SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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48

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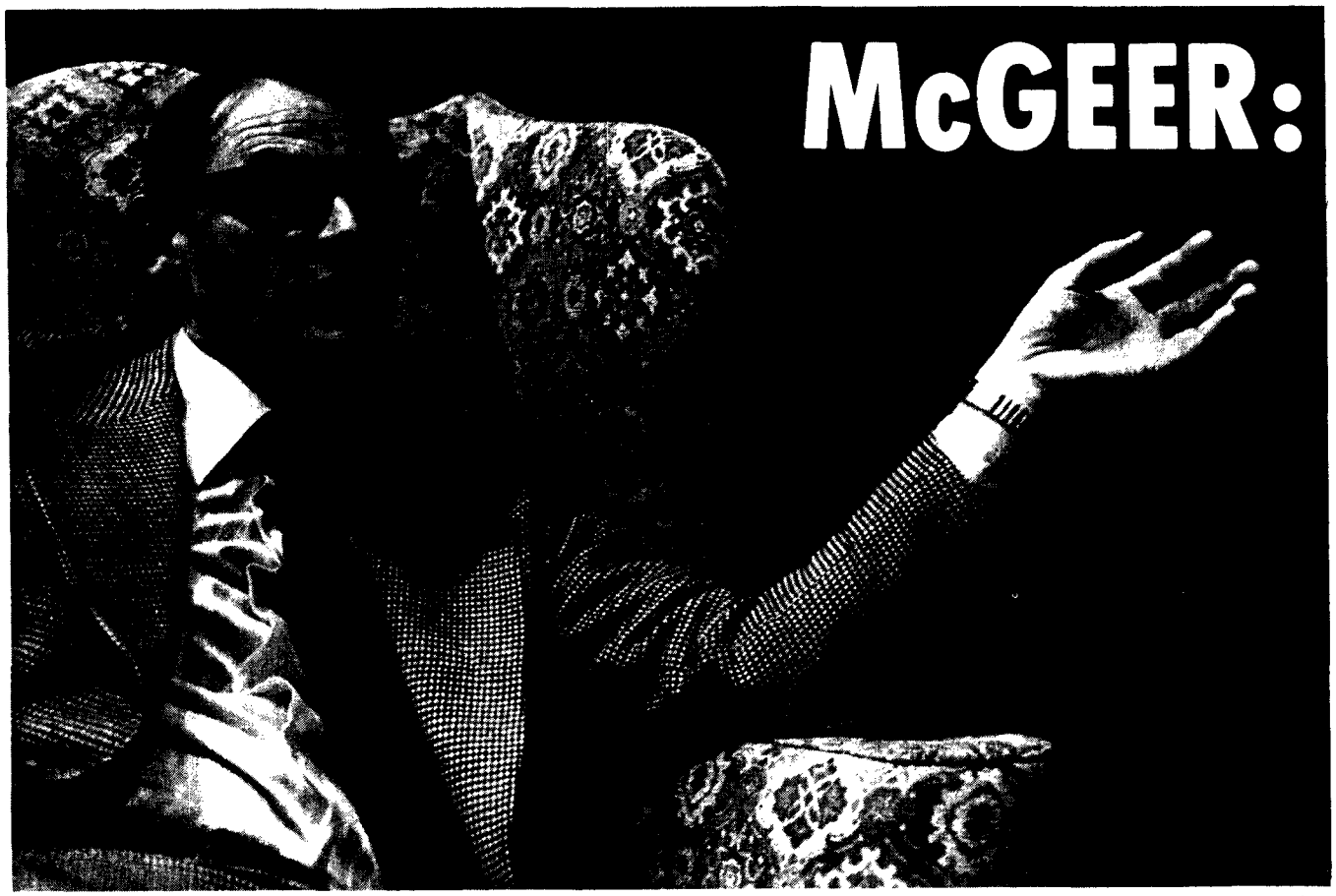

Bryan McGill photos

On higher education in B.C.

