BEST OF THE CITY

BEST BIG GREEN VOICE

No, it wasn’t Jim Green, or even James Green. The honour this year goes to UBC professor Dr. Daniel Pauly, who was awarded the Cosmos Prize for environmentalism. In addition to a cash award of $415,000, worldwide attention was focussed on Pauly for his ocean-breaking research: the Cosmos award is “the environmental equivalent of the Nobel Prize.” Cosmos Prize aside, Pauly gained even more attention for his proclamation that “90 percent of the animals in the sea over six feet long are now gone.” Dr. Pauly has dedicated himself to fish stock assessment, research into the management of fisheries and ecosystem modeling. His ecosystem modelling approach is incorporated in FishBase, the online encyclopedia of fish, and the global mapping of fisheries trends. Most of his research is conducted through the Sea Around Us Project. Very much in the spirit of Pauly, last year the Vancouver Aquarium launched its Ocean Wise program for restaurants. With more than 60 percent of fish eaten in restaurants, the program recognizes (through menu and advertising icons) restaurants that serve sustainable species. Now if only we could get rid of those fish farms.

—J.M.