

# The 432

Volume 4 Number 12

The Newspaper for Science Students

Wednesday, Feb. 27, 1991

## Nostradamus predicts SUS election results

### Winner to be Gluba the Talking Bread Yeast, by a landslide

(SUS) A leaked document has revealed that certain obscure passages written by Nostradamus, legendary prophet and Curling Skip, actually predict the outcome of the upcoming SUS executive election.

A number of passages recently discovered in the attic of a distinguished scholar are purported to be original writings of Nostradamus, and historians are abuzz at the very precise and direct references to SUS elections.

One passage states  
*For three days, in the time of great trouble, there will emerge many who will climb for the throne. Some will not make it. Some will go to other places.*

Historians are certain that it refers to the fact that SUS Executive Elections will be held on March 6, 7, 8, in Hebb, Wesbrook, Chem, Wood, Hebb, and CompSci.

Another passage, a little more vague, refers to the actual candidates running in the election

*When the moon is away, the boar and the walrus will dance with the cock and the donkey. The balding rhinoceros will get a nosebleed and every where people will yell out their choices and their choice will be the one that wears a large red furry patch. They will all bring their cards.*

Quite obviously, the balding rhinoceros is a reference to the current SUS President Catherine Rankel, whose

childhood nickname was "Old Balding Rhinoceros Breath." The dance between the animals refers to the electoral process and the intense campaigning. The bringing of the cards refers to how all voters must bring their AMS cards to vote. The obscure reference to the Large Furry Patch is confusing, but many agree that it foretells of the SUS changing its logo to one with body hair on it.

Currently, there are thirteen people running for positions on the executive. The contested positions are President, AMS Rep, Executive Secretary, External Vice President, and Director of Finance. Only the Director of Publications (Patrick Redding), Internal Vice President (Sandra Mah), and the Sports Director (Jaret Clay) are uncontested. Uncontested positions hold YES/NO votes on the ballot.

### Candidates

#### Contested

##### President

Hugh Leung  
Giovanna Vassone

##### Executive Secretary

Patrick Lum  
Carmen McKnight

##### AMS Rep

Mike Hamilton  
Ken Satake

##### External Vice

##### President

Erik Jensen  
Peter Lo

##### Director of Finance

Dave Dymont  
Brad Hughes

#### Uncontested

##### Internal Vice

##### President

Sandra Mah

##### Director of

##### Publications

Patrick Redding

##### Sports Director

Jaret Clay

Polling booths in  
Hebb, Chem,  
Wesbrook, Wood,  
CompSci,  
March 6, 7, 8.

### This paper cleared by military censors

## Physsoc issues the mother of all resolutions

(Hennings) The Physics Society today issued its terms for a cease fire in the Gulf Crisis, stating that all demands must be met before the cessation of hostilities.

Under Physsoc Security Council Resolution #7, the Physics Society resolved to continue its campaign against the Iraqi military until the unconditional surrender of all Iraqi troops as well as compliance with the previous Physsoc resolutions as outlined in Issue #2 of Volume 4 of The 432. Those resolutions outlined, among other things, a list of items restricted, that may not be sold to Iraq or agents of Iraq. Those items were chalk dust, Physics 110/115 April Exam Solutions, doughnuts, small rocks, thermonuclear weaponry, and Don Ho records, LP, or 8-track (Security Council Resolution #4 upgraded to include CDs).

The Physics Society has, for the past six weeks, been operating an elite Geek Brigade, a subversive commando team whose aims are to destroy the fighting morale of the Iraqi army by doing such things as reducing the speed of light in Iraq to make the nights last longer, and mounting a propaganda campaign that Stephen Hawking has solved the renormalizability problem in quantum gravity (thereby demoralizing the troops to the point that they will lose their will to fight).

In a brief statement, the Physics Society

said the following:

"Whereas Iraq has still not complied with the Physsoc demands as outlined earlier, the Physics Society will continue the war until

1) the unconditional surrender of all Iraqi forces

2) Iraq agrees to comply with the post-war demands as outlined herewith.

"These demands are as follows:

i) That the country of Iraq add a 'u' to its name so as to no longer unduly alarm English 100 students

ii) That the Iraqi government refrain from using further gender-specific revolutionary rhetoric and henceforth only employ gender-neutral revolutionary rhetoric (ie the parent of all battles)

iii) That Kuwait and Iraq shake hands and say they are sorry and Iraq promises not to invade another country again

iv) That Iraq do 1000 hours of community work as restitution for the destruction of Kuwait

v) That Iraq, in honour of the victorious Physsoc Geek Brigades, change then name of the city of Basra to "Dorkville."

"If such demands are not met, Physsoc will intensify its campaign to include some or all of the following:

i) The beaming, on all frequencies, of Physsoc Propaganda, including, but not limited to, Feynman Undergraduate Lectures, Physsoc Noon Hour Lectures on Lin-

ear Programming.

ii) Faulty tutorial sessions in which Iraqi gunners are instructed that the value of  $g$  is no longer  $9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$ , but  $12.8 \text{ m/s}^2$ , thereby making their calculations all wonky, thereby making them miss their targets.

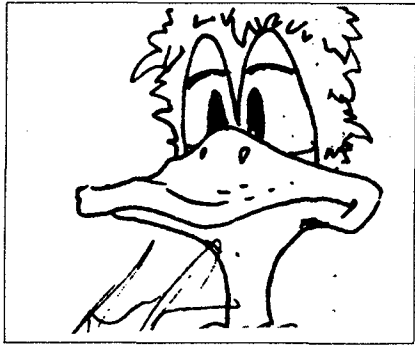
iii) The showering of Iraqi troops with leaflets instructing them that if they surrender they will all be given complementary Physsoc memberships, with their own personal carrell to share with only four hundred and nineteen other Iraqis.

iv) The spreading of rumours that Saddam Hussein does NOT have a degree in Slavonic Studies, and is, in fact six credits short, causing the soldiers to flee their trenches in terror.

v) Vicious psychological warfare in which problem sets to Physics 304 are dropped into Iraqi trenches with a due date of one week, with incorrect measured values given and faulty fundamental coupling constants, thereby distracting the Iraqi soldier's time trying to solve problems of fundamental quantum harmonic oscillators that have faulty spring constants.

"If Iraq chooses to comply with the demands it must reply in writing, in Swahili Pig Latin, in orange ink, by midnight yesterday."