UBC Reports **reprints this interview with Dr. Patrick McGeer with the kind permission of** *The Ring* **of the University of Victoria.**

Patrick McGeer has been minister of education in B.C. for 16 months now. In this interview he talks about his expectations and accomplishments in that period, his plans for the education system, especially higher education, the Universities Council, and tuition fee increases, among other subjects.

Dr. McGeer was questioned by John Driscoll of *The Ring.*

McGeer: . . .I do have some other people coming later on, but I'm sure we'll have time to cover what you'd like to have in your interview.

The Ring: As minister of education and minister in charge of ICBC you've been handling two major portfolios during your first year in government. Given the importance of these two portfolios, do you think there should be a minister in charge of each?

McGeer: That's entirely up to the premier of the province. I gave him a commitment to take on any jobs that he asked me to do. These were two. In addition to that, I serve as chairman of the social services committee and sit on Treasury Board and I'm part of Planning and Priorities as well as regular cabinet, so really there are a lot of things in addition to the two portfolios that take up my time. But these activities take up all of the minister's time. Our job is really to set over-all policy for the province, not to become too involved in the details of administration of any given portfolio or crown corporation. As a general principle, however, I would say one of the reasons why government should not become too heavily involved in operating corporations of one kind or another is because it does drain the time of ministers who should be dealing with those things that cannot be handled by the private sector.

The Ring: Does ICBC take up less of your time than Education?

McGeer: Well, at the outset of course ICBC took up the lion's share of my time because it was a corporation that was in very deep trouble and I think the rescue operation is done now, so that I'm able to devote much more time to other things and required to devote less time to ICBC. I look forward to devoting even less time to it in future because it's not only healthy for ICBC, it's healthy for the government.

The Ring: If and when you leave the government, do you plan to return to your research at UBC?

Continued on p.2

McGeer (continued)

McGeer: I'm certainly planning to resume a career in brain research. Whether it will be in British Columbia or not I really can't say because one of the major reasons why I was in British Columbia was because I was spending part of my time with the B.C. government. And of course if I weren't involved with the government then there would be nothing really to compel me to stay in British Columbia.

The Ring: Well, you are on leave from UBC.

McGeer: Oh yes, I'm on leave from the faculty at UBC and the staff that I had is still there. I still do some scientific work. I'm still publishing papers, though much fewer; probably a dozen or so this year and a book.

The Ring: What is the book on?

McGeer: Molecular neurobiology. It should be going off to the printers within a month or so. The book was started, of course, while I was at UBC and my co-author who's in Switzerland is working on it. We've been exchanging chapters. So I'm hopeful that that book will be in print before the end of the year.

The Ring: Can you kind of rough out what you feel have been the major achievements in education since you took office?

McGeer: Well, we've really overhauled the education ministry from top to bottom. There are major new initiatives in every aspect of education. Starting from the junior part at the elementary and secondary level, we've commenced our core curriculum program and the provincial learning assessment program. These two thrusts are intended to provide standards once more in our public school system, to be certain that the basics are being taught in schools. We've divided the subject matter into what must be learned, what should be learned and what may be learned, and the people are accepting this as a reasonable approach for government to take after some years of drift. We'll be, commencing in September, becoming much more specific. With regard to these matters at the present time there's still a consultation process taking place. Within a very short time we will be introducing legislation which will provide for provincial aid to independent schools, something which has been talked about for many many years but which has never been acted upon by government or legislation. Moving to the post-secondary field, I hope again in the near future to introduce a Colleges and Institutions Act which will provide a complete new framework for the operation of the 20 or so institutions which exist in British Columbia. Again this would be legislation which will not please everyone but which I believe will provide a framework under which these institutions can thrive in their own right.

The Ring: It seems that in your term of office with both ICBC and Education, there have been a number of controversial issues and they have involved quite an amount of controversy. How does that affect you? You know, you have bumper stickers, "Stick in in your ear, McGeer," that sort of thing.

McGeer: They are collectors' items now. You can't achieve anything without controversy. The more you achieve the more controversy there'll be because whenever there's a change there are those who are resistant to change. That's as it should be; I'm certainly not objecting to it. But anybody who tries to get things done would be a fool not to anticipate resistance and even resentment in some quarters. So it certainly came as no surprise to me, and I quite anticipate much more controversy in the future. The test of whether I'm right or wrong will come only with time. Anyway I want to assure you that there will be initiatives.

