there's a cross and a person's Jewish, they might not like it," she said.

Andrew Whitaker, an economics instructor at Langara, said money is the biggest determining factor in where people live—though ethnicity might be related.

"Other ethnic groups have got their hands on money, not the WASPS," he said, referring to white Anglo-Saxon Protestants, whom he said used to dominate expensive neighbourhoods like the West Side.

"According to how much money you have, you get a better life and a better neighbourhood," he said.

“People mostly re-decorate their houses prior to an open house, because it might make a difference”

BOB NAYYAR

# Ear alarm designed to prevent dozing



SONIA ASLAM photo

Kathryn McGregor tries the "driver alert" to keep her from dozing off.

Invention tries to alert people when fatigue hits

By SONIA ASLAM

It's 2 a.m. You're driving home after a late night out with friends. You're about to fall asleep at the wheel when you hear a ringing in your ear. That ringing just might save your life.

American electronics company NexxTech has introduced the Driver Alert and is selling it exclusively through its parent company's stores, The Source by Circuit City, for \$19.99.

The small device either sits in your ear like a hearing aid, or wraps around

the outside of your earlobe. A comfort grip ensures the product stays in.

The Driver Alert works by measuring the angle of your head. If you tilt your head a certain number of degrees an alarm will sound.

After buying the earpiece I got in my car and drove home, feeling tired. Things went smoothly at first. I could make shoulder checks. I could look right or left. I was in awe. And then, while sitting at a red light, I thought I spotted a stain on my shirt. But when I leaned my head down, a deafening alarm rang out.

Even Source employees are put off by the idea of wearing the alarm.

Tyler Ryckman, 20, a senior sales as-

sociate said, "I sell it, but I wouldn't use it. It's almost like NexxTech is making things just for the sake of selling them."

Now I knew what it was like to drive with the earpiece so I went to speak with some students who might wear it while studying.

"I wouldn't use it. If I started falling asleep studying chances are the information wasn't registering," said Kathryn McGregor, 27, a property management student at Langara College.

Chelsea Hamm, 21, a university transfer student, said the Driver Alert might be worth buying. "It could be very useful, if it didn't deafen me."

"And what about people with neck braces?" she added.

## PREVENT drowsiness

- Get 8 hours of sleep per night
- Exercise regularly
- Eat a balanced diet
- Don't stuff yourself before bed
- Stretch—it helps circulate your blood

**BRIEFLY on campus**

**Bake sale**

Student Nurses for Clean Drinks is hosting a bake sale fundraiser at Langara College on Feb. 17, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The SNCD, in collaboration with the Vancouver Police Department, will be selling baked treats in the main foyer of the college to increase awareness about drug-facilitated sexual assault. Prizes include Purdy's chocolates and a prize pack from the Beat 94.5. For more information visit [www.studentnurses.4t.com](http://www.studentnurses.4t.com).

**Field School info sessions**

Explore the mystique of the Queen Charlotte Islands May-June 2006, by land and sea.

Haida Gwaii studies information meeting Feb. 16, 6-9 p.m. (room TBA).

In May 2006 you could be in Greece earning university transfer credits in history.

Greek field studies information Feb. 16, 6-9 p.m. (room TBA).

Cruise through paradise islands with starkly beautiful lavascapes and tropical rain forests in May and June 2006. Go on a guided tour with a Darwin-Institute approved naturalist.

Galapagos information session Feb. 18, 7 p.m. B201.

**Langara students to pay \$100 extra**

*LSU, continued from page 1*

The provincial government used to fund 70 per cent of the average student's education, but now it is only funding 53 per cent, according to Canadian Federation of Students statistics.

Asha MacDonald, an arts and science transfer student, believes they shouldn't have any tuition at all. "In communist countries they have a lot more education because there is no cost [for education]," she said.

MacDonald believes the government's plan to add more seats is good because of the province's growing population.

For students like Lynn Catapia, an arts and science student, the increase in tuition doesn't sound like a lot but it adds up. Catapia plans to go into medicine and said increasing tuition causes a bad cycle of working more to pay for raising costs, which prolongs her schooling.

"Even though it's only two per cent, I have eight to 10 years to go," she said.

Catapia said adding more seats instead of decreasing tuition is not the answer to the increasing student debt problem. She would prefer to see both more spaces for students as well as a decrease in tuition.

# Last chance to choose

Story, bios and photos by ROB MANGELSDORF

**E**lection time is upon us yet again, and we must choose who will represent us in the Langara College Students' Union. There is an election held every semester for available positions.

This semester there are nine spots up for grabs in the LSU. The positions we will be voting for are treasurer, education council representa-

tive, recreation leadership representative, international student liaison and five university transfer representatives. Voting continues today in the Students' Union Building from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Candidates who could not be contacted for an interview: Codi Marsh, recreation representative and Xuimen Liu, international students' representative. The internal affairs coordinator at the LSU contacted the above candidates without response. Both positions are unopposed.

**University Transfer Representative Candidates**



**Kira Daley, 2nd year University transfer**

Daley has been in the LSU for the past year and said she has campaigned for more social events and activities for students. She encourages students to submit any suggestions they have and to feel free to approach her with any questions regarding the university transfer process.



**Raman Grewal, 2nd year Arts and science**

Grewal says she would like to increase the amount of charity activity the LSU takes part in and wants to organize more parties and activities for students. Grewal ran for the Women's Centre liaison position last fall and was unsuccessful.



**Sherese Johnson, 2nd year Environmental studies**

Johnson is running in her first LSU election and if elected says she will make the LSU more available to students. Johnson currently serves on the board of her housing co-op.



**Lynn Scarborough, (year unknown) Women's studies/arts/science**

With the LSU for two years and involved with such issues as "Rock the Vote," Scarborough said she'll be available to students. In 2004 she presented the federal government with a petition signed by 8,000 Langara students protesting the high cost of tuition.

**University Transfer Representative Candidates**



**Toni-Ann Chung, 2nd year Arts and science**

Chung says she wants to help students get what they need in order to successfully transfer to university. She also wants to organize more LSU events and encourage student participation in the LSU.



**Kerri Ann Ross, 2nd year Arts and science**

Ross, who is running in her first election, said she will work to make the university transfer process more user-friendly for students. She encourages student input and promises an independent voice in the LSU.

**Treasurer Candidate**



**Rita Bisla, 2nd year University transfer**

A LSU volunteer and former education council rep, Bisla said she will increase the financial accountability and transparency of the LSU and ensure all expenditures benefit the students. This position is unopposed.

**Education Council Candidates**



**Carl Bailey, 2nd year Arts and science**

Bailey has volunteered with the LSU for the last five semesters and is running in his first LSU election. "I just want to help out and it would be nice to have some input," Bailey said. This position is unopposed.

# Queer day equals fun day in the SUB

By CLAIRE Le NOURY

**A** drag queen, a punk band, impersonations and jokes are coming to Langara College today for Queer Day. Steven Huston, Queer Collective liaison, said Queer Day is an opportunity to showcase Langara's diversity in the Students' Union Building.

"We make up a significant portion of the population and I just want to have a day that is ours, and to express our diversity," he said.

Huston coordinated the day and will be performing with his punk band, Superpop. "It's a great thing for students on campus to have a day to have fun and check out one of the subsets of Vancouver," he said.

The Queer Collective has a room in the Students' Union Building for gay and straight students to meet. The group offers literature on gay issues and provides a social space for students to interact with one another.

Carlotta Gurl, MC of the event, said Queer Day helps to expose students to a part of downtown culture. "I'm queer myself. It's really great to reach a larger audience."

Gurl said she is excited to perform her "fabulous" drag show for Langara students.

As well as the band and drag performance, West Enders Against Violence Everywhere will be making a presentation. A word artist will also showcase his talents and prizes will be given out to students during the day.

The Queer Collective has been collecting donations for the past two weeks around campus for A Loving Spoonful, a charity that supports people with HIV/AIDS. The funds, which Huston believes to be between \$600 and \$800 will be presented to the charitable organization at the event.

Crystal Finn, an arts and science student, said she thinks it's going to be a fun day.

"Everyone has fun [and] it makes people more aware," she said.

Maggie Chan, an arts and science student, said she sees it as an opportunity to meet new people.

There will be one draw back for students today. "Don't come if you want to study," Huston warns. "It's going to be loud and fun."

Huston said the event is a Langara tradition and one he considers as part of his job as the Queer Collective liaison for the LSU.



JANE EMERICK photo

Man descending mountain, Steven Huston show his pride at Langara.