Please recycle this paper



# One Flu Over the Cuckoo's Nest

I've got the flu. I've had it for a week now, and I'm just getting better. My One And Only gave it to me when she had it, so we could have it together. SHE'S better now, having lured me near enough so that the Bug could jump onto me and off of her. Now I've got nobody to give it to, because she warned all my friends not to come near me.

But there was a brief romantic phase where we both had the flu together and spent the day in bed, arguing over who got to hold the remote.

**Her:** Gimme that, I want to watch Sally Jesse Raphael SNORRRRT.

**Him:** We watched that Yesterday! CACK! WHEEZE! I want to watch TSN!

**Her:** Give COUGH COUGH COUGH me the stupid COUGH COUGH HAWK remote!

**Him:** Here! Just HAWK! take HAWK! the HAWK! HORRRK! SPIT! damned thing.

How romantic! There's nothing sweeter than two people in love lying beside each other, coughing phlegm onto each other.

Usually, though, we'd lie without touching, a Maginot Line of used kleenex between us, and watch whatever was on without comment.

And I've discovered a really subtle difference between males and females this way, in the way that they blow their noses. If you don't believe me, just watch someone next time. Women go HONK, WIPE, SNIFF and daintily discard the used kleenex. Men, on the other hand go HONK, WIPE, SNIFF, then PEEK, to see if there's anything interesting in their kleenex. There never is. I mean, what are we expecting to see when we look? Do we think we've blown out the Hope Diamond? And why do we look? Are we going to discuss it if we find something particularly interesting? "Murray, get a load of this booger I've

blown out of my nose, here." It's just another way of telling men from women, Really.

But now, I'm all alone, and I have to answer the phone myself. It's on the other side of the room, and I don't always make it (Hello, you have reached the home of Aaron Drake. I am currently still stumbling towards the phone right now and expect to reach it sometime within the hour, so if you'll just hold the line...), but when I do, I'm usually half-conscious, delirious from the effects of standing up after being my back for a week solid.

**Me:** Hello.

**Voice:** Hello, is Aaron Drake there?

**Me:** Ummm...I'll go check.

(fifteen minutes later)

**Me:** Hello.

**Voice:** Hello? Aaron?

**Me:** Ummm...I'll go check.

Sometimes I'm lucky and the person on the other line recognizes my voice.

**Me:** Hello?

**Voice:** Aaron! Hi!

**Me:** Al! Boy, it's good to here from COUGH COUGH COUGH COUGH COUGH COUGH HACK HACK HACK HACK SNORRRRRRRRRRT COUGH COUGH COUGH COUGH HACK HACK KKKKKK WHEEEEEZE. Hello?

**Voice:** Aaron?

**Me:** Ummm...I'll go check

{And don't expect anything too spectacular out of this paper, this week. It's hard to be a domineering tough-guy editor when you've got a wheeze (Look, I'm telling you to get your article on on time or else COUGH COUGH COUGH HACK HACK HACK HACK HOOOOOORK HACK HACK KKKKKK)}

I've moved downstairs, if only for a change of scenery. I never realized how intensely boring the hours between 10:00 am and 3:00pm really are. There's *nothing* on television. I tried to watch on of those Soaps - which brings me

to an interesting question: why are they called soaps? There's nothing clean about them at all. But fifteen minutes into it, I had to turn it. Soap Operas are not the thing to watch when you have the flu.

**Ashley:** Oh Scarlett! They've just electrocuted my evil ex-wife and now my Grandmother has AIDS! I need six thousand dollars to pay the mortgage on the orphanage.

**Scarlett:** Ashley, you stud-muppet! How can you think of economics at a time like this? This dress clashes with the rug. I'd better exchange it!

**Ashley:** But Scarlett! I have to pay the mortgage!

**Scarlett:** Oh Ashley, you have such unflattering principles! I'll write you a check just as we fade to commercial!

**Me:** The dress, dammit! What about the damned dress! Take COUGH back COUGH HACK COUGH the damned dress!

I try not to watch the Soaps any more. To pass the time, I've invented a new game called Boogerball. The rules are simple:

- 1) Blow nose.
- 2) Peek.
- 3) Throw balled-up kleenex at cats.
- 4) Score one point for a direct hit.

Isn't that a great game? My cats hate me. My Girl Friend hates me, because for the past two days when she comes home, she has to chase the cats about the house and peel dried kleenex off of their fur. My room mates hate me because walking through the living room is like walking through a marsh, and if they're not careful they'll step in a puddle of used kleenex. The post man hates me because I kill time by lurking on the other side of the mail slot and pushing the mail back at him.

My mommy, on the other hand, loves it when I'm sick. She lives to nurse me back to health whenever I ail. Just yesterday, she faxed me some chicken soup.

## Editorial Forum

### Top Ten East Van Excuses for not Doing Homework

- by Aaron Drake
10. I didn't make bail.
  9. There was homework? Hand over your wallet.
  8. I didn't do it.
  7. I didn't do it. You got a problem with that?
  6. I said, hand over your wallet, NOW.
  5. I haven't copied it off of someone yet.
  4. My parole officer ate it.
  3. Huh?
  2. What?
  1. Huh?

### In Ten Words or Less



(In Ten Words or Less is a regular column by Ed Short, master of Precis, who presents political opinions in ten or less words, not including the title)

**Communist Russia: Friend or Foe, Peacemakers or Head Breakers, a Kindler Gentler Nation Struggling for Its Survival and Trying to Carve Out a Niche in the New World Order or an Evil Empire That Fooled Us All With Its Supposed Reforms — Here at Last is My Opinion of the Soviets, the Red Menace That Helped End World War Two but Almost Started a Third by Putting Missiles in Cuba, the Mysterious Denizens From Behind the Iron**

**Curtain Who Have Built Walls, and Then Torn Them Down, Run Over People With Tanks, And Then Run Over More People With Tanks, the Spotty Headed Men of The Kremlin Who Launched Sputnik, Raced With Americans For Decades Building A Nuclear Arsenal, Murdered and Persecuted Millions, Won the 1981 Canada Cup, Drugged Their Olympic Athletes, Started and Ended the Cold War, and Brutally Suppressed Their Own Citizens With the Same Army That Once Stood Ready to Sweep Across Europe**

It could be worse; they could be Socreds.

That's the way it was, Wednesday, February 27, 1991

The 432 is produced two monthly by the Science Undergraduate Society. We are always on the lookout for fine writers, especially since the editor is beginning to burn out. Help help help.