The Ring: What about at the university level?

McGeer: Before the year is out, we will be embarking on a major program of delivering degree programs to the Interior. There will be a blending of the recommendations of the Winegard Commission report and the Goard Commission report providing these Interior programs for the first time. We've set aside adequate funds, we believe. It will be in two parts. One will be for providing on site programs in several locations in the Interior and the second will be providing a union library service so that the holdings of all our universities will be available to Interior centres. We're still in the business of delivering opportunities to people all around the province. When you get to the more sparsely populated areas of the province obviously you can't deliver university programming in Stewart, Fort St. James, or Invermere. So we have to have a method of extending our education enterprise, if you like, to these more remote regions. We've commissioned the Farris report to begin looking into this much more difficult area and they've come back with recommendations which we won't be able to get to this year but which I hope we'll be able to deal with in a definitive way as our next thrust. And this is to begin to deliver programs into the home which we feel can be done through media presentations, particularly television along the lines of the open university in Britain, but also incorporating radio and other remote delivery systems. Our efforts will be designed to provide high school finishing programs and then limited college programs to the 98 per cent of homes in British Columbia that have television sets.

The Ring: Providing university programs to homes would be an expensive proposition.

McGeer: Well, not nearly as expensive as a lot of people would think because the technological capacity is there. Television sets are there, cablevision systems are there. What isn't there is production and pursuit. We've got to have the material to put on the air, and then we've got to have a way of following up with seminars, with written projects, face-to-face contact at intervals during the course program.

The Ring: What about the coastal universities?

McGeer: Now, at the university level we've commissioned the Gaudry Report which is really designed to try to draw industry and university more closely together to provide a stronger economic base for the province, and therefore a greater capability to support the higher education enterprise. I hope that before too long we'll be able to announce specific measures that will provide for greater co-operation, brotherhood if you like, between the world of business and industry and the world of academia. We've also started a new system of funding capital needs of universities which has lagged far behind provision of capital facilities for the 1,500 schools in the province.

The Ring: That's the new system of funding through the B.C. Educational Institutions Capital Financing

Authority. How is that working out for 1977-78?

McGeer: It's been slow getting off the mark, but we've now got a system solidly established which should allow the universities to complete their capital requirements. Funding will be in every case recommended by UCBC. Then it will be priorized by the department. We've not attempted so far to do that sort of thing because our preoccupation is to get a system established. If I can give you an indication of what the balance has been, this past year, something like $138 million was spent on the schools of the province and perhaps $6 or $7 million on the universities. So that's a balance that has to be adjusted, since the school population is constant and the university population growing. Anyway, the system is now in place and I think it will function very well for our education institutions in the future.

The Ring: Do you think there's a danger there of adding more red tape?

McGeer: I think that had the universities completed their capital facilities, had they been on an equal footing with the schools in the province, then obviously one would not have felt any need to change the system for the universities. But it's very evident if you examine it the universities and colleges have really fallen far behind.

The Ring: Is there anything in the first 16 months that you've been disappointed with?

McGeer: Well, it's just how slow everything goes. I don't know who's slower, the civil service or universities. But the speed of things is never such as to satisfy. I classify myself as impatient, but anyway . . . I'm used to getting things done, let's put it that way. Because when I was devoting myself to the laboratory, you either had to produce or you were dead.

The Ring: Has there been anything specific that has disappointed you, something you had hoped to get accomplished by now?

McGeer: Everything is unfolding slowly as it should. All the programs that I counted on moving ahead are moving ahead. I can't really say that my government colleagues have been anything but totally co-operative in the field of education. They've been unselfish, generous, co-operative, understanding.

The Ring: That sounds rather ideal.

McGeer: Well, you have to remember we compete for a limited share of the pie. Everybody wants more and I just have a feeling that my colleagues in government have been good to me, have been good to the education system. I hope their patience doesn't run thin.