# Danish cartoons poor example of freedom of press

Something is rotten in the state of Denmark. With the recent riots in Islamic states spurred by the publication of cartoons depicting the prophet Muhammad wearing a bomb as a turban, the issue of free speech has once again found its way to the forefront.

Free speech is an entrenched human right in many countries, such as Denmark, but unfortunately taste isn't abundant. The Jyllands-Posten, the paper that originally ran the cartoons, by law had every right to run them in their paper. However, they surely must have realized that by doing so they would create a negative backlash.



**OPINION**  
Adam Dunfee

So why did they do this?

Did they feel so strongly about the content of the cartoons that by publishing them they would be doing a great service to their readership? Were they defending free speech, or were they publishing them simply because they could? What was it that motivated the rest of the papers to publish the cartoons?

By not publishing the cartoons the newspaper would not have been withholding important information from their readers, and why would they be defending free speech? It isn't being threatened in any way if they don't publish the cartoon.

On Feb. 13, the Western Standard, a magazine based in Calgary, republished the cartoons and the publisher claimed he was standing up for free speech. Thankfully he was put back in line by a UBC journalism ethics professor, Stephen Ward, who said it was possible to defend free speech without being offensive.

Free speech does not exist so we can go around running our mouths off. Free speech exists because there was a time when man was told how

to think and what to do. With the advent of literacy to the masses those in positions of power began to lose control of the people, so they made a last ditch effort to maintain control by limiting the press.

Examples of this behaviour still exist today, such as in China where much of the media is still run by the state. We were lucky that crusaders of the press rose to fight for our right to express ourselves. But it seems their efforts have been forgotten.

It is time we in the media, and the populace as a whole, reassess the meaning of the principles of free speech. Of course this opens up a door through which many skeptics would claim we are stepping back to the past, when media was controlled by the wealthy and the powerful.

But they surely can see that today free speech has become nothing more than a blanket in which the Howard Sterns of the world can wrap themselves in so that they can make crude jokes about feces and lovemaking.

The "bomb-turban" cartoon was the expression of one man's feelings on Islam, agreed on by some, and disagreed on by others.

But the time has come that taste and sensitivity be returned to the values of free speech and now would be the perfect moment to start.

If this ill-advised behaviour continues we will soon realize that we have come to live in a world with no compassion or empathy.

Respect is an integral part of human relationships with each other, and this cartoon simply showed a lack of respect for millions of people around the world who believe in the prophet Muhammad.

Perhaps Minister of Foreign Affairs Peter MacKay, put it best when he said that freedom of speech is a legally enshrined principle in Canada, and one that must be exercised responsibly.

Well let's start doing it.



See related story on facing page K-9 VOLUNTEERS

JENNIFER MOREAU cartoon

## theVoice

The Voice is published by Langara College's journalism department.

Editorial opinions are those of the staff and are independent of views of the student government and administration.

We welcome letters to the editor. All letters must be signed. They may be edited for brevity. Names may be withheld in special cases, but your letter must include your name and phone number.

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# Olympics still worth it despite \$110 million hike

With the cost of the 2010 Olympic Games rising to \$580 million from the originally estimated \$470 million, many British Columbians feel it's not worth it to host them.

The B.C. Hospital Employees Union said a majority of British Columbians would prefer to see the money spent on health care and education, rather than the Olympics.

Marvin Shaffer and Alan Greer of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives said new venues and transportation routes would be too costly.

Critics of the Games seem to overlook the fact that new venues being built will be converted for community use once the Games are over.

Hosting the Games is actually creating more quality venues for amateur and minor league sports to use.

Calgary also struggled with expense estimates when it hosted the Winter Olympics in 1988. The Games

cost them \$1 billion, which was more than double what their original estimated budget was.

But the Games created such a surplus that it paid for amateur sports and Olympic facilities long after the Games had ended, according to the Associated Press.

The Ministry of Economic Development said benefits from tourism will also outweigh the cost of hosting the Games as international media exposure increases awareness of the host city and pushes tourism volumes to a permanently higher plateau.

With the 2010 Games expecting to host 10,000 media members, Vancouver couldn't ask for a bigger opportunity to be showcased to the world.



**OPINION**  
Melissa Serraglio

In the years before Expo 86, B.C.'s rate of international visitors was around 10 per cent. During Expo 86, it rose to 17 per cent, and has increased every year since.

The Ministry expects the 2010 Games to generate an economic surge similar to that of Expo 86, along with the creation of more jobs.

People who oppose hosting the Games also forget to take into account the ever-rising cost of construction in B.C.

The Vancouver 2010 Bid Corporation, which formed in 1999 and includes a board of directors drawn from different community interests, made its capital estimates in 2002 when Vancouver was chosen to host the Games. It acknowledged the estimate would need adjustments to accompany rising construction costs.

Construction is an ever-growing industry. The total value of construction in B.C. averages about \$15 billion a year, or 15 per cent of the

gross provincial product.

In the last three years, the cost of concrete framework is up by 25 per cent. The cost of structural steel has increased by 40 per cent, according to the Construction Sector Council, a national organization financed by both government and industry.

These increases will obviously affect the 2010 cost estimates, as it will cost more than initially expected to build new curling venues, hockey rinks, and expand the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre.

However, it's not the fault of any Games committee; it is simply an uncontrollable area of costs. Aside from new venues, benefits from tourism, and showcasing Vancouver to the world, there is also the simple pride of hosting the Games and the enjoyment that will come from attending the events.

Hosting the Games is a once in a lifetime experience that is worth every penny.

# Store owners fret over proposed liquor outlet

## LIQUOR store issues

- loud noise at night
- littering by patrons
- loitering by drunks
- urination nearby
- defecation nearby

By JOEL HARRIS

Opinion among store owners is divided over an application to build a privately-owned liquor store on Fraser Street and 46th Avenue.

Amit Malik, owner of MK Systems Ltd., a computer and electronics store, believes if a liquor store moved across the street from him it would bring undesirable people into the neighbourhood and up the crime rate.

"I'm definitely worried about it," he said.

Malik said he would sign a petition to

stop the application, but so far he hasn't heard anything about one.

Azez Abdul is the owner of Safa Trade Centre, a children's clothing store half a block away from the location for the proposed liquor store. Abdul said he doesn't believe it would attract undesirable people or that crime would be a problem.

"Always drinking is bad, but I don't object [to the liquor store]," he said.

Bill Boons, the co-manager of Processing Centre Development, the city department reviewing the application, said certain guidelines must be fol-

lowed which are set up by city council. As part of the process, the city alerts neighbours to the application, who can then respond by voicing their concerns about how a liquor store could affect crime and increase panhandling in their area.

"We did receive a significant level of concern from the local neighbourhood," Boons said.

The application will go before city council in a couple of weeks, and those neighbours who are concerned will be notified when the matter is put on the council's agenda, Boons said.

Const. Mark Jarvie, a police officer in the community, hasn't heard any concern about the application and said there isn't much reason to be worried. Crime doesn't necessarily go up in a neighbourhood when a liquor store goes in, he said. "As far as the one that opened up on Victoria Drive, we've had no problems. There has been no difference in the crime rate at all," he said.

Jarvie said government-owned liquor stores usually have problems with panhandlers and crime, not the smaller, privately-owned stores, such as the one proposed for Fraser Street.

## HERE COMES THE SUN



TAMARA LETKEMAN photo

Nicky Bachmeier, a Langara fine arts student, takes advantage of the sunny weather to ride her bike to and from school. Clear skies are expected to continue through the weekend.

# Canada Line a bumpy ride for commuters

## Cambie's east lane to be closed off

By CLAIRE LE NOURY

Traffic gridlock on Cambie Street could increase as soon as March, causing rush-hour headaches for Langara students.

Starting next month, Canada Line construction will shut down the east lane of Cambie, leaving only the west lane to handle both directions of traffic.

Previously known as the Richmond-Airport-Vancouver Line, or RAV Line, building of the Canada Line began in late November of 2005, causing traffic delays for some Langara students.

Guergana Dontcheva, an arts and science student, said she finds it difficult to estimate how long trips will take on the Cambie Street bus.

"It's pretty bad because Cambie is a busy street," she said.

Adel Sha, another arts and sciences student, agrees with Dontcheva.

"When it's rush hour it's bad," Sha said.

"I find it's a little bit slower," said Emi Levy, an arts and science student who also takes the No. 15 Cambie Street bus. Levy also said she finds it harder to go south out of Vancouver but easier going downtown.

However, traffic could become worse by next month, says Steve Crombie, vice president of public affairs at InTransitBC, the company building the rapid transit line, which will connect

downtown Vancouver and Richmond.