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Circulation: 4000, my mom, and an old friend in Trail, BC. Hi Scott.

Printed by College Printers

Any similarities, in part or in whole, to persons living or dead, might be a coincidence. If it's really funny, then we probably did it on purpose. Deal with it.

# Wanted

## Sales Manager

for SUS for the 91/92 School year.

**Total control of purchases & marketing.**

**5% cash commission + 5% clothing commission on gross sales.**

See Dean Leung at Chem 160

Entertainment 91 Coupon Booklets are available **QUITE CHEAP** at SUS (Chem 160) while supplies last.

## Academic Nightmares of an Overinflated Underachiever



by Antonia Rozario

I'm sure all students have particular courses that stick out in their minds more so than others. For some, this may be because they got an exceptionally high grade in the class or, more possibly, because their marks were considerably greater than their study efforts. Other courses remain memorable because of the tremendous learning experience they bestowed on the students or because of the impressionable nature of the professor who taught them.

While these notions are certainly quaint, they have had little or no bearing on my academic life at UBC. Rather, I tend to remember courses because of the inconvenience, annoyance and general psychological harm they caused me. I am an exceptionally neurotic and calculating individual and I am far more likely to brood over a particular course that made me homicidal than I am to remember a specific elective that improved my life immeasurably.

In listing the most horrifying courses I have had to take at UBC, I hope to enlighten the students who may be foolishly contemplating whether or not to take these classes. While the comments are my own and do not necessarily represent the views of all science students who have taken them, I'm sure there are many students who feel the way I do. Read on and forward all complaints to the proper authorities if you feel the need.

### Mathematics 100 (Calculus I)

No student would take this course unless he or she absolutely had to. The only problem is, every science student ABSOLUTELY HAS to take this course. It is a thorn in the side of any individual who didn't take calculus in high school and is, in my opinion, the reason why so many students drop out of science in first year.

The first time I took it, I knew within the third week that I was going to fail. My only hope was that everyone else in the class would fail as bad also and that final grades would have to be jacked up 30-40%, I had no such luck.

The lecture notes I took remain completely incoherent to me and I am convinced that the early mathematicians who thought up these concepts were denied oxygen at birth. More so, the textbook was completely useless and would have had the same academic value if it had been written in Sanskrit or presented in Morse Code.

### Biology 201 (Cell Biology II: Intro to Biochemistry)

While the professor of this course was exceptionally patient and kind and awarded me a charitable 75/150 at the end of the year, the subject matter itself sucked coagulated head lice.

My only solace was the knowledge that

everyone else in the class was as mentally taxed as I. While detailed investigation into the Urea Cycle may be enticing for some, I prefer to focus my attention on more stimulating subjects like world peace or effective weight reduction techniques.

### Classical Studies 301 (Technical Terms of Medicine and Biological Sciences)

Anyone who has ever talked to me about university life is aware of the fact that I took this course and hated it.

The premises behind this class are simple - you either have to study for it regularly or you have to learn how to cheat effectively. As I was unwilling to do either, my marks were frighteningly low.

All things considered, though, the major peeve I had with this course was that so many of my peers found it simple. While I could handle the fact that several students were getting high 80 and 90 percentages, the fact that they were blatantly advertising it made me want to roll their faces in manure.

### Biology 300 (Biometrics)

This is the most horrific course I have ever taken, bar none. Upon registering for the course, I suspected that my statistical retardation and COMPLETE computer illiteracy would hinder my chances of a First Class standing. Little did I know that my minor intellectual handicaps would cause me to endure almost two years of biostatistical constipation.

### Biology 414 (Evolution)

If taken seriously, this course could prove to be the easiest science course offered on campus. The subject matter is very interesting and the professor teaching it is charming, witty and very good looking (Can we say someone needs a summer job in the Zoology department!?!).

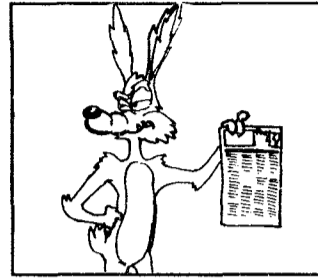
During the first lecture students are told that they have THE OPTION of handing in a comprehensive term paper worth 50% of the total final grade. However, everyone with a social life or indecision about the benefits of medical school opts to NOT write the paper and have the final exam worth 100%.

Now any student wanting to know what it feels to write a fourth year Biology final exam that is worth 100% can do so by pulling out their small intestines and stuffing them firmly into the clamped jaws of a vice-grip. Visions of spazzing out in the examination room (hereby defined as screaming, yodelling, or completely undressing within view of the adjudicators) plagued my every waking moment for several weeks before and AFTER the final exam. Although I passed this course with a respectable mark, I am emotionally scarred from this traumatic experience and still find it hard not to cringe whenever people mention the words "Darwin," "Lamarck," or "Horse Toes."

Antonia Rozario is a regular columnist for The 432, but she still does her school work... commorew.

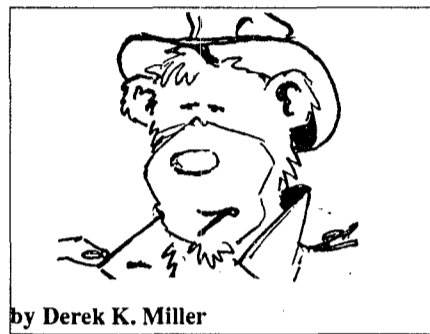
## YES!! YES!! YES!! YES!! Patrick Redding

### SUS Minister of Propaganda



(Directorus Publicationus)

## Dik on Hiatus



by Derek K. Miller

We recently received a telegram from Dik Miller in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. It read: *HAVING A GREAT TIME STOP BOY THESE CROATIAN WOMEN LET ME TELL YOU WHOEE STOP ANYWAY I AM NOT SENDING ANY STORIES STOP LETS SEE IF THAT DEREK MILLER TWIT CAN GET ALONG WITHOUT ME STOP HA HA HA HA HA STOP.*

So, here's a rare non-Dik Miller story. We hope you enjoy it. If you don't, Derek's fired. Tee hee.

My roommate and I were flipping through the TV channels Tuesday when we realized that we lie about our viewing habits. I'm pretty sure most of you do the same thing. You know those shows you *shouldn't* watch or that you *say* you hate. It's 3 o'clock and you're dozing on the couch. You'll watch "Sally Jesse Raphael" if it's on. C'mon, admit it. "Wheel of Fortune." Yeah, I watch that too. I like "Night Court." But there are certain things I can't stand for even a few seconds. Some of them are even socially acceptable.