The Ring: You've been both an academic and the chief administrator of education in B.C. Do you feel the two sides have much understanding of each other's viewpoint?

McGeer: I think that the Ministry of Education has been more isolated than it should have been, perhaps more isolated than it might be in other provinces. What we have done is to second a number of people in the education system to work in the ministry on specific projects. I hope in the future to develop much more exchange between the people who are in the system and the ministry so that mutual respect and understanding will grow.

The Ring: You've been a member of the opposition for a number of years and now you're in the government. Do you think the critic is an easier role to play?

McGeer: It's always easier to criticize. There's no question about that.

The Ring: Specifically, as a critic you have spoken about B.C. as being educationally undernourished for generations. Do you feel the same way after serving as minister of education? In what way are you attempting to change that situation?

McGeer: Certainly the amount of money that has gone to education has vastly changed in the last few years so that what might have been the case in the 1960s is hardly the case today. Certainly if I had been guiding things during the years when really it went from a very lean adolescent to a somewhat obese middle-aged status, I'd have seen the funds distributed a little differently. But I don't think the system can really persuade anyone these days that it's undernourished. Maybe it can convince its own people but I don't think people outside the system would easily be persuaded of this.

The Ring: You have been quoted as expressing some concern about the

Continued on p.4

In the interview on these pages, Education Minister Patrick McGeer refers to recommendations by two commissions and a report by Dr. Roger Gaudry of the University of Montreal, former chairman of the Science Council of Canada. Brief summaries of the work of the commissions and Dr. Gaudry's report follow.

COMMISSION ON UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS IN NON-METROPOLITAN AREAS. Dr. William Winegard, former president of the University of Guelph, was the sole commissioner in the preparation of the "Winegard Report." Dr. Winegard, who was assisted by a nine-member advisory panel, recommended that Simon Fraser University be given primary responsibility for providing degree-completion programs in non-metropolitan areas of the province.

On April 14, Dr. McGeer announced the formation of an Interior Universities Co-ordinating Council to oversee the development and delivery of university programs to centres outside Vancouver and Victoria. The co-ordinating council, an outgrowth of the Winegard Report, will consider off-campus programs offered by SFU, UBC and the University of Victoria. It will also be responsible for recommending to the Universities Council of B.C. the extent of degree-level programs to be offered in the Interior and on the coast.

COMMISSION ON VOCATIONAL, TECHNICAL AND TRADES TRAINING. This commission, chaired by Dean H. Goard, former principal of the B.C. Institute of Technology, reported to the provincial government in February and recommended creation of an occupational training council to establish vocational training priorities and to allocate funds for vocational and trades training in B.C.

THE STATE OF RESEARCH AND RESEARCH FUNDING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA. Dr. Gaudry was asked to consider the extent of university and industrial-based research in B.C. and its adequacy for future economic and social development in the province, and to make recommendations on the role of the provincial government in sponsorship of the social, natural and life sciences.

Dr. Gaudry's main recommendation was that the provincial government allocate funds to compensate, on a temporary basis, for the shortfall in the national granting councils' funding of research in B.C. universities.

The government has not acted on this or other recommendations made by Dr. Gaudry. In March, Provincial Secretary Grace McCarthy said in the Legislature that $1.6 million in profits from the Western Express lottery would be used for medical research. Among the agencies named to benefit were the B.C. Heart Foundation, the Cancer Society and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

McGeer (continued)

value of a general B.A. degree and a desire for more emphasis on professional training. Could you outline your expectations for post-secondary education? Where do you see B.C. universities heading?

McGeer: I think you have to expand those programs where there's a demonstrated need for graduates and where there's a waiting list of applicants. We've got quite a few of those areas in British Columbia today, some in professional schools like medicine and others in vocational schools, like heavy duty mechanics and welding. There are jobs and careers at the end of the line and you've got students waiting, sometimes for two or three years, sometimes forever in the sense they know they're not going to get an opportunity because of the limited size of the class. Obviously it has to be an objective of the government to break down the resistance that exists to expanding these programs so that they are in better balance with the needs of the province and the wishes of the students. We are in the process of doing that, but again it can't be done without treading on toes and producing objections.