Both east and west lanes of Cambie Street are open during the day, except for West 36th Avenue through to West 26th Avenue, where traffic is diverted to the west side, said Crombie.

InTransitBC is breaking down the construction of the Canada Line into phases. Phase one, which began in November, was a traffic pattern change that directed traffic to alternative routes, said Crombie.

Phase two, which starts in March, will shut down the entire east lane of Cambie Street from Marine Drive, directing both north and southbound traffic along the west lane.

At this time, it isn't known how far north the east lane on Cambie Street will be shut down, said Crombie.

However, both TransLink and InTransitBC say traffic along Cambie Street is moving well.

"It's the best kept secret in Vancouver," said Crombie.

"The traffic along Cambie is almost better than ever," said Ken Hardie, spokesman for TransLink.

InTransitBC have had complaints about the construction, but the neighbourhood was well warned about the project, said Crombie.

InTransitBC says the Canada Line is currently on time and on budget.

"The line should be in operation by Nov. 30, 2009," Crombie said.

# K-9 volunteers nip auto crime in the bud

Taking your dog out at night in high-theft areas can help in the battle against car stealing

By ROB MANGELSDORF

Local community policing centre and ICBC are teaming up to take a bite out of crime with their Pooches on Patrol program.

The Kerrisdale-Oakridge-Marpole Community Policing Centre is encouraging dog owners to patrol their neighbourhood as they walk their dogs, and report anything suspicious to police.

In addition to having extra sets of eyes and ears on the streets, the volunteers create a visual deterrent to potential criminals on the prowl.

Const. Ian Carter said the main target of the program is auto crime.

"It's an extension of the block watch program," said Carter.

"We want to reduce crime and create peace of mind."

Oakridge resident and dog owner Rika Motohashi thinks the program is a good idea given the amount of auto crime in the area.

"My car has been broken into three times since 2000," Motohashi said. "Everyone in this neighbourhood has to keep an eye out for each other."

However, Motohashi said she doesn't feel comfortable walking her Chocolate Lab, Charlie Brown, at night.

But Carter stressed that volunteers should not directly intervene with any criminal activity they might witness—that should be left up to the cops.

"If volunteers see anything suspi-

cious they should call 911 immediately," Carter said.

"We don't want to be putting people into dangerous situations."

The program itself started more than 10 years ago with the opening of the community policing centre.

Carter considers Pooches on Patrol a low-profile program and said it's hard to gauge its results.

"There aren't really any statistics available," he said.

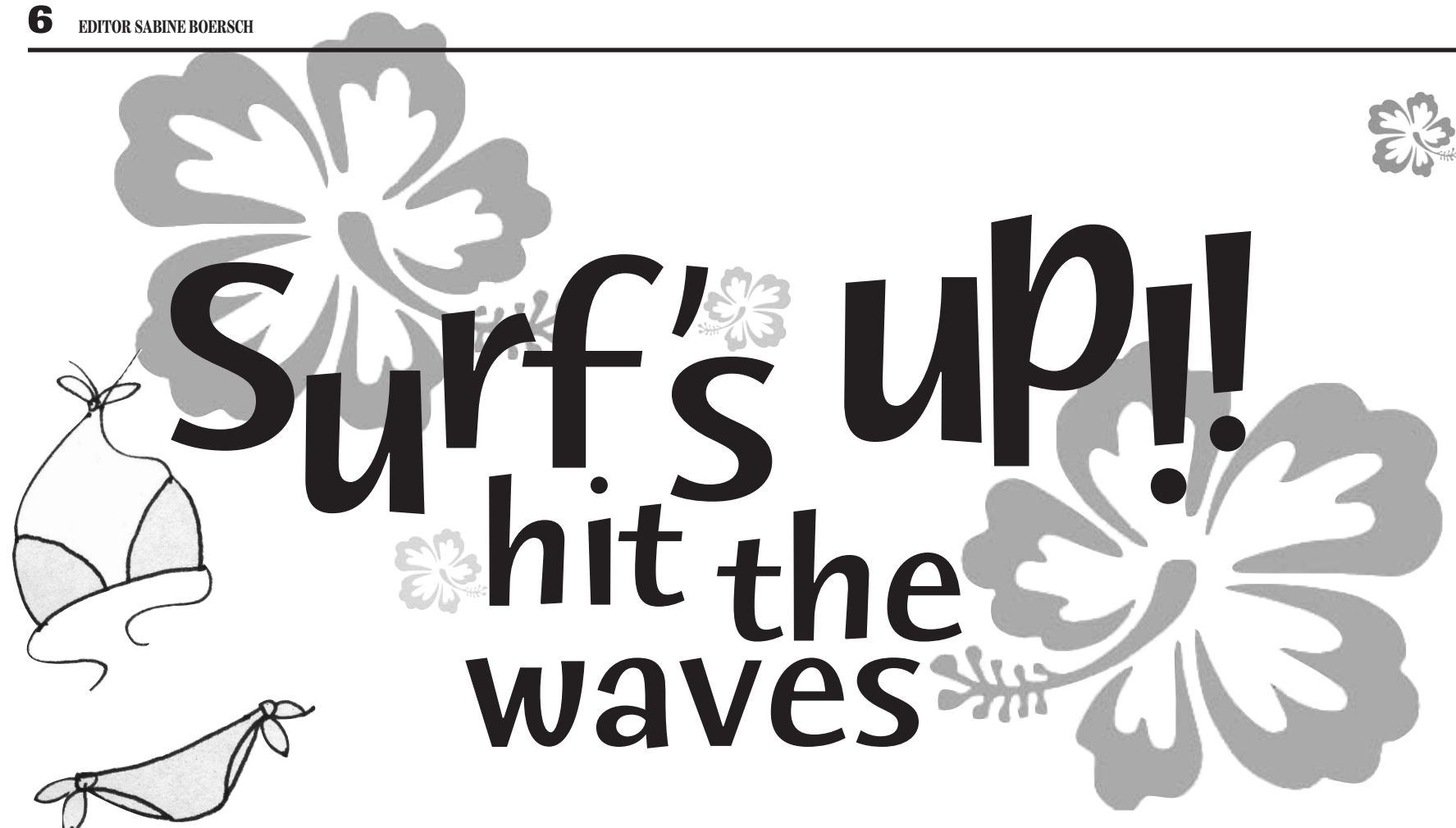
Eddy Ho, a Kerrisdale-Oakridge-Marpole Community Policing Centre volunteer, estimated there are about 10 volunteers taking part in the Pooches on Patrol program.

Anyone (and their dog) interested in becoming volunteers with the community policing centre can call 604-717-3434 or visit its website at [www.kom-cpc.com](http://www.kom-cpc.com) for more information.

Oakridge resident Rika Motohashi takes Charlie Brown for a walk. Although she applauds Pooches on Patrol, she'd be uneasy walking her canine companion at night.

ROB MANGELSDORF photo





# Surf's up!! hit the waves

## Wetiquette: no need to be so rude

If you're learning to surf, then learn the rules that guide the waves and those who ride them

By SARAH ARTIS

Dianne Bushell knows first-hand the importance of surfing etiquette. The one time she tried to hang ten, one of her friends broke his nose because he didn't follow some simple rules. It happened at Sombrio beach on Vancouver Island's southwest coast. While trying to paddle past the break to wait for waves, Bushell's friend let go of his board instead of duck-diving-pushing the front tip of his surfboard under a wave. "His board flew out of his hands, straight into the air and smashed into his face," said Bushell, a Langara university transfer student, rolling her eyes. "We were so stupid. We didn't know what the rules were. We were totally in the surfers' way and hitting the rocks." She and her friends made some of the most

common beginner surfing mistakes. First, they overestimated their skills. Rather than practise on smaller waves beforehand, they followed the regulars into the big surf, assuming they could also handle it. Second, they didn't understand the ocean before stepping into it. They were surfing in January, a month of the year when Vancouver Island's waves are at their biggest and most dangerous. Third, they surfed in a crowd when they didn't know what they were doing. This can be dangerous for everyone. A good example is what happened to Bushell's friend. "You should never let go of your board," said Monte Clarke, a salesperson at Storm Surf Shop in Tofino, the most popular surf town in Western Canada. "Always try to keep it with you or it'll hit someone." Surfers usually wear leashes that attach their board to their ankle and keep it close, but the strap can be up to three metres long. Regardless of skill level and the quality of

your equipment, the most important rule of surfing is never to "drop in" on someone, Clarke said, who's been surfing for five years. To drop in means to catch or steal someone else's wave when they are either going for it or already riding it. "Snaking"—stealing someone's wave on purpose—is even worse, Clarke added. "When you're going for a wave, look left and right. If someone's already coming your way, pull back." Unlike other board sports such as skateboarding or snowboarding, surfers have to wait for a good wave. Sometimes they wait for months. Experienced surfers accept and understand that locals get first dibs because they've put their time in. The consequences of taking someone's wave can be harsh, especially if you ding their board and dent it. "But they'll probably just yell at you and get mad," Clarke said. He recommends beginners learn to surf at Tofino's Long Beach. Like the name says, it's big enough for everybody.