1. Gulf War "home front" stories. I'm sorry, but I just can't take these anymore. News from the Gulf itself is so censored and sanitized that the news shows don't know what else to put on, but if I see another profile of a family whose dad or mom or son or daughter is off at war, I'll puke. Yeah, it's stressful when your relatives are away, but most of them are flying in aircraft and bombing the crap out of Iraq, and are in less danger than if they rode a bus, where they might get flattened by an overweight passenger if it stops too quickly. And the families being profiled are perfectly safe. What about the people in Baghdad? What about kids starving in Africa? What about the 60% of murders of women that are committed by their husbands or lovers? These things are all important, and they're being ignored to show stories about families who are worried about their relatives doing their jobs - especially on American networks. Someone's priorities are twisted.

2. Kim Clarke Champniss. MuchMusic's most annoying veejay, with a voice as grating as Robin Leach's, the interview skills of Morton Downey Jr., and a name that makes him more pretentious than Sting, David Lee Roth, and Sinéad O'Connor combined. My fingers mash the remote when he appears. I wish he'd just go away.

3. Real Canadian Superstore commercials. Not only are they poorly written, they're insulting. A while back they were

saying, "Well, we gave you the option of using reusable, stronger plastic bags instead of our flimsy, chuckable ones, but *you didn't listen*, so now we're *charging* you 3 cents apiece for the flimsy ones, *just like Save On Foods*. So there, mlah, mlah, mlah." I was really offended, because they made me *and* Save On, where I shop, seem like real scumbags. And besides, their stores are so green and yellow and ugly, and they're so badly organized that the cheese is in *two* different places, neither of which are near the milk, that I'm never going there again. Unless I find something really cheap, that is.

4. U-TV. Okay, sometimes they may have good shows, but whose idea was it to call it "U-TV," like it was *my* TV station or something? Some marketing firm, I bet. Well, pththphtphtphtpht! to them.

5. Infomercials. Oooh, these really steam me. Half an hour of advertising for miracle hair growth, real estate seminars, underarm shavers, or some other *completely useless and fraudulent* product, and they make it look like a news show. How stupid do they think I am? "Oh, gee, this shampoo must be something really special. They've devoted the whole newscast to it." Yeah sure. Soon they'll be selling products that alleviate the stress of having your spouse away in the Gulf. Arrgh.

6. "COPS." I watched this for the first time on Tuesday, and I couldn't believe it. A whole show of police officers breaking the law! Female officers pretending to be prostitutes and entrapping guys on the street. Male officers arresting people without just cause. Asking people on the street for ID when they're not allowed to. Being overly violent. And then the show makes them out as heroes! I just wanted to shut off the TV and blow up the nearest Robin's Donuts.

7. "Canadian Fishing Special" on TSN. As far as I'm concerned, fishing is about as interesting as cricket, or maybe glacier watching. Having a show on it is just plain ridiculous.

8. New Kids on the Block. I watch a fair amount of MuchMusic, but the whole principle of this "band" offends me. Although I have to admit that Donnie Wahlberg is a better rapper than Vanilla Ice, that isn't saying much. (Mr. Ice, by the way, rates right up there with Kim Clarke Champniss in my book.)

9. "Smith & Smith." In case you've missed this travesty of a program, I'll give you the rundown so you don't have to watch it. Basically, it's a variety show (remember those from the 70's?) starring a husband and wife team who can't sing, can't act, and who aren't funny. Sounds great, eh?

10. United Buy & Sell Furniture Warehouse. I'll say no more.

Derek Miller has been writing about the Dikster since high school. Apparently, Derek has hit the wall. Burnout is not a pretty sight.

ONE IS THE LONELIEST NUMBER...  
FROSH CO-ORDINATOR  
1991-92

DON'T LET A FROSH GO THROUGH  
FIRST YEAR ALONE

Now accepting applications for FroCos for the  
1991/92 school year. Apply in SUB 216A  
phone 228-5213

AMS First Year Student Program

## Hugh Leung candidate for President

I have been a part of the Science Undergraduate Society Council for three years now. During my time here, I have seen the society change a great deal. From a relative inactive group with a small office in Scarfe 9, the SUS has become a big part of science students. Not only does it now occupy a much larger office in Chem 160 which provides many services to students, it has also greatly increased its participation in the areas of Sports, Academics, and Sales. The SUS is now a very well know undergraduate society on campus, and it is a hard act for others to follow. As president, I would like to continue this trend and contribute new ideas to add to the success of the society. Being an executive from this year, I have learned a great deal which will help me achieve this goal.

## Elect

## Gio Vassone for SUS President

I'm a 3rd year Animal Biology major and my main goals are to improve communication between students and SUS council members, between students and faculty, and most of all to bring enthusiasm to SUS

## Vote

## Mike Hamilton AMS Rep

Why? Because I love you.

Hi. I'm Ken Satake and I'm running for Student Council Representative. I'm a frosh, and running for the sole purpose of avoiding three more years of apathy.

*Ednote: poor ken had more to say but the staff misplaced his blurb. Our deepest apologies*

elect

## Dave Dymant as Director of Finance

Currently a 3rd year Science Rep, I'm the only candidate for D of F with experience on SUS.

## Brad Hughes for SUS Executive

**Position:** -Director of Finance

**Education:** -UBC Science Year 2

**Experience:**

- Director of Finance (labour sector) for Park Ridge Homes (\$40 000 annual budget)

- Chairman of the Board, YAM ministries

-Owner/Operator of Firewood Supply Company

**Goals:** - Application of extensive practical training in business experience to forthright allocation of Science Undergraduate Society funds

## The Radical Beer Faction

Proudly Presents:

**Erik Jensen**  
(General-4)

for SUS External Vice-President

Erik is running for External V.P (read: "the guy in charge of parties"). He's a natural! Our precision-crafted, nordic-engineered candidate comes with a one year warranty on good beer and great fun. Just wait until you experience the look and feel of a Radical Beer Party put on by an innovative, experienced SUS Council member; we know you'll be impressed. No joke.

## DO YOU WANT AWESOME PARTIES? VOTE PETER LO

For: External Vice President  
I will use my extensive party-  
ing experience as a member  
of ZBT FRATERNITY to put  
on the BEST PARTIES SUS  
has ever seen!

