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**24**  
 hours  
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# Teen causes terror on SkyTrain 3

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2009 Vol 4 No. 212

Today's weather: Kinda sunny. High 10C. Low 3C

## people



2

**Scarlett goes dramatic with major makeover**

## music



12

**Nickelback tunes into Juno nominations**

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# Ethnic tension ignites at UBC



- Carmine Marinelli, 24 hours

**SNAPPING THE HEX** of the Canucks' plight as they slowly slip out of playoff contention was the aim of Paisley Town yesterday in front of GM Place. See sports on Page 18 to see if she was effective. **Story, P. 3.**

**The B.C. Hate Crime Team has been called amid concerns over rising tensions between Jewish and Arab students at UBC.**

The investigation concerns two incidents Jan. 31 involving an Arab student and two groups of Jewish students outside a dorm room.

RCMP spokesperson Cpl. Peter Thiessen said that at about 8:30 p.m., the Arab student noticed four people, with a video camera, outside his door tearing down posters of Palestinian leaders.

The Arab student caught one of the four and an altercation ensued. An hour later, the student confronted a group of six other students outside his dorm. Police say the student challenged the group and again chased down one of them.

Although it was the Arab who called police, both Jewish students have accused him of assaulting them and tearing off their Star of David pendants.

No charges have been laid, but Thiessen said police are investigating.

Thiessen said the alleged assaults are isolated incidents and "not indicative" of life on campus, but the head of a Jewish student association says tensions have escalated.

"Since we returned from the winter break, there have been tempers on campus originating with the conflict in the Middle East," said Pat Johnson, managing director of the Vancouver Hillel Foundation. "There's been a very active anti-Israel mobilization going on. It's an emotional issue, but clearly a line has been crossed."

Johnson - who called the assaults anti-Semitic and unjustifiable - said the two students are traumatized and need counselling.

A safe-buddy walking program has also been set up for Jewish students and there will be increased security at an upcoming Israel Awareness Week event on campus, Johnson said.

- Matt Kietlyka, 24 hours

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# Vancouver

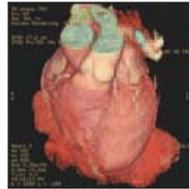
Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson will join provincial officials today in opening the newly renovated Rainier Hotel. The single-room occupancy hotel will provide housing and integrated support services for at-risk women.



## need to know

### Trash trial

The city of Port Coquitlam will try different pickup schedules for garbage, recycling and kitchen waste in an effort to reduce the amount of trash headed for landfills. About 150 households will participate in the program starting next week to see if bi-weekly garbage pickups changes behaviour.



### State of the art scanner

Officials at St. Paul's Hospital yesterday unveiled a CT Scanner capable of using 83 per cent less radiation than previous technology. The device will be used to diagnose cardiac disease earlier, allowing doctors to intervene sooner and potentially reducing the time a patient spends under the knife.

# 'What the hell is going on here?'

## 13-year-old with multiple convictions slashes rider on SkyTrain

A 13-year-old with a rap sheet longer than most career criminals is causing a stir after being arrested for slashing a man on SkyTrain late Sunday night.

Transit police say the teen was riding near Columbia Station when he asked a 23-year-old man for a cigarette.

When the adult refused, police allege the teen pulled a knife and severely slashed the victim's hand.

More shocking, however, is that the boy has multiple convictions for violent offences and has come in contact with police 75 times over the last year.

"He needs help now before he kills someone," Transit police chief Ward Clapham said in a statement. "How is it that a 13-year-old boy has been allowed to fall between the cracks of society and become like this?"

The news floored NDP public

safety critic Mike Farnworth.

"This is a kid we're talking about. What the hell is going on here?" he said.

Farnworth says the government needs to take immediate action to get the teen's "life back on track."

"We have a whole system that is supposed to be helping people like him and it seems to have failed him many times," he said. "Something ain't right."

SFU criminologist Raymond Corrado, an expert on young offenders, says the teen is right around the age when violent behaviour can escalate.

"The cumulative problems, whether it's family problems or substance addictions, don't just appear at 13," he said, "but people get bigger and stronger and aggressive enough for the problems to escalate."

- Matt Kielyka, 24 hours

# Medium aims to break curse on Canucks

"Double, double, toil and trouble, fire burn and caldron bubble."

Ah, how to undo such a hex on our beloved Canucks?

Virgin Radio host and 24 hours' columnist Buzz Bishop took the initiative and invited medium Paisley Town to GM Place yesterday to break a curse that has seen the Canucks slip out of playoff contention.

Before facing the Carolina Hurricanes last night, Vancouver had just one win in its last 10 games.

"We think it's a curse because the team keeps putting in the effort but bad things are happening," Bishop said. "They go up two goals and then a fluke goal goes past Roberto Luongo."

Town stood in a circle with students from Newton Elementary and performed a cleansing ceremony to raise positive vibrations and set good intentions heading into last night's game.

"It's got to work," Town beamed after the blessing.

And, to be sure, she confirmed the Canucks aren't playing under a curse brought from the Big Smoke by Mats Sundin.

"Some people think that it's because Sundin is here the team is cursed, but really it happened earlier in the season when Roberto went down," Bishop said.

"Sundin coming was supposed to be one of those good luck things but it's just not gelling quite right."

- Dharm Makwana, 24 hours



- Carmine Marinelli, 24 hours

PAISLEY TOWN performs a cleanse outside GM Place yesterday to snap the curse threatening the Canucks' season.

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curse

Are they cursed? 24 hours' columnist Buzz Bishop took the initiative and invited medium Paisley Town to GM Place yesterday to break a curse that has seen the Canucks slip out of playoff contention.



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poledance

President of Pole Dancing Winnipeg, Carolyne Braid, speaks on why pole dancing should be an Olympic sport.

### Valentine's Day

■ Is your partner a hopeless romantic or hopelessly clueless? We want to know you best (or worst) Valentine's Day stories in 150 words or less. Send your submission, complete with your name, to: [feedback@24hrs.ca](mailto:feedback@24hrs.ca)

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