## Dude, sweet board! Why that one?

From mini mals to swallow tails and egg-shaped noses: know how to gear up for a totally awesome surf trip

By SARAH ARTIS

Three main board types exist but endless varieties are available, says the salesperson of one of Vancouver's only surfboard shops. Craig Hussey, 25, has been working at the Boardroom in Kitsilano for four years and surfing for six. He owns three boards and said he surfs an average of 50 days a year. Hussey said surfboards can be grouped into three basic categories: shortboards, longboards and mini mals. Shortboards are under seven feet long and fairly skinny with a pointy nose. Longboards range between nine and 12 feet and have a rounded "egg-shaped"

nose. Mini-mals are mid-way between shortboards and longboards, and have a semi-rounded nose that isn't very pointy. "Beginners usually start on a mini-mal or longboard because it's not that aggressive," Hussey said. "The more board surface, the more balance, so it's easier to get up." Longboards allow surfers to catch small waves that aren't powerful. A surfer might sink riding the same wave on a shortboard, which are best for experienced surfers who carve waves. Many people are also now creating their own board designs-called shaping. Sam Hogie, 27, is a Vancouver surfer who owns five surfboards, two of which he shaped himself. The type of surfboard you want is a matter of personal preference, he said. "It's all based on what you are looking for and what you typically surf," Hogie said. "It depends on your size, what you can surf, how the wave breaks, the conditions."

Your sex doesn't matter, he added. Hogie considers four features when building a board: volume, rocker, shape and fins. The volume is the density of foam in the board, which affects the buoyancy. The rocker is the degree of curvature on the board, which affects the speed. The shape of the board refers both to the nose, which can be pointy or rounded, and the tail. One example of a tail shape is the "swallow," which is V-shaped like the bird's tail. Most boards have three fins on the bottom. The shape and number of fins on your board affects how quickly it responds. "Fin design is as important as your surfboard because without a fin you can't surf," Hogie said. Because of the variety of situations you may face, if you are going to get serious about surfing, you might want more than one board—especially if you plan to go abroad where the waves are different.

## Cheap ways to surf it up

Tofino to Hawaii on a student's short spring break price tag

By ADAM JOHNSON

"There is no way to surf cheaply," said Kirk Wood, manager of West Coast Sports in Kitsilano. "This is just an expensive sport." In the interests of serving a money-conscious and occasionally impoverished readership, the Voice set out to prove him wrong. After scouring the Lower Mainland for the best deals possible, the conclusion that surfing, like all outdoor sports, costs money seemed inescapable. But it doesn't have to break the bank. Even naysayer Wood had some initial thoughts on how to keep things cheap. "Just pile four or five people in a car and camp out somewhere," he said. The simplest and cheapest option is to surf locally. The closest — and best—Canadian option is Tofino, on Vancouver Island's west coast. It offers constant wave activity, beautiful scenery, cheap accommodations and, unfortunately, frigid waters. "You're going to need a wetsuit, no matter what time of year it is," Wood said. You'll also need a hood and shoes, he added, depending on the weather and what the individual surfer can withstand. Renting equipment can cost as little as \$40 per day for a surfboard and a full wetsuit. Several locations in Tofino offer rentals near this rate, as do Pacific Boarder and Westbeach in Vancouver. To entice people to rent locally, neither store charges for the day before and after rentals, allowing time for transit.

Matt Friesen, a salesperson at Westbeach, said for safety reasons many shops in Tofino don't rent during heavy surf, which is frequent this time of year. Shops in Vancouver have no such restrictions. "We don't rent for anything over a three-metre swell," said Jay Bower, an instructor at Pacific Surf School in Tofino. "The repercussions of that are something that we don't want to deal with. A lot of people don't understand the sort of power that's out there." For accommodations, David Keller, a desk attendant at Whalers on the Point Hostel in Tofino, said that until the end of February, dorm beds are \$20 per night—\$18 per night for a minimum stay of three days. He warned that weekends are already filling up. Since dorms hold four to six people, those needing a little more privacy might look into the MacKenzie Beach Resort, which offers campsites for \$25 per night and cottages starting at \$59 for two people. Kate Orford, an avid local surfer who works at Pacific Boarder at 4th and Burrard, said a car trip to Tofino would require a ferry ride (around \$100) and at least two or three tanks of gas, depending on the vehicle. A bus ride can cost upwards of \$120. "Sometimes it can be cheaper to go to Hawaii," she said, laughing. "You can sleep on the beach and you don't need a wetsuit." She also suggested Westport, Wash., west of Olympia, to save the cost of a ferry ride. "The surf is great, so long as you don't mind giving your money to Uncle Sam."

Orford said if you get serious about surfing, the cost becomes less of a problem. "Once you have your equipment, you have it. It's not like skiing or snowboarding where you have to buy a lift ticket. You purchase your equipment and the ocean is free." For those with a bit more money, TravelCuts offers several packages to more "exotic" locales such as Hawaii, Costa Rica, Mexico and Australia. Prices change daily, but some special packages exist, such as the "Bruce pass." Jordan Lipsett, a travel agent with TravelCuts said for around \$900, the pass (offered through a company called Oz Experience) allows the purchaser a year of unlimited travel from Sydney to Cannes, along the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast of Australia. Many think the area offers some of the best surfing in the world. An American company called Wave Hunters also organizes surfing trips around the world. Sean Dunlap, a travel agent with the company, said the best options for students right now are Costa Rica and Costa Azul on Mexico's west coast. Surfing packages including accommodations, food and refreshments start at \$450 for three days in Costa Rica and \$120 US per day for Costa Azul. The packages do not include airfare.

**"In Hawaii, you can sleep on a beach and you don't need a wet suit"**  
KATE ORFORD

## Hunt for catchable waves

Half the battle is finding the right wave to ride into shore

By ADAM JOHNSON

You feel like you're dancing on the ocean. It's just you and the wave and the entire world disappears. That's how Kate Orford, an avid surfer, surf instructor and Langara graduate, describes catching a perfect wave. Her tanned face breaks into a smile as she speaks from behind the sales counter of Pacific Boarder in Kitsilano. Her eyes look slightly distant. What is the perfect wave? "A point break," she says. "There's a lot of different waves, but for me—you see, turn around." She directs me to one of the many TVs hanging behind me on the wall. "Look at that." She points to a video of a tanned, blond-haired man, expertly maneuvering a short surfboard through turquoise waves in some beautiful locale. "That's a wave in Bali called Uluwatu. You see how it's all clear in front of him? You don't want to see any bumps. You want it to be all smooth. Something that's about head high, but with a nice face on it." A point break, like the one the blond-haired man was riding, is a series of waves coming from a point of land jutting out perpendicular to the ocean, according to UVIC oceanography professor Eric Kunze. When the waves hit the point, he says, they are refracted—or redirected—by the point at an angle along the length of the coast. "With a point break, you're basically surfing all along the coast," Orford says. "You don't really have any waves coming at you, so you can kick out, swim around

and get back in the lineup again." The two other main types of waves, a beach break or a reef break, are different. For these, the surfer has to swim against the waves head-on to get into position. With a point break, the surfer can swim out past the angled waves and double back in relatively calm water. The perfect wave, however, is in the mind of the beholder. "It depends on what kind of style you surf, whether you're a longboarder or a shortboarder," she said. "Some people want something as high as the ceiling," she says, pointing at the five-metre roof of Pacific Boarder. "When I see that I'm like, 'run away!'" Reef breaks tend to be larger, such as the "classic" waves seen off the coast of Hawaii. They are also more dangerous, as they break over shallow waters, and can knock fallen surfers into rocks and reef. For beginners, Orford recommends a beach break—the waves are smaller and closer to shore. However, they tend to be messy and less reliable. She also recommends taking a lesson first. "I wouldn't recommend going out and trying to teach yourself to paddle," she says. "There's a lot of knowledge—wave knowledge and etiquette that people are just not learning." Kunze says surfable waves, in the Tofino area, for instance, are generated by large low-pressure systems—storms—to the north of Vancouver Island. This creates smaller capillary waves, which transfer energy to increasingly larger waves, creating swells. "These swells propagate southward towards Tofino, creating the groundswell



West Coast of North America



## Local library shows off its art for free

*Britannia Library is the only community based library with a gallery in it*

By GRAHAM PERKINS

A new independent and free art gallery will provide students with an opportunity to display their creative works.