## Patrick Lum

for

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- Currently the 2nd year Science Rep
- Member of SUS Academic & Budget Committees.
- An active and outspoken loudmouth on behalf of SUS and its members
- wants to make everyone in science feel all warm and fuzzy

## RETURN CARMEN McKNIGHT TO

THE POSITION OF

### Executive Secretary

My name is Carmen McKnight and I'm running for the position of S.U.S. Executive Secretary. As a third year Geology student I have been involved with many university activities. In particular, I have involved myself with Intramurals, the G.M. Dawson Club and Physsoc. At present, I am the Secretary/Treasurer of the Physics Society and the acting Executive Secretary of S.U.S., so I am familiar with the duties of the position I am running for. I will continue to work hard for S.U.S. if given the opportunity and would welcome your support in the upcoming elections.

**SUS Exectuvie Elections will be held on March 6,7,8 at  
Chem, Hebb, Wood, CompSci, Wesbrook. Bring your  
AMS Card to vote.**

### Hi!!

I'm Sandra Mah, a 4th Yr.  
Biochem-type, and I'm  
running for

**Internal Vice-President.**

Why? Well, I think that my experi-  
ence (as 3rd Yr Rep, 4th Yr Rep,  
Elections Commissioner and Science  
Week '91 Co-ordinator) will help me  
make sure next year's Council runs  
smoothly.

**BESIDES, no one else is running!! So,  
please get out and vote YES!**

JA! YES! DA! OUI! SI!

## Jaret Clay for Sports Director

### Experience

- one year as Intramurals Assistant Director
- one year as SUS representative for Psychology Students Association
- one year on Executive of the First Year Student Program as Campaign Coordinator

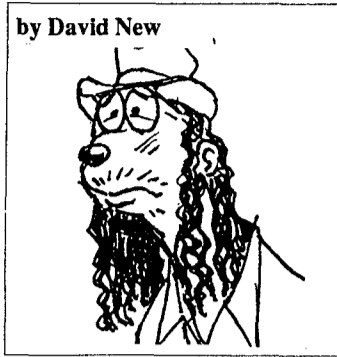
### Goals

- to increase overall participation
- to accumulate more Intramural Sport Points than all the other faculties combined

Jaret Clay -your best choice for  
SUS Sports Director  
Jaret Clay - Your only choice for  
SUS Sports Director

# The Big Sleep

by David New



My cat seems to like sleeping. One seldom comes across her when she's other than a torus of calico fur, pulsating softly, much like a once-proud neutron star gone to seed, or a Cepheid variable with too much time on its hands. She purrs when awakened, as if happy to rejoin the world of the living, but quickly nods off again once she's verified her benefactor's existence, to sleep some more until a dinner should happen by.

Any student who feels envious of the above description may reasonably count as normal. A recent study by the Schlafer Society for Student Sleep Studies has shown that setting foot beyond Wesbrook Mall (the left foot, specifically) causes a 38.2% reduction in books read annually, a 45.7% drop in nutrition, a remarkable 78.1% plunge in caring about the AMS, and, significantly, a 21.0% rise in sleep-related injuries.

Embedded within the concept of sleep-related injury, a blanket term invented by the researchers, lies any physical or mental harm whose ultimate provocation involved the awakening, or falling asleep, of one or more individuals. The collapse of a four-poster bed onto one's prostrate form (0.2%), the anguish caused by dreaming one has missed a midterm (7.1%), the wrath of a professor who bizarrely insists upon attentiveness in class (14.9%) — all these fall well within its bounds.

Cumulatively, from the trivial to the most

debilitating, sleep-related injuries account for some two-thirds of student ailments. While most are mere temporary conditions — such as Buchanan Neck, a muscular atrophy brought on by extensive Philosophy seminars — they run the gamut from the discomfort of a pen-pricked hand to the tragedy of the summer several years ago when a reckless Physical Plant employee fell asleep at his steamroller, driving it off the Point Grey cliffs and horribly crushing a legion of unprepared sunbathers.

The Society's report failed to draw any conclusions correlating specific injuries with individual faculties, but the high incidence of radioactivity burns on the cross-campus listing does indicate a particular carelessness among first-year Physics T.A.'s. On the other hand, a phenomenon known as Vise Wrist, in which the collapse of a sleeping body traps one hand beneath a piece of heavy machinery, ranked third overall, despite seeming restricted to Engineering students.

Surprisingly dangerous is admitting to other students that one has had over five hours of sleep the previous night, especially before an eight-thirty class — and if caffeine should be present in the room, furthermore, the results become even more dire. More cases of ostracism, astigmatism, and accidental pond immersion have been traced to such an admission than to any other, making the combined symptoms of Happy Morning Loudmouth second only to Caffeine Overdose in severity and frequency.

Late last year, the Society published a similar study of the dangers of talking in one's sleep. Collectively, these account for only 8.7% of total mishaps, but those 8.7% are perhaps the most fascinating, and certainly the most variegated. *The 432* sent staff reporter Sven Schwarzhand to investigate current trends in sleep-talking; following are excerpts from his eight-hour-long taped report.

"The beans without canned goods. No, no, in the girdle. A secret society, you know. Secret, yes, like goose pimples on a motorway. What's shame? We speak, speak, and yes, speak. Follow that carparilla?"

"Furthermore, farther in fur, fofoura. Far and captive you hear us when we know more than you do, you all, always, you all of you. Nothing hits! Hitting is batters are up."

"Tell me more about this secret society." [This unidentified female voice appears numerous times on the recording, always coaxing Schwarzhand to be a trifle more lucid.] "We're all around you and in the skyhooks. We know what you look like when you're changing. All is glossy, all is bright around the gherkin, yum. Yum. Nine million dollars. Your pizzas are ready now; thank you for calling Telereg."

Schwarzhand also repeatedly mumbled a mantra about there being "too much love in the world for horses," but even our resident semiotic analysts could make no sense out of the remark. Nevertheless, they maintained, it likely harboured some deep internal secret, which we could use to blackmail Schwarzhand very effectively if we could only figure it out. Anxious not to increase the proliferation of sleep-related blackmail activities (currently hovering at 2.9% of white-collar crime), we decided to refrain from closer scrutiny.

Despite such appalling statistics as those of the S.S.S.S.'s study, the Workers' Compensation Board neither gives guidelines for sleep-related injuries nor pays students who suffer from such ailments. *The 432*'s investigative team was referred to a sheaf of undersecretarial subcommittee reports, which cited the unbelievable rationale that students do not work.