The Ring: Isn't it true it also can't be done without eliminating some programs, particularly in academic areas?

McGeer: Well, I suppose the first example we have in British Columbia is Notre Dame University which was not a government operation but there most of the classes had less than 10 students. The courses were not the kind where there was really any demand at all for the graduates. This was funded, in the latter years, largely by government so the government had to look at the cost benefit of supporting a private university to do those kinds of things versus the demands of public institutions where graduates are in desperate need by industry and where students want to get into the programs. Obviously you're spending your money in the wrong places when you get situations like this. What we said to Notre Dame was you'll have to manage on a level of funding equivalent to the coastal universities. They were unable to do that so they had to undergo a rearrangement.

The Ring: Do you feel there is more emphasis now on technical programs than on B.A.s?

McGeer: I think what has happened is that there was a time when people who took a B.A. degree were in adequate demand. But when demands are totally satisfied you've got too many generalists and B.A.s can't get jobs. There are now a lot of students who are thinking this over before they start and saying "can I get into law?" or "can I get into medicine or nursing or welding?" or whatever. So we're saying yes, if there's a need we'll see that the class is enlarged to give you a chance to get into these things. Now that having been done, what will be the effect of that on those who took arts because they didn't have these other opportunities? That's something I can't predict, but if one looks at the experience all over North America, people given alternatives to arts are accepting them. Therefore, the universities, I think, have got to anticipate these trends and adjust themselves accordingly. Obviously I'm not going to try to tell the universities what to do. They have to set their own directions. But at the same time their customers are the students and they're going to have to provide programs that the students themselves see as being valuable.

The Ring: In the final analysis isn't it the taxpayer who is concerned about the growing list of unemployed people with B.A.s?

McGeer: I think there's taxpayer concern but there's also concern on the part of students. They go into a program devoting four years of their lives sacrificing income during that period with an expectation that at the end of the road they're going to be in demand. If they find they're not in demand they may be just a little disappointed at what they got out of their university career. They may transmit that disappointment to their younger brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews. So I don't know what the demands of students will be in the future. All that I can say as minister is that we are going to provide new alternatives for people, provide programs in the Interior, both academic and vocational, we're going to expand professional and vocational programs wherever we can identify a demonstrated need for graduates and a line-up of students to get through the door. It's foolish for the educational system to be the neck in the bottle.

The Ring: But with all these new programs and a limited source of funds surely the money will have to come from established programs? The education budget isn't going to get much larger.

McGeer: No it isn't.

The Ring: Where does the money come from?

McGeer: Well there's only so much money. We'll do our best to distribute it around. I can't really predict for you how the Universities Council will decide to distribute the money. The government will usually guarantee as much money to an institution in an ensuing year as it got the previous year, unless of course, the population of students falls way off. How the institutions handle the money is their affair. I'll get as much money for the educational enterprise as I possibly can. And I'll rely on the goodwill of my colleagues to provide it. But we don't have a money tree growing in the backyard. I think people have to be realistic about giving value to their students and value to society.

The Ring: When in the opposition you spoke at length of your vision of a "Science City" where universities and industries could combine to produce sophisticated products comparable to those developed by great corporate teams in other countries. Is the proposal to build a research park on UBC endowment lands put forth recently by the B.C. Development Corporation in keeping with your vision? And would the three public universities in B.C. have an equal part to play in such a development?

(Universities) . . . are going to have to provide programs that the students themselves see as being valuable.

McGeer: The three public universities definitely will be involved. May I extend through you a very hearty invitation to UVic to join in that enterprise or any other that might exist on southern Vancouver Island. After all there's the facility out at Bamfield, and then there's the one on Patricia Bay, the Ocean Sciences Institute. And then there's the Dominion Observatory. It can spill over into other areas. There's quite a little artists' colony in Summerland. These are all areas where the university can interact with the community, where it can be self-supporting. These are areas where universities can add a measure of self sufficiency to their operations. Universities, particularly here, become more and more dependent on government, much less dependent on student fees, much less dependent on donations and

fund-raising amongst the public. Too many eggs are in the government basket. This is an opportunity for universities to blossom out a little.