The Britannia Art Gallery, which is in the Britannia Library on Commercial Drive, is host to a Valentine-themed art exhibition this month titled 'Show your Affection.'

The exhibit features 13 art pieces including a variety of paintings, collages and even a collection of old trophies rusted for artistic effect.

But the best part about Britannia is that, unlike bigger galleries, it doesn't cost a single penny to get in.

"We're the only community based library that has a gallery in it," gallery curator Hakoro Okano said at the exhibition's grand opening last Wednesday. Okano said art students are free to submit their work to the gallery for future exhibitions.

"The gallery supports artists that live or work at a studio in its catchment area, which goes from Main Street to Nanaimo Street and from the water in the north up to Broadway."

Artist Katherine Polgrain is the guest curator for 'Show your Affection' and helped decide what went into the exhibition. "We did it with a Valentine theme because we really like the traditional images of Valentine's," she said.

For Polgrain, it was important that the exhibit featured many different kinds of art, and not simply paintings. "What we try to do is present it [Valentine's] in a different kind of way that isn't so commercial," she said.

Polgrain feels the exhibit will appeal to a wide range of people. "There's a real mix between emerging and established artists. I think some people feel intimidated to get out there and go to art shows, but I feel here in the library it's pretty accessible." The gallery runs until March 4.

Amer Alkhatib, a fine arts student at Langara, has different advice on how students can get their work seen. "There's a lot of independent galleries around. A couple of artists run their own galleries, so if you happen to know one of the people that works there or is renting there, you can just be like, let's have a show."



GRAHAM PERKINS photo

Ryan Turna, 19, a first-year sciences student sings sweetly for the camera, Canadian Idol style.

## Idol calls for singers

*Local pubs and bars also host singing contests*

By GRAHAM PERKINS

Langara students with a song in their heart can earn their 15 minutes of fame come late February when Canadian Idol holds auditions in Vancouver.

Canadian Idol, the Canuck version of the hit television show American Idol, will hold auditions in Vancouver on February 25 to 26 at the Centre for Performing Arts downtown.

For some students, this is a chance to launch a singing career.

"You have to be pretty good to make it," said first-year sciences student Ryan Turna. "It's a good chance for Canadians to prove themselves. If anyone from Langara made it, I'd be ecstatic."

While Vancouver residents await their shot at national glory, local bars have seized on the show's popularity to host their own competitions.

The Oasis Pub held auditions for the ninth installment of "West End Idol," a weekly singing competition where bar audiences vote on who will stay and who will go.

"It's not just your regular karaoke night," said Oasis' director of operations James Steck. "Some of these peo-

ple really are here to move on with their singing career."

Steck said one of the winners, Jerome Mandrake, has gone on to release two CDs.

"If you want to practice for Canadian Idol this would be the way to do it," he said.

"Some of the good singers have bad nights and some of the bad singers have surprisingly good nights," Steck said. "I encourage a lot of people to do it, just for the experience of performing on stage."

The Roxy bar and lounge will have auditions for the TV series Rock Star 2, where aspiring rock singers compete to win a contract with a major record label.

Roxy's Dianne Williamson said the bar will hold auditions in late March for anyone over 21 years old.

Students interested in auditioning for Canadian Idol can visit the competition's website, [www.idol.ctv.ca](http://www.idol.ctv.ca). For information on auditions for Rock Star 2 call 604-216-8324.

*Some of these people really are here to move on with their singing career*

JAMES STECK

## Forgotten toys make fresh sounds

*Vancouver musician Giorgio Magnanensi transforms old school toys into musical instruments*

By DYRARENE CANICULA

A new interactive exhibit at the Scotiabank Dance Centre shows how a local musician is using creativity to make music from old electronic toys.

Giorgio Magnanensi, a musician, is re-wiring old toys to make music. He is displaying his work for the first time and is inviting people to compose their own technological masterpiece.

Magnanensi's collection, called Personum, is made up of electronic toys with switches and buttons drilled into the frame.

These are old toys that have been "recycled, repurposed, represented in a more artistic way," he said.

Most of the toys on display are old speak and spell toys and plastic pianos. The re-wired machines give visitors the chance to make all kinds of electronic hiccups or faults, loops and distortions.

Visitors can also control pitch through switches, touch pads and buttons.

Magnanensi said nobody knows exactly what sort of sound comes out of the machines. "It's a like a piece of play dough [when] you play with sound."

Besides being the mastermind behind Personum, Magnanensi is also an artistic director of Vancouver New Music and lecturer at the school of music at UBC. The project started when Magnanensi gathered a group of his friends and went shopping for old electronic toys.

Chris Rolfe is one of the volunteers who helped make Personum possible. He has been working with Magnanensi since 1997 to set up similar exhibitions. Rolfe says the old toys are fragile.

"It looks disposable and cheap but there is a lot of work involved in resurrecting these things," he said. "You invest a lot of time rewiring it, loving it, and putting a lot of care into it."

The toys are exhibited at The Scotiabank Dance Centre from Feb. 6 to 15. Admission is free.

The \$20,000 bill for the project was paid by a new media grant from Canada Council for the Arts.

## Nature photos earn Langara student top award

*Recipient of award says it's tough to make a living at nature photography*

By DYRARENE CANICULA

Langara photography student has received a grant to pursue a degree in photography as well as a scholarship to attend a week-long nature photography program in Denver, Colorado.

Paul Colangelo, a second-year photography student, received double honours in January from the North American Nature Photography Association. Colangelo was awarded the Janie Moore Greene grant to pursue a degree in photography.

He is also one of eight students to receive a scholarship to attend an annual nature photography summit in Denver

last week.

In a press release, the NANPA committee said "Paul is unquestionably one of the strongest candidates since the inception of the Janie Moore Greene grant. [He] represents the highest standards in both education and photography."

Photography came easily for Colangelo.

"It just clicked...I loved shooting nature, I didn't know you could make a decent living at it," he said. "When I found out people were making a living at nature photography I immediately knew that that was what I wanted to do."

Colangelo was first interested in photography during a trip to Hawaii.

"I wondered why my shots didn't turn out well, so I read the manual and kept going from there," he said.

Curtis Davey, Colangelo's classmate and friend, said he is a "typical" guy. "He loves beer and is passionate about sports, family and life," he said.

Although Colangelo loves what he does, he says the hardest thing about nature photography is making a living. He said commercial photography is in demand because styles are always changing.

"Unfortunately trees and animals don't have fashion cycles."

Colangelo said, "There are so many excellent shoots of most natural subject matter that it is difficult to come to the table with something new [and] original."

However, despite the difficulties in his chosen career path, Colangelo is working towards being a full-time photographer. "Paul is extremely driven...he's going to be an individual who we will hear about for a long time after this," Davey said.



PAUL COLANGELO  
Photography student



PAUL COLANGELO photo

Paul Colangelo received praise for his nature photos.



KRISTA SIEFKEN photo

Megan Prenty rips a copy of her lease. Many students break their lease in the spring when school ends.

## College food has no bang for buck

Langara students face challenge when looking for unique fare on campus

By ANDREA BUCHKO

Food choice falls short at Langara College's cafeteria compared with other colleges and food courts in the Lower Mainland says students.

If a student wants to buy a chef salad, a sandwich or some Chinese food from the cafeteria at Langara, they must be willing to pay more than \$5 for it. But if they want to buy a small side order, prices are lower.

Capilano College, whose roughly 8,000 students make it a good comparison with Langara, offers a wider variety of food for students at a lower price. Capilano's weekly menu, posted on their website, offers students choices like pesto chicken, pork parmigiano and penne cacciatore for about \$5, none of which are offered at Langara. Not only does the cafeteria at Cap College offer more choices, but the school's food court contains popular, inexpensive kiosks such as Tim Hortons and Quiznos Sub.

While students may complain about the cost and selection of their cafeteria food, other food courts put the Langara cafeteria in perspective. Prices at the Vancouver International Airport are sky-high compared to Langara's. The cheapest sandwich that one can buy at the airport food court goes for \$5.25, and one slice of pizza costs more than \$4. At Langara, students can buy a slice of pizza for \$2.95.

The average bottle of water is also higher at the airport than on campus. To buy a bottle of water at the airport you must be willing to part with at least \$2, while at Langara water costs \$1.75.

Some Langara students are upset with the price of meals at the college.