Presumably, they sleep instead.

David New has been writing for *The 432* for two years now. You can catch him and his funky laugh at any Aardvarks Anonymous.

# That's Trivial!

by Tanya Rose

Hello Again! After a small break, we're back! Here's a quick column to sharpen your wits on. Good luck!

Theme: The Largest, the Longest, the Best, the Biggest, the Finest and the First

1-10: Easy - 1 point.

1. What is the largest Bay in the world?
2. What is the most prescribed drug?
3. In what non-mechanical sport do participants reach the highest speeds?
4. Who holds the record for most points scored in a single hockey game?
5. Who transmitted and who received the first telephone message?
6. Who was the best fighter pilot of WWI, with 80 kills?
7. What is the shortest unit of length?
8. Who was the first man on the moon?
9. Who was the first to die in *The Wizard of Oz*?
10. *Casino Royale* was the first movie of what famous movie series?

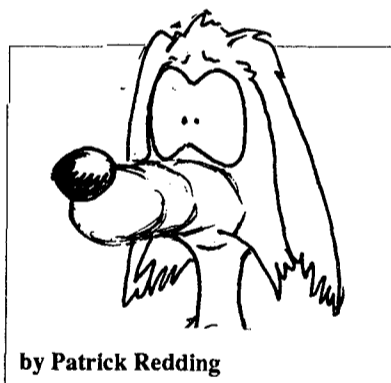
11-15: Medium - 2 points.

11. What star, discovered by J. Plaskett, at Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Victoria, is the largest known star?
12. What is the lowest perfect number?
13. What sport uses the largest playing field?
14. What was the longest war?
15. What was the bloodiest battle of all time?

16-20: Difficult - 3 points.

16. What is the strongest beer?
17. What was the shortest war on record?
18. What is the highest volcano in the world?
19. What was the significance of the phrase, "What hath God wrought?"
20. Who produced the first ever Frankenstein movie?

answers on next page



by Patrick Redding

## CNN: The Cable Neural Network

M. Hoenig drew my attention to the most recent issue of the free magazine *Computer Paper* which contained a short article by P. Zucker that described an unusual phenomena which has emerged in the ongoing coverage of the Gulf War. This war is of course unique in both the unprecedented level of live news coverage, and the extreme constraints placed on the media in the field by the military. It is generally accepted that CNN is the primary unofficial source of information on Gulf events, even for Iraqi, Saudi and Israeli viewers. But with the flow of real information reduced systematically to a sanitized trickle, the networks (CNN included) who are attempting to provide around the clock updates have been compelled to resort to the old standard: the panel of experts. These live brainstorming sessions usually involve at least one retired military officer, a gaggle of intelligence analysts, and often a veteran member of the press. The lot of them try to out-speculate one another, frequently with restated versions of the same guess, and because inevitably these people will feel that their experience is being called into question, what starts out as cautious extrapolation evolves headlong into a reputation-staked certainty.

Those of us who have wasted enough

# Loose Canons

time watching western TV know the dance; we have grown wary of these irresponsibly reported statements, and can hopefully sort out the facts from the fallacy. But imagine for a moment the reaction of an Iraqi watching an at best hasty translation of a quarter-hour-old CNN broadcast, while bombs pound the refinery just a mile away. A particularly volatile comment from some American who is an acknowledged member of the military can be picked up out of the context of speculation and turned into a statement of intent or fact. In Baghdad, or Riyadh, or Jerusalem, always under the threat of air attack, the news of this broadcast can spread at the street level rather rapidly in the form of rumor. Needless to say, under these conditions any rumor is going to mutate quickly, but will likely survive in a plausible yet extreme form. The comment "It seems likely that if Saddam has nerve gas on his Scuds, he will use them on Israel" can with unnerving speed turn into "Saddam has nerve gas on his Scuds. He will use them on Israel." which in turn becomes "Saddam has launched nerve-gas tipped Scuds at Israel."

Reporters from networks other than CNN pick up on these bits of misinformation, which are too apocalyptic to be ignored, and report them back to New York or Washington. Because the Big Three networks are really in competition for viewers, there is an undeniable urge to twist things into as sensational a story as possible. So the stern-faced anchor for the whichever Special Report may be quick to announce "Jerusalem has been reportedly hit with nerve-gas tipped Scuds. You heard it here first, folks." Now the ugly chaotic cycle begins anew. What CNN hears from CBS, it can't very well disregard now, can it? So up pops Peter Arnett with the disturbing news that "sources within the Saudi military command" indicate a chemical weapons attack has been staged against Israel. Two guesses which highly-place intelligence

source provided that tidbit. Residents of Tel Aviv begin scrambling for gas masks, or experiencing hysterical gas-attack symptoms.

This is a classic feedback loop. Total propagation time from CNN to CNN: 15 minutes minimum. Not very long at all. The vicious irony of this scenario is that it illustrates the very mechanism that, in the messy wet network of neurons that makes up our brains, allows us to recognize obscure patterns, remember things given the smallest clues and make surprisingly fast and accurate estimates of principles far too abstract for any IBM. The fact is, memory and pattern recognition are robust because they tolerate a certain amount of error before eventually settling into the stable "best guess." But if you build a neural network out of components that are continually generating their own information, more or less randomly, then the system becomes quite unreliable. The stable points that would normally correspond to true and accurate pieces of complex information instead become occupied by complete misinformation, which though self-perpetuating and essentially consistent, is none the less false.

The lesson to be learned: One Source of information is at least as bad as No Source. In the weeks to come, as the ground campaign rages, and the military clamps down even more on press coverage, we will witness the extrema of the above phenomena. Maybe there is some critical threshold beyond which this system will simply blow up, and our holy anchorpeople will stare at the cameras, totally secure in their sense of truth and with completely straight-faces tell the viewers: "Good polychrome. In Idaho today, insipid butterfly tax-free. Don't brake lightly for eternity. Mother. Mtrheo. Oherm."

Patrick Redding *strives* to bring you the best column he can, on time. Harumph.

Friday March 1st  
4:30-8:30pm  
**BZZR  
GARDEN  
VIII  
BIOL 2449**  
Be ECO-FRIENDLY: Bring your own mug!!!

BioChem, Pharmacology  
& Physiology Club  
*Wine and  
Cheese Party*  
**Friday, March 8**  
watch for posters for further details

by Trent Hammer

Did you miss me? I haven't written an article lately because nothing really important has happened.