The Ring: Do you mean in terms of working with industry?

McGeer: Sure. The TRIUMF facility for example is a great success and that's open to UVic. It also provides students with an opportunity to reach the frontiers. Many universities, though not in British Columbia, are beginning to develop programs in conjunction with industry, especially in the eastern United States. Universities found themselves in some trouble because their programs were not particularly tailored to the needs of their communities, at least not in a career sense. So in order to develop a greater degree of self-sufficiency they entered with industry into these programs, work-in-industry programs like they have now in some of our schools. This is another novel approach that universities might think of, if they're nervous about the long-term future in the current milieu. UVic is particularly well-placed for programs that have to do with government and public administration.

The Ring: When you speak of the current milieu are you referring to inflation or attitudes toward universities?

McGeer: Well I'm referring to the greater reliance that universities have now on the public purse, and disaffection that the public has with the relevance of university programs. For example, moonlighting professors. You only have to look at the papers to see that the mood has changed. While at one time universities were respected for years by the public, a period of strong disillusionment has set in. First of all the disillusion commenced during the student vandalistic period of the 1960s which did enormous damage to the reputation of the universities. Probably they'll never recover from that. Now it's followed by the extraordinary costs these institutions have to society relative to former times. Universities are taking a much greater share of available government revenues in taxes and the public asks why we're spending so much money there. You see the universities built up a very broad base. They used to cater to a small percentage of people, maybe 10 to 15 per cent. Now those people, following a B.A. degree, were in high demand in the community because they had been given opportunities that the general public had not been given. They were desired and were given jobs. Then the idea came along that we should do this for everybody and they'll all be in that position, but of course that turned out not to be the case. There was nothing special about the people who came out of the system. They were just generalists as those who had come before were except there were too many of them for the available jobs. Now an adjustment has to take place. People are kind of re-thinking the role of universities now. Are they bigger than they need be? Should the programs be changed? Is too much

money being spent? These aren't unique questions to British Columbia. These are questions being asked all over the world. And I might add, they're not being answered too well anywhere.

The Ring: Were the expectations for universities too high?

McGeer: As I see it, the expectations were not too high in some areas, totally unrealistic in others. Just to expand universities willy-nilly without giving any thoughts to the programs or needs for graduates, that was a mistake. It necessitates a reassessment of the situation. Universities don't really have too many degrees of freedom now. Universities have a faculty they have to support, they're committed to a faculty and there are very few opportunities today for young faculty people. The average faculty member all over North America is growing older. There's not much turn-over there and not much growth. Where does a graduate student go after he gets his Ph.D. in Medieval History. Where can he go? Nowhere. It's a case of over-production. It's a closed circuit, you know. It went around faster and faster and finally it blew itself.

The Ring: The new cost-sharing formula for provincial-federal funding of post-secondary education which goes into effect April 1 has been criticized by educators who fear that federal money meant for education could be spent on other provincial programs. Is there a basis for this expressed concern?

McGeer: I don't have any feeling on that at all.

The Ring: You're confident then that education will get its fair share?

McGeer: Well, certainly education has had far more out of provincial coffers as a proportion of the total budget spent in British Columbia than any other province. That's merely another way of saying that the federal contribution has been less. To be blunt it's a disgrace. The federal government, in our view, has given us $300 million less than it should have under the old formula. I'm doing my best to recover money from the federal government and we remain optimistic that we're going to get some recognition. It will mean more money for our institutions in the province if the federal government gives us what we feel to be a minimum break, not an even break. But that's still in the future.

The Ring: Under the new cost-sharing agreement between the federal and provincial government, does it look like B.C. might be getting more money from the federal government for education?

McGeer: We hope so, yes. We've asked for our tax points to be able to do the job. As you know a given number of tax points produces more revenue in B.C. than it does in other provinces but on the other hand the costs of doing business here are higher than anywhere else in Canada. So we need more money.

