



Matthew Naylor, right, Thomas Masterson, centre, and Chris Brush are on their marks, ready and set to go. Absent is Joel Kozwarski.

# VP External

This is who you can thank for your precious U-Pass. The VP External is in charge of dealing with organizations, student and otherwise, from outside of UBC, otherwise know as, the Real World. It's a frightening job, but someone has to do it. Dealing with various levels of government and sometimes those overseas, the VP External lobbies for students' benefit and protects our interests. And, like all AMS executives, the job comes with a tidy annual salary of nearly \$21,000.

## Coca-Moola

### The questionable affair between Coke and UBC

In 1995, UBC signed an \$8.5 million agreement with Coca-Cola Bottling Ltd. giving the corporation exclusive rights to sell beverage products on campus for the next decade.

In 2005, the agreement was extended for two years, during which time Coca-Cola didn't have to pay UBC the "exclusive supplier premium" – approximately \$850,000 each year – because UBC failed to meet the minimum consumption limit agreed to in the contract.

Kevin Keystone, AMS President for 2006-2007, recently offered Election Erection Magazine his insights.

**E.E. Mag:** How likely do you think it is that another Coke Contract will be signed?

**Keystone:** The AMS has a policy that we do not support exclusive beverage agreements with the university. I can't speculate, but I sense that

there are reservations amongst board members about signing exclusive cold beverage agreements.

**E.E. Mag:** But doesn't the University need the financial support that this type of contract provides?

**Keystone:** It's not that significant but it would be helpful. At the end of the day the university is a billion dollar institution and I don't think that \$850,000 a year over a period of ten years makes that much of a difference overall.

**E.E. Mag:** You were personally involved with the "Universities' Commission on Coca-Cola. What can you tell me about the work this commission has achieved?

**Keystone:** The commission was supposed to put together an independent investigation into Coca-Cola bottlers in Columbia and the commission got pretty far into drafting a document, but the commission

disbanded because Coca-Cola agreed to an independent investigation with the International Labour Organization, so the committee didn't have the funding to fund an investigation in Columbia on its own and it didn't look like the universities would be willing to put forward that kind of money. Some of the members involved were asked to collaborate with Coca-Cola on an international human rights policy for Coca-Cola but I haven't been following the evolution of events much since.

**E.E. Mag:** Is there any relation between the lack of working water fountains on campus and the Coca-Cola contract?

**Keystone:** No. I don't know why most fountains aren't working but UBC plant operations will be a great place to ask. I think the water fountains are on a long list of things to do and they're just not a main priority.

*Editors Note: Election Erection Magazine encourages all thirsty students to join us on a crusade to harass the university until fountains are back in working order. With that in mind, the head of operations of the UBC plant operations is John Metras. Write him a letter.*

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