Sure, since I last wrote there's been a war in the gulf, a civil uprising in Lithuania, a drought in Northern Africa and the Canucks have decided to join the Lindros sweepstakes, but nothing of real importance has happened with the AMS.

Here are the more important things that have happened.

1)The new executive has been elected and they are now in charge. Congrats to Sean (Get a Haircut) Tagseth, Ranjit (pass me the scissors, I'll cut it) Bharag, Kelly (don't mess up my office) Guggesburg, Martin (the Midget) Earle and Jason (40 ways to drink beer) Brett.

2)The referenda also voted on during the election all failed to reach quorum so her/him will be once again excluded from the AMS Code & Bylaws.

3)A motion to oppose the presence of the Canadian Armed Forces in the Persian Gulf was defeated by council. This motion was put forwards by the Student rep from VST, whose society passed a similar motion. The debate was quite emotional on both sides. One of the council members went as far as saying that if

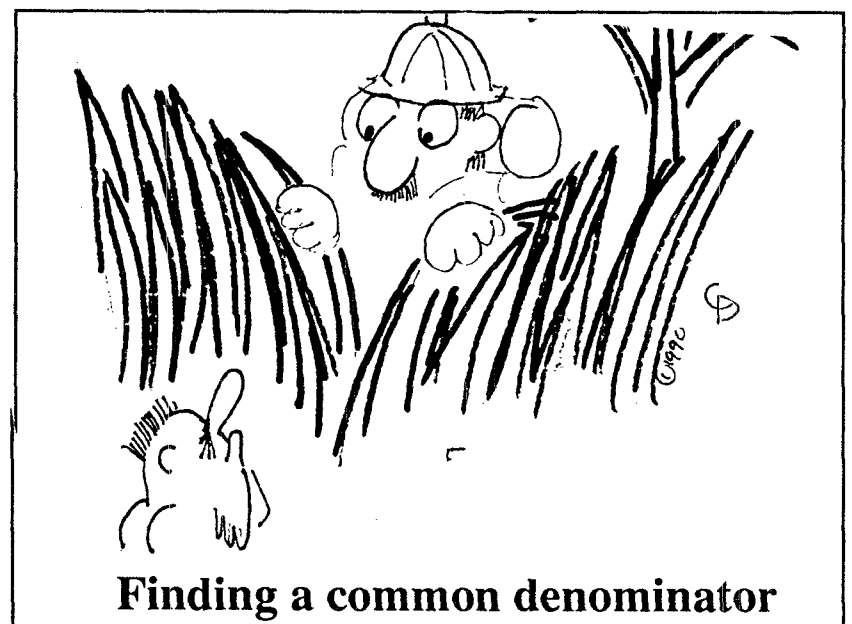
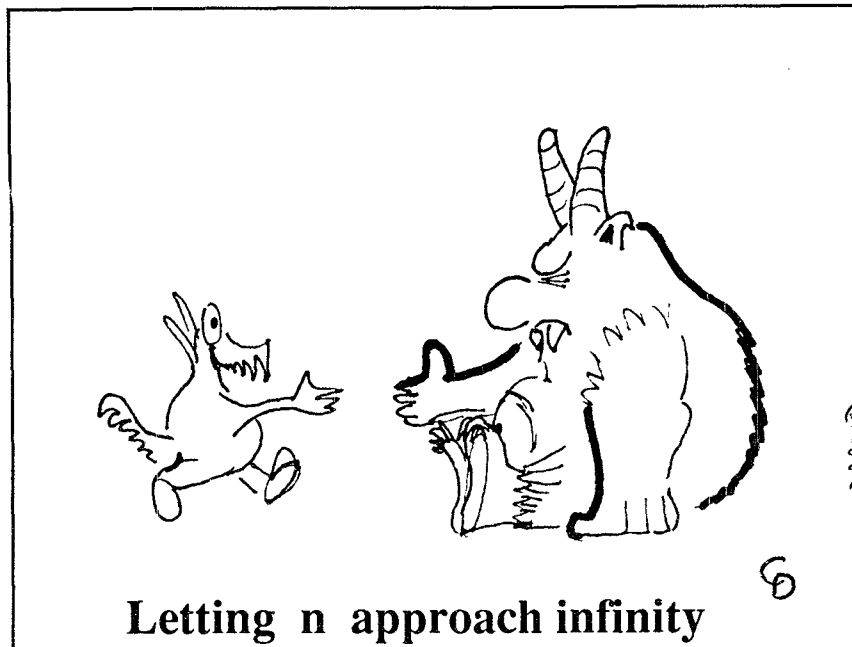
the motion was voted down by council, those who voted it down would have "Blood on their hands" and be responsible for the massacre of our troops. Others said that, since they're already there, America should take over Kuwait, Iraq, Iran, Syria and all the other countries that have pissed them off in the past. These are both silly notions. The prevailing thought was that, since there are so many different opinions about the war, it would be wrong to decide how students feel about this issue. Of the people I have talked to, most support the war and were angered by the thought of the AMS taking a stand for or against the war.

4)The Annual General Meeting was held to instal the new exec and here a number of boring reports.

5)Free tickets to Yuk-Yuks for Wed Feb 27 can be purchased for a nominal charge (free) from CHEM 160 or the AMS business office. I know this is a little late but if you hurry there should be some tickets left over. First come first serve, tickets are limited.

Trent Hammer, our current AMS Rep is doomed to a life of being "comfortable," while still having to endure jokes about his janitor butt.

# Literal Science



## Bits of BoG

by Derek K. Miller, official student BoGer

According to a standard planning maxim, public town centres should be no bigger than about 200 acres (or 10 minutes' walk from one side to the other). The main campus of UBC, from Anthropology-Sociology to Forestry, is about 450 acres in area - 250 too big. We learned that from Andrew Brown, University Planner, at the latest Board of Governors ("BoG") meeting on Thursday, February 7.

Anyway, Wendy King and I, your newly-elected student BoG reps, were pitched head-long into one of the most important meetings of the year, and, yes, Diamond Dave Strangway's three-year, inflation-plus-4.5% annually tuition fee increases went through. We couldn't stop it. (Grumble.) Nevertheless, we did manage to ensure that the increases will be reviewed each year (which could have been done anyway). A serious review of the Financial Aid system did come out of the process too. Students will also have "significant input" (meaning what?) into the allocation of funds in the new "Enhanced Teaching and Learning Environment" fund. So our reaction is, er, mixed.