"They [the cafeteria] are all over the map, sometimes they're good like \$2 chow mein, but \$8 sandwiches - take a hike," said arts and science student Tyler Calderwood.

Shizuka Murata, an arts and science student, said the taste at the Langara cafeteria does not match the prices. "It's okay, certain things like Starbucks is not the same taste and more expensive, but prices are fair," Murata said.

However, arts and science student Kendra Terpenning is content with the food selection the college has to offer. "I'm a big fan of the fact that they have curly fries," she said.

# Student renters avoid leases

Tenants prefer places that rent month-to-month to avoid paying hefty penalties for breaking a contract when school is over

By KRISTA SIEFKEN

As summer approaches, some college students are breaking their leases and those looking for new lodgings prefer month-to-month agreements instead of fixed-term leases.

Monthly agreements require a tenant to give one month's written notice when he or she decides to move out. Fixed term tenancies require the renter to sign a lease, holding the tenant to the agreement for a longer period of time.

A lease is a legally binding document, and tenants who break the lease before the end date specified can be held responsible. All renters are required to fill out a residential tenancy agreement.

According to the Residential Tenancy Act, the renter is required to give the landlord at least 10 days written notice before vacating the property or the

landlord has the right to withhold the tenant's security deposit, which usually equals one month's rent.

Vancouver landlord Aziz Meru said he rents to students but makes it clear there are consequences for broken leases and that students don't get special treatment.

"I've never had a problem, but I know some students break their lease for the end of school. They should know that they will have to pay if their lease is broken early," Meru said.

However, some Langara students said leases are not preferred for people who go to school.

"Sometimes, landlords are shady and will take advantage of the lease," said Laura Valoroso, 23, an arts and science student. "They know you are a student and are desperate." Valoroso broke an eight-month lease with her landlord after a month and a half, when the homeowner came into the bedroom suite without warning, while Valoroso was sleeping.

Langara student Megan Prenty, 20, is looking for an apartment, and said it is difficult to find housing as a student.

"It's hard because no one wants to

rent to students. For many of us, it's our first time renting, and there is fear and prejudice on the part of the landlord."

Prenty said location is also an issue. "As a student, you want the most affordable housing possible, and close to school. But places near Langara are either too expensive or not on a main bus route, and as housing gets cheaper, it gets further away from school."

Prenty, who doesn't want to sign a lease, said month-to-month agreements are the best option for students.

"I don't want to sign a lease because as a student, I don't want to get stuck. I could transfer to UBC in the fall, and if I had to break my lease, I would get a bad reference as a renter," she said.

Arts and science student Duncan McPhedran, 21, is also looking for new housing, and though he was supposed to have a lease with his current landlord, the contract was never signed. McPhedran prefers month-to-month agreements.

"The way the rent market works, no one targets students. They target people who work full time, and can afford higher rents, so it's difficult for people who go to school."

"I don't want to sign a lease because as a student, I don't want to get stuck"

MEGAN PRENTY

# Shorter break keeps students closer to home

Langara's four-day reading weekend leaves little time to take spring vacation

By DEVON GOODSSELL

While reading break is synonymous with tension-easing vacations, many Langara College students will be spending their time off next week in the library.

Instead of a week off for spring break, Langara has a reading break on February 23 and 24. However, two days is not long enough to go on vacation, so many students will be spending their break catching up on schoolwork.

"With the amount of work and projects going on, I won't be going anywhere. I'll be spending the time doing work," said Joanna Caravetta, 24, an early childhood education student.

Rose Gardner, an employee with the student-owned Travel Cuts budget travel agency, said students who have a full spring break tend to travel more.

"At schools where they have a full reading break, or a full week off, there's actually been an increase in travelling this year," she said.

Gardner said the most popular destinations this year are Mexico, Cuba and Costa Rica.

There are a variety of travel packages available for students to San Francisco, Acapulco, Florida and other destinations. But most of these packages are for a week, and Langara students are unable to take advantage of the deals without skipping three days of classes during reading week.



KIMBERLY BROWN Missing school for longer break

Sara Aldridge, senior communications officer with Whistler Blackcomb, said many students opt to stay in B.C. if they only have a few days off. Whistler is a popular vacation spot for students throughout the year, and students receive discounts on accommodations, lift passes and transportation year-round.

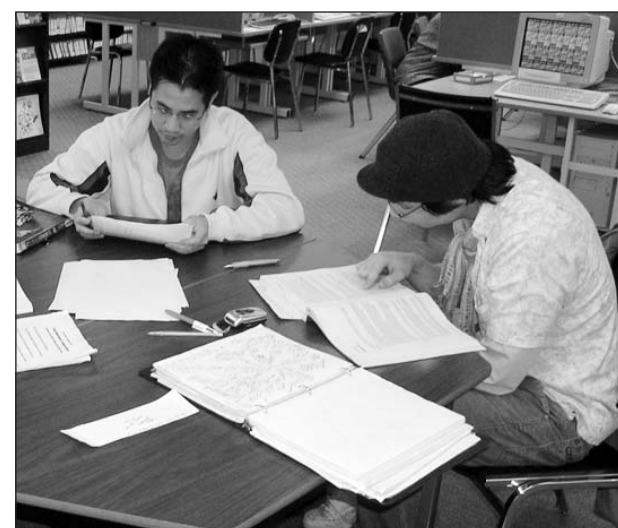
But it seems as though only a few lucky students will be getting away during reading break.

Biology student Kimberly Brown, 19, said she will be missing a few days in order to travel.

"I'm taking a couple days off before reading break and going to Kelowna," she said.

Students like Steve Moreau, 26, a university transfer student, will be using the time to study.

"I'll be working and studying. I won't be getting away at all. It's just time to catch up on work that's bogging me down," he said.



TROY WATTS photo

Economics student Oliver Szeto and English student Aaron Jay get an early start on their reading week, studying in the Langara library.

# Ride to college in luxury, style

Cool cars possible on student budget

By JESSICA WALDEN

Typically, tricked-out and luxury cars are the domain of reality television shows such as Pimp my Ride, Overhaul and Ride with Funkmaster Flex.

But walking through the Langara parking lot you might be surprised to see a few BMWs, Benzes and even a pink Hummer.

The 2006 H3 Hummer, which after a several alterations such as pink paint and chrome details cost kinetics student Natasha Cuzner \$80,000. The self-described workaholic was able to afford the Hummer through personal savings and putting her money into investments.

"It was kind of a joke actually," she said. "You see all these tough, macho-looking guys driving around in big dark Hummers and stuff, so I thought I'd drive a pink one."

Arts and science student Geoff Hoffatt bought his 2004 Acura TL for \$47,000.

The part-time systems administrator said that he wouldn't alter his car in any way.

"If you're going to soup up a car, you might as well buy a new one," he said.

Other students received cars as gifts from their parents.

Fine arts student Sharon Neville's \$30,000 2006 Volkswagen Golf was a birthday present. She said her dad decided to give her the car because she had "busted up" a few of his.

Neville said having a car is better than public transit because she can take her dog with her.

International student Kelvin Chu got a \$20,000 2001 Honda Accord from his parents for his life abroad in Vancouver. He said he loves his car because it's comfortable and fast.

But not all cars in the Langara parking lot are as fancy as a pink Hummer.

"The Civic lineup is the number one selling car in Canada," said Joe Gill, a sales representative from Vancouver Honda. "Lots of Langara students come in and that's a popular choice."



JESSICA WALDEN photo

Kinetics student Natasha Cuzner drives to Langara in her 2006 \$80,000 pink Hummer.

# Canada scores with Inukshuk

Design expert praises Vancouver's Olympic symbol amid criticism

By KRISTA SIEFKEN

The Vancouver 2010 Olympic symbol is a recognizable and structurally esthetic logo, said Langara's display and design department chair.

Diana Sly said the symbol, an Inukshuk, works well as Vancouver's symbol, even if it has faced criticism.

"I think it has a lot going for it. It's recognizable, simple, and uses great colours. Everyone gets it. It received criticism for not being original, but I think acceptance has set in," said Sly.

The Inukshuk is an Inuit symbol, and is built of large stones to form a statue, used as a method of tracking in the northern arctic regions of Canada. It has a simple design structure, which Sly said works well in a logo.

"That's the nature of logos. They have to be simple," said Sly. She also said Olympic logos are an important part of the games.

"People want to know the graphic

image. It has a strong visual identity, and is internationally recognizable. You can communicate a lot of information through an image."

Sly said that while the Vancouver symbol is a good choice, the decision behind the Turin's symbol isn't as apparent.

"The Turin symbol is weak. I don't see why they picked what they did. Ours is better and more identifiable."