The Ring: Criticism has been voiced that because you and deputy minister Walter Hardwick are members of the faculty of B.C.'s largest and most-established university your viewpoint might be biased in terms of helping the two younger universities in their development. What is your response to this?

McGeer: We don't dispense the funds. The Universities Council does. All we do is try to get as much money as we can but we have nothing to say about how much goes to each of the three universities. The whole purpose of the Universities Council is so that the political pressures exerted by the universities will be to a . . an interface if you like . . rather than take a partisan pressure. I think the establishment of the Universities Council was a wise move on the part of the former government and I supported it.

The Ring: But the government makes the final decision on things like buildings, for example?

Continued on p.6

McGeer (continued)

McGeer: Well, yes but that's all recommendations by the Universities Council. I think that we'll have to priorize requests and give top priority to requests that fall into more urgent needs. But that won't mean that university A will have all category 1 priority and university B have all category 5 priority. Obviously even if we did have a bias toward one particular university we wouldn't be able to exert it because there's a mechanism there to prevent that (UCBC) and what I'm saying is that I support that mechanism.

The Ring: But yours is still the final authority on financing buildings.

McGeer: Yes, but what we'll be doing in that regard is spelling out the ground rules very clearly to everybody. My initial desire was to get the program instituted and the principle established. I might say that the projects that came forward from the universities were not world-beaters in the priority sense as far as the society in general is concerned, but the program is now launched. I think everyone is going to be the better for it.

The Ring: Do you mean such things as the music wing at UVic and the aquatic complex at UBC weren't world-beaters in terms of the needs of the community?

McGeer: Well I mean in terms of what the public perceives to be the way we should be spending our educational dollar. We've got a lot of colleges around the province that are shacks. They don't have classrooms or laboratories. They and the university projects all have to compete for the same funds. We have to try to sort them out. We'll spell out anyway what the ground rules, will be from the government's point of view. The main thing is to get a system going that everyone will understand and that's what we're doing now.

The Ring: You've been dealing with the three university presidents for more than a year. How do you feel about your government's relationships right now with the three universities and UVic in particular?

McGeer: I think they'll have to answer that themselves. I'm satisfied with the relationship, I don't know if they are.

The Ring: Have you ever felt maligned by the criticism of some educators about your role as minister?

McGeer: That's part of the job. You don't expect to be a minister and take anything but criticism. I've been around long enough to develop a hide like a boiler plate.

The Ring: Universities have been very concerned about the Universities Council usurping their traditional powers while at the same time creating red tape and administrative expense. Could you comment on this?

McGeer: I'm in favor of the Universities Council. The Council is serving a useful purpose and will continue. I can't be responsible for the fears of universities about everything.

The Ring: What about the Universities Act? We've heard rumors that it is to be changed?

McGeer: We won't be changing the Universities Act in any major way this year. There may be some minor changes but government can only deal with so many major bills each year. An overhaul of the Universities Act isn't in the cards this year.

The Ring: Do you have any feelings on that overhaul, for example about student representation on Senate and students and faculty on the Board of Governors?

McGeer: *There's a lot of criticism* of the present setup. There's no question about that. But again these are not priority items for us. We may get around to some of these things when we've got our major programs under way.

The Ring: Are you yourself in favor of eliminating student representation on the Senate and faculty and students on the Board?

McGeer: Well there's been a lot of criticism of it. A lot of criticism. I think in some instances it's worked out well.

If universities can't manage on what they get from governments then they will have to turn to alternative sources of revenue . . .

The Ring: I want to get into tuition fees while we still have time. Students are saying they can't afford fee increases and point to the poor economic climate, the inadequacy of student aid and the fact that an increase prevents people from lower income families from attending university. How do you feel about it?

McGeer: I can only say that universities set their own fees. The increase that went to universities from the government this year was much larger than the over-all budget increase, therefore much larger than most ministries received. If universities can't manage on what they get from governments then they will have to turn to alternative sources of revenue which are student fees, gifts and bequests. We'll do our best to keep the university funds at least in proportion to the growth of the provincial budget. One can