Anyway, we also learned that UBC is the 10th largest city in BC. There are even plans for a hotel out here in the next couple of decades, and maybe a few stores like any other community. (In the summer UBC houses three times more visitors than the largest downtown hotel.) If you'd like a peek at the Campus Planning discussion paper, drop by

our office (SUB 262, phone 228-6101) and say hi. If not, drop by anyway.

Ongoing campus construction includes the National Centre for Excellence in Biotechnology, atop the Bookstore (So that's what that is!); a new Physical Plant building; two all-wood forest industry buildings waaay out in B-lot; and some planning for a new library between Sedgewick and Main. Oh, and the MTS operating system will be phased out on the UBC mainframe computers in the next couple of years. 850 units of new student housing are planned "sometime," but that looks like the turn of the century or later. So hold on to your basement suite (or squat).

Some other stuff: President Strangway and VP Academic Dan Birch were reappointed for another 6.5 years (until June 1991). UBC lures 28-35,000 commuters a day - almost 25% of the downtown load. It's also the GVRD's second-largest Transit destination, next to downtown. And renovations and new building construction takes into account the fact that students hate chairs with attached desk arms, and that we prefer tables and chairs. Another small victory.

Watch for further updates, and drop by SUB 262 for a visit. Wendy and I are there most noon hours. Oh, and the free lunch was excellent.

Derek Miller, a previous 432 editor and student of science just keeps moving on to bigger and better stuff. Now get a job, Derek.

## Sports <sup>1/8</sup> Page with Rachel Farrall



The Centipede Championships are this Thursday at 12:30. Teams of 7 or 11 run a short course around campus linked together by a costume. Come out and participate or

just come and see some great costumes.

If you'd prefer to race through the Pacific Spirit Park this Thursday, the 3rd Mountain Bike Trail Race is on. If you'd like to get completely disoriented in Pacific Spirit Park, then run the Hash House Harrie, March 7th at

12:30. This is a 10km "fun" race where you find out the route as you go along - often ending up down a dead end and knee deep in mud. For \$10.70 (\$5.70 with rebate) you get a wonderful T-shirt.

The events coming up are:

- March 9: Triathlon
- March 11-17: US Open Tennis Tourney
- March 16 or 17: Spring Softball Tourneys
- March 24-28: Storm the Wall

Come out and earn points for Science. Currently Science men are beating the Engineers easily; however, Science women have been passed by Arts women!

If you are waiting for a league sport rebate, they will be available as of March 11th/91. Sports Points Forms will be available March 3rd/91.

Stay tuned for more exhilarating and exciting Sports Information from me, the sports guru of SUS, Rachel Farrall.

Rachall Farrall is our current Sports Director. She's got a cool coat.

### Answers to That's Trivial

1. Hudson Bay.
2. Valium.
3. Skydiving.
4. Darryl Sittler (10).
5. Bell and Watson (Watson, come here. I need you.).
6. The Red Baron - Manfred Von Richthofen.
7. 1 attometer (10<sup>-18</sup> meters).
8. Jim Plunkett.
9. The Wicked Witch of the East.
10. James Bond.
11. Betelgeux.
12. 6.
13. Polo (12.4 acres).
14. The Hundred Years War (between Britain and France, 1138-1453).
15. The Battle of the Somme July 1 - Nov 19, 1916 (1,030,000 dead).
16. E.K.U. Kulminator Urtyp Hell (Germany).
17. 38 minutes, between Britain and Zanzibar, Aug 27, 1896.
18. Cerro Aconcagua - 22,834 ft.
19. It was the first ever telegraph message.
20. Thomas Edison, 1910.

# The Alma Mater Society in Conjunction With the University of British Columbia

## NEEDS FROSH COORDINATORS FOR 1991-91

We can all remember our first year at University. The campus seemed overwhelming, classes were huge, course loads a slap in the face (especially when exams rolled around), and making friends in a group of 25 000 people wasn't exactly the easiest thing to do. But somehow, we all managed to overcome the typical first year anxiety: The "Oh my God, I'm not going to make it!" Syndrome.

When reflecting on an experience like that (and for some it's a less painful memory than for others!), thoughts about how things might have been made a little easier for us come to mind. Well, times are changing for the first year student, and you, the Frosh Coordinator (FroCo), are going to be the reason why.

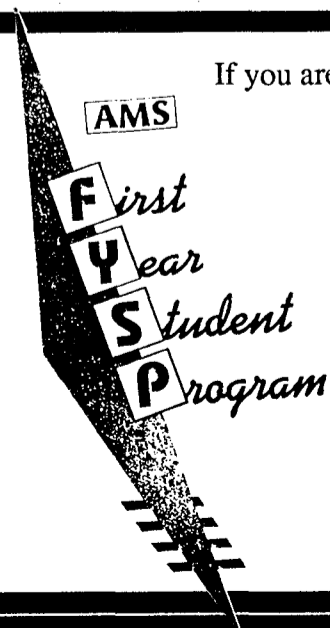
The question is, "How do we build spirit at U.B.C.?"

That's what the First Year Students Program is all about - team spirit, feeling like you're part of a group - and if there was a time in which we ever needed that, it was in first year. It's about helping first years identify with each other, and letting them know that

they're not alone. Once we've accomplished that, spirit will take care of itself. We're going to encourage involvement in student clubs and activities. We'll be organizing social events at the beginning of the year, and FROSH WEEK.

As a FroCo, you will play a key role, providing support and leadership for the Frosh. You and another FroCo will be put in charge of a group of Frosh (15-20 people). This is not to say that you will then be abandoned. You will certainly be allowed to exercise your own imagination in dealing with your group, but we will have a myriad of activities organized especially for the Frosh.

The time has come to do something about the apathy on this campus, and the U.B.C. spirit has to happen in first year, or it might not happen at all. There's a lot of work to be done, but together we can pull this off, and start a tradition at U.B.C. Other universities in Canada have had well-established Frosh programs for years, and there's no reason why we can't do it too. We have a plan, but it can't work without your help!



If you are active, involved, and care about the future of U.B.C., look us up. Pick up applications in SUB 216A or the Librarian's office of the Main Library. Please return all applications to SUB 216A.

There will be an all-day leadership conference for FroCos on Saturday March 16, 1991

**FIRST YEAR STUDENT PROGRAM**  
**OFFICE: SUB 216A**  
**OR SUB BOX 113**