However, some Langara students say that the symbol does not represent Canada.

"It's okay, but I think it shouldn't just represent Inuits. It should represent all aboriginals, and all of Canada," said Langara Students' Union native centre liaison Carolyn Klaassen.

"I think it's weird that they didn't pick a symbol that represents natives in B.C. It doesn't accurately represent the west coast."

Langara student Vanessa Walterson, 26, a Métis-Cree Canadian, argues there was not enough aboriginal involvement in the process of choosing the symbol.

"It appears that there was not one native on the board at the time the Inukshuk was thought of," she said.

## LOGOS at Games



Representation of La Mole, the highest brick building in Turin



"Jing" the Chinese word for "capital" stylized into a human form



Inukshuk welcomes the world to Vancouver

# Earn credits while globe trotting

Langara's field schools to Europe, Asia and the Queen Charlottes immerse students in local culture

By MARK JANZEN

Langara College's field schools give students the chance to see the world and learn in a 'hands-on' situation while being immersed in the history and culture of the regions.

"Students learn interpersonal and cross-cultural skills. It's likely the most significant positive event of [students'] lives...and on a three-week trip, their life changes forever," said Gordon McNeil, director of the international education department.

Langara has six different field schools, three of which take place in Europe.

The six-week trip to Italy has students visiting the Roman Colosseum, Sistine Chapel, and Florence's Uffizi Gallery among other day trips.

The European trip is a three-month journey through England, France, Switzerland and Italy, where students do primary research on historic artefacts.

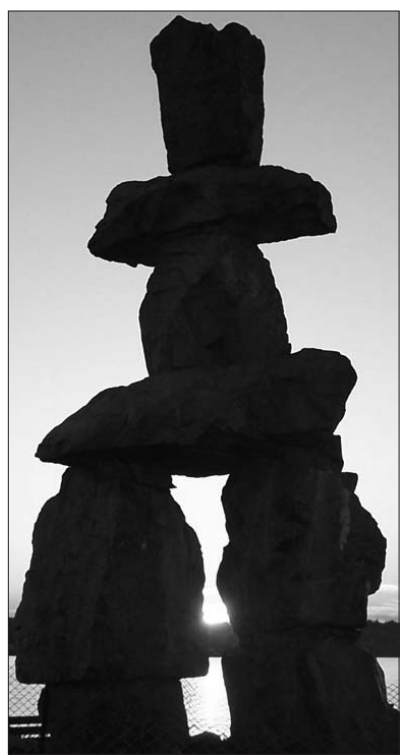
Students learn about the eras of Greek history during a four-week trip to Athens, Olympia and Delphi in Greece. This year they are going to the island of Amorgos, where they will see an 11th century monastery and swim in the Aegean Sea.

"It immerses you in all the history...[and] gives you a nice idea of the culture," said Tim Stewart, a former Langara student who went on one trip.

Two of the field schools go to Asia, one to Japan and another to Thailand.

The students visit temples and ancient monuments, eat Thai food, interact with the local people.

While most of the trips travel far distances, students visit the Queen Charlotte Islands on the Haida Gwaii trip. Students explore ancient Haida villages and talk to local people.



KRISTA SIEFKEN photo

Inukshuk looks over English Bay.

# Employment expands horizons while at college

Jobs range from enjoyable to tedious: students help seniors and stock shelves to get through school

By TESSA HOLLOWAY

Students aren't limited to waiting tables; many work in web design, nursing, and everything else imaginable.

Luke Corrigan has worked as a caregiver for a Filipino couple in their 70s for the last six years. The husband has dementia, and Luke helps look after him as well as cleaning and socializing. He makes \$10 an hour.

"My grandparents died young. I always wanted to have a rapport with elderly people," he said. "It's quite a rewarding job."

However, Corrigan has decided to go into English instead of nursing.

"I always loved writing. I love the social element [of care giving], but nursing isn't something I want to do for a career."

Not all students are so enthusiastic

about their work. Mark Westerland, 25, a UBC transfer student, works for a Canadian Superstore warehouse for \$15 an hour, but he hopes not to be stuck there forever.

"The monotony, that and I work strange hours and on the weekend," he said.

He often works night shifts, sometimes causing him to sleep in and miss school.

He used to teach in China, a job he loved, and plans to return to it after school.

"I liked the money, the change of cultures, I liked the excitement and freedom. There was no real curriculum and a lot of individuality."

Christine Leclere is a web designer who enjoys her job. She hopes to combine her English education from Langara with her computer skills.

"There's a lot of problem solving. I like the challenge of working with technology."

She said it's a juggling act trying to balance work and school. "I can't take four classes," she explains.

Chris Knox is a valet driver for restaurants around Vancouver.

He loves being able to drive nice cars and get tips, but admits there are downsides.

"There's a lot of standing around, doing nothing when it's slow," he said.

He works two to four times a week, and said it limits how much time he has for school.

Both Westerland and Leclere work to support themselves; Westerland has a student loan as well.



MARK WESTERLAND Westerland earns \$15 an hour at a warehouse

# Mayor says peace not in the budget

Vancouver's NPA dominated city council revokes international invitations to forum

By TROY WATTS

Langara College volunteers with the World Peace Forum are angry at a Vancouver city council decision to cut the funding for a peace-messenger cities conference being held in Vancouver.

Earlier this month, the NPA-dominated council under the leadership of Mayor Sam Sullivan reneged on the previous council's \$50,000 commitment to subsidize the general assembly of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities. The conference was to accompany the World Peace Forum in June. Sullivan said budget constraints motivated the decision.

Sullivan said he would have to allocate two thirds of his staff to organize

the conference and that it could cost more than \$200,000.

Judith Neamtan, a volunteer with the World Peace Forum and librarian at Langara, said the real issue was not money but politics. "I think [Sullivan] has a very narrow definition of what the city should be involved in, including things that are large issues like peace."

Neamtan said the cancellation of the funding has damaged Vancouver's international reputation.

Volunteers from the college have been involved with the World Peace Forum since its creation in 1983, and have been taking part by providing services and rooms for forum events. It is a satellite program to the main one at the University of British Columbia.

Peter Prontzos, a Langara political science instructor and forum volunteer said, "The main goal is to provide a forum to the people in the Langara community, not just students and instructors, but anybody else in the area who wants to make a contribution to the World Peace Forum."

Since council's budget cuts, many people outside of Vancouver believe that the entire peace forum has been cancelled, Prontzos said.

Jef Keighley, executive director of the World Peace Forum, said the city did not contact any of the organizations before calculating costs.

"They invented numbers, invented scenarios, invented prices, and when you start with complete invention you

come up with an incomplete figure," said Keighley.

He said that the city staff's estimate of \$200,000 is based on the assumption that Vancouver will be hosting over 200 delegates, but Keighley said only half that number will be attending.

Sullivan's claim that the city will have to allocate resources to organize the forums is false because it is "all but completely finalized," said Keighley.

He said the delegates are willing to work within the \$50,000 budget.

*"I think [Sullivan] has a very narrow definition of what the city should be involved in, including things that are large issues like peace"*

JUDITH NEAMTAN

## THE CARNIVAL BAND INTRODUCES OPENING FESTIVAL DOCUMENTARY



KERRY HALL photo

Carnival Band members played a rousing set of music at the Travelling World Community Film Festival at Langara College on Feb. 10.

## Federation starts 2006 campaign

CFS-BC lobbying MLAs to reduce post-secondary tuition fees for students

By ALEX MOSER

The Canadian Federation of Students is launching a new campaign to reduce tuition fees.

Lisa MacLeod, B.C. chairperson for CFS, said the target of their 2006 drive is to work with the government to reduce tuition fees.

The economy of B.C. is changing, she said, and the provincial government has to keep up.

"In rural parts of B.C., there's a lot of resource-based economies that are changing, people are having to go back to school to re-train to get a new career," MacLeod said. "Here in the city, a lot of the opportunities that are opening up and a lot of the economic opportunities that are opening up are in what they call the 'knowledge economy'."

According to the CFS, undergraduate tuition in B.C. has more than doubled in the last decade, from \$2,240 in 1994 to \$4,874 in 2006.

On their website, the CFS says it wants to ensure the B.C. government legislates a multi-year tuition fee reduction starting in fall 2006. They also want to ensure that the federal government restores \$4-billion in post-secondary funding.

MacLeod said there has been some movement by the provincial and federal governments towards reducing the tuition fees.

"For example, the B.C. government recently instituted a cap on tuition increases to hold them to the rate of inflation," said MacLeod.

"As well, the federal government in their last budget dedicated a significant amount of money to increasing access and reducing tuition fees."

