

# VANCOUVER LIFESTYLES

www.vancouverlifestyles.com

## LET THE PLEBISCITE GAMES BEGIN

LARRY CAMPBELL  
IN DA MAYOR'S  
OLYMPIC INQUEST

# LESA KIRK

FROM SKIRT TALENT TO TOP TALENT SHE'S BUILT A THRIVING AGENCY  
IN VANCOUVER'S HIGHLY COMPETITIVE SHOW BUSINESS ARENA

\$3.50 FEBRUARY 2003



TALENTED SKIRTS

BREAKING BREAD AT BACCHUS; Ballroom  
Blitz; STARRING IN VANCOUVER; Classic  
Cocktails; URBAN INVASIONS

**SPECIAL!**

## WEDDED BLISS 2003

VLM'S ANNUAL  
ULTIMATE PRE-NUPITAL  
PLANNING GUIDE

## IT'S ALL WRITE NOW

PUBLISHER ALAN TWIGG'S  
HARROWING TRIP  
THROUGH INTENSIVE CARE



What does Urban  
Rush's Erin Cobula read  
in bed? see page 19

## CITYLIFE FOCUS

### BALLROOM BLITZ

Ballroom dancers Joel Marasigan and Clara Shih consider themselves athletes. "It's interval training, kind of like a short sprint followed by a 20-second break and then the next sprint," Shih says.

Marasigan adds that ballroom dancing differs from other sports because you can't show fatigue: "Ballroom dancing has an artistic aspect: you always have to look refreshed." Makeup, elaborate costumes and smiles help mask exhaustion, but Marasigan and Shih are able to keep up with the energy and concentration demanded of such ballroom standards as jive because they train morning and night six days a week.

"You have to really like the person you dance with because you spend so much time together," says Marasigan. Marasigan and Shih met in 1997 at the UBC Dance Club. They started off as competitors, but somewhere between the foxtrot and the cha cha they both found themselves swept off



involved and began dancing together. Today, Marasigan and Shih are the number-one ranked ballroom dancing duo in B.C. They're ranked fourth overall in Canada.

Shih says their immediate goal is to finish in the top two at the Canadian Championships so they can represent Canada at the world championships. With DanceSport being considered as a medal event in the summer Olympic Games, their sights would then be set on an Olympic medal. Until then, Marasigan and Shih's plans are simply to dance. Spectators can catch them in action from February 21 to 23 when Vancouver hosts the

Championship. The event, featuring top ballroom dance couples from over 30 countries, will take place during the annual Snowball Classic International DanceSport Federation competition at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Highlights will include the February 21 International Open Latin and the February 23 International Open Standard competitions. The February 22 show features the gruelling day-long competition, which includes all 10 dances of the Standard and Latin disciplines. For more information:

www.snowballclassic.com or  
TicketMaster 604-280-4444.