

VP Admin

We all remember our childhood days spent dreaming of a job in administration. Well, we can now all live vicariously through this lucky student who will oversee the Student Administrative Commission (SAC), the Renovations Planning Group, the Impacts Committee, the management of the SUB and the use of the AMS lodge in Whistler. Riveting. Maybe if we're all nice, the VP Admin will somehow convince the AMS to build a Jacuzzi in the Whistler lodge. Every year it just gets closer to becoming the playboy mansion. And, like all AMS executives, the job comes with a tidy annual salary of nearly \$21,000.



Suvina To, left, Sarah Naiman, centre, and Liz Ferris get catty. Absent: "The Barbarian" Lougheed.

"Almost matters society" Shaking the rep

It's the burning question on everyone's mind – at least for those who know what the AMS is.

Members of the AMS and candidates running their platforms are well aware that the society's credibility and strength are seriously damaged by the lack of connection it has with its membership. In fact, last year, just 13 per cent of the student population bothered to vote during the AMS elections.

Kevin Keystone, the current AMS President, argues that students' severe apathy handicaps the AMS organisation from following through with major initiatives. Some decisions need to go through a referendum process before being passed, but the AMS has a hard time of meeting its quorum: it needs a minimum of 10 per cent of the student population (about 4,500 people) and a minimum vote of 75 per cent in favour, for a referendum question to pass.

"The referendum turnout varies – it depends on the issue – but in the past few years, the most successful referendum was regarding the UPass, and that year 20 per cent of the student population voted."

But what has the AMS recently done for you to deserve any kind of participation?

In the 2005-06 academic year, AMS President Kevin Keystone spearheaded the completion of the restoration of the Norm Theatre, which cost about \$85,000.

Meanwhile, the AMS lobbied to amend the Provincial University Act, which prevented international students from participating in students' societies. The presence of two international students from the United States as our only presidential candidates this year is a testimony to their success.

The AMS also succeeded in claim-

ing a seat on the Development Permits Board, which will give students a say on what kind of housing is developed on campus. The society hopes these recent successes will give UBC students more say in development issues on campus in the years to come.

So although we might not all be aware of what's going on, the AMS has been actively involved on campus, within the GVRD and in the province trying to promote and advance students' interests.

Nevertheless, Keystone emphasises more work needs to be done to reach AMS membership, and challenges the next AMS President and council to reach out to students more effectively. Peets agrees.

"I think they've been trying to find a way to communicate with students, and they haven't found the magic bullet yet, but they're working on that."

VOTE FOR THE AMS ELECTIONS ONLINE BY LOGGING INTO YOUR UBC STUDENT SERVICE CENTRE ACCOUNT BY JAN. 29 @ [HTTPS://SSC.ADM.UBC.CA](https://ssc.adm.ubc.ca) AND CLICK WEBVOTE



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THE MORE PEOPLE I MEET
THE MORE I LIKE MY BONG



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