Dave Machat, a Langara arts and science student, agrees that tuition fees are too high.

"They suck and the government should stop it," said Machat. "They should implement a program where they subsidize them."

But Lucas Harris, a Langara arts and sciences student, thinks tuition fees are fair.

"They're pretty fair. Compared to local universities, if I was to transfer I'm looking at paying twice as much. Most colleges are the same I would figure."

Students interested in their campaign can visit their website at [www.cfs.bc.ca](http://www.cfs.bc.ca).

## Students raise date-rape awareness

Nurses-in-training take action to inform others about dangers at local clubs and bars

By ANDREA BUCHKO

Three Langara College student nurses are determined to raise awareness about date rape drugs and sexual assaults after their friend was victimized.

Student Nurses for Clean Drinks formed in 2004 when a friend of three nursing students, Marissa, Jennifer, and Thalia, was drugged and assaulted. After the assault, the three women realized something needed to be done.

The group now raises awareness and promotes safety for those who visit bars and clubs. They are planning to raise money for flyers from a bake sale in A building on Feb. 17, 2006.

SNCD works with the Vancouver Police Department, and does not publicize their last names for security reasons.

One message that Marissa said is often overlooked is that everyone, not just women, are susceptible to date rape and assaults.

"Some people always think that it's only men who are the perpetrators, but we're aware that its men and women. It's typical for us to think of 'the bad guy,' but the more aware we are that it can be everyone and happen to everyone, the safer we are."

Second-year Langara arts and science student Jennifer Tremblay said she isn't aware of the risk of date rape. "Honestly, it never crosses my mind,

but I'm naturally cautious so I don't leave my drinks unattended."

Tamara Gorin, a Langara student and former Vancouver Rape Relief collective member, said that what SNCD is doing is commendable, but more attention should be focused on why men are drugging women's drinks. She added that another way to prevent drug related assaults is to have police officers at club entrances to confiscate any drugs from men.

Last year, SNCD was out talking to people in lineups at bars, and also speaking to high school students to make them aware of the problem.

"We want to look at what we call 'perceived risk,' we're trying to understand how adolescents perceive themselves at risk for this crime. If we can understand where they're coming from then we can make better interventions to educate," said Marissa.

Their website is [studentnurses.4t.com](http://studentnurses.4t.com).



JENNIFER TREMBLAY Langara arts and science student

### BEWARE at the bar

- Never leave your drink unattended
- Order your drinks directly from the server or bartender
- Watch drinks for friends
- Don't accept drinks from people you don't know
- Keep your eye on your own drink

## Blood, sweat and maybe even love

*Vancouver singles can now kill two birds with one stone as they get in shape and seek a partner*

By COURTNEY SHEPARD

Langara College students looking for love with a fellow sports nut have options. Vancouver has several on-line clubs for singles that focus on sports and activities that take the place of bar room meat markets and awkward coffee dates.

Vancouver Urban Mixer is an online site that caters to singles looking to avoid the usual dating pressures.

Rajesh Taneja, the co-ordinator of Urban Mixer, organizes and hosts events and activities for its members ranging from outdoor fitness boot camps to river rafting trips.

"In Vancouver there is an extreme sport theme, and people can find it intimidating," he said. "They may be interested [in sports] but not made the plunge," Taneja said.

Langara nursing student Sonja Summers said, "I am really active and I love doing all those sorts of things."

The average age of club's members is around 28 to 38, but there are members above and below this range, co-ordinator Taneja said.

Langara psychology instructor Elizabeth Ballard said there are a couple of reasons singles may feel comfortable meeting others in a more active dating environment.

"Doing something means that I don't have to sit here and pretend like I am trying to date you," she said.

"It gives me an activity that I can be taking part in, and it will distract my mind so I don't get really nervous," instructor Ballard said.

### PLAYER to watch



COURTNEY SHEPARD photo

*Langara forward-guard has high hopes for the Falcons this year.*

## Versatile Falcon's forward on a roll

By COURTNEY SHEPARD

The player to watch this week is Anthony Lao.

A forward-guard on Langara College's basketball team, Lao scored 22 points last Friday night against the Okanagan University College Lakers.

"In the first half the turnover was high and we cut it down to 3—that was good," Lao said after the game.

"The team played well and everyone was together."

Lao is a fine arts student and is not quite sure if he plans to continue playing basketball after college.

"I might play professionally in the Philippines," he said.

The Langara Falcons beat the OUC Lakers at home 72-57.



MARCIA DOWNHAM photo

*Langara has a momentary fumble. One of their few blunders in a dominant performance. The Falcons beat the Okanagan Lakers 72-57.*

# Falcons' rollercoaster week

*With basketball playoffs approaching, Langara gets rid of glitches*

By MARCIA DOWNHAM

Last weekend was smooth sailing for the men's basketball team, but it was a bit choppy for the women, meanwhile the badminton team placed second for the upcoming provincial championships in their third and final tournament in Nanaimo.

The men's basketball team won their home games against the Okanagan University Lakers 72-54 on Friday and 74-54 on Saturday.

Coach Simon Dykstra, said he was pleased with the team's defensive effort for most of the weekend.

"I think we are getting better with our offensive play and team

chemistry," Dykstra said after the back-to-back wins.

Langara forward Scott Van-Boeyen qualified the weekend wins.

"We weren't playing our best, but what the heck we got the victory."

The women's basketball team also played home games against the OUC Lakers.

They managed a narrow 45-42 win Friday, but lost by a wide margin Saturday 37-50.

Mike Evans, the women's coach, said on Friday night the team was down seven at half time, but finished very strong to take a late lead.

"But Saturday was not our

night, the Lakers were by far the better team," coach Evans said.

After Friday night's game Emily Wright, Langara point-guard, said, "It was just awesome because we are one step closer to finishing second and having an automatic in for the provincials."

The Langara Falcons basketball teams are currently ranked third and the Lakers are ranked second.

The Langara badminton team played their third tournament in Nanaimo against Malaspina University and Adrian Liu and Toby Ng took home the win for the men's doubles.



MIKE EVANS  
Falcon women's basketball coach

# Olympics are costly, instructor says

*Torino starts and even with the pomp and beauty of the event, Vancouver starts to do the math*

By MARCIA DOWNHAM

The 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver will establish a legacy that could increase the city's international exposure or create a massive debt, says a Langara instructor.

Andrew Whitaker, a Langara economics instructor, said it's ridiculous to spend a lot of money on Olympic facilities because it's only a two-week event.

"When we do this, we have to ask what the opportunity costs are, and what the alternatives are to spending the money on these particular events," he said.

Whitaker said we get stuck on the notion that the Olympics are a world-class event.

"We get too carried away with all the

political statements. I personally don't feel the benefits of the Olympics outweigh the costs."

Gordon Campbell and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympic Bid Corporation said the Vancouver Games will cost \$600 million and will generate \$10 billion in profits through job creation, major new sports facilities, increased tourism, and an enhanced international profile.

However, Vaughn Palmer, a journalist with the Vancouver Sun, said in 2002 that no modern games have made money when all costs, including land transfers, infrastructure costs, and security are factored in.

Langara transfer student Bree Foreman, 23, said, "I think Vancouver will go into debt, it is costing more than what was expected. I don't want us to turn into another Montreal."

The 1976 Olympic games in Montreal lost money leaving the city's taxpayers to pick up the \$1 billion tab.

Mark Geoghegan, managing editor of the Fleet Street Letter's Platinum Service, a team of investment analysts

that invested in real estate associated with the Montreal Olympics, said the final debt payment would be made between 2005 and 2006 — 30 years later.

The 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics is often cited as an example of an Olympic profit-maker. But in 1999, Toronto Star columnist Thomas Walken said Calgary was actually a money loser.

"The organizing committee's figures did not include the cost of building most of the Olympic facilities," Walken said.

The auditor general recently published a report on Vancouver's Olympic bid that concluded the overall costs were reasonable, but outlined several areas of concern.

Among them, revenue projections for ticket sales are higher than the two previous Winter Games; ticket prices for premium events are higher than normal for the Vancouver market and may reduce sales.

So now while the Games fans watch the athletes and the beautiful Italian scenery, some in Vancouver may wonder if the growing costs are worth it.

### COST of the gold

- 1 Montreal Olympics 1976- \$1 billion in debt
- 2 Lake Placid Olympics 1980- \$11 million in debt
- 3 Calgary Olympics 1988- \$910 million in debt
- 4 Barcelona Olympics 1992- US \$1.4 billion in debt
- 5 Sydney Olympics 2000- \$2.3 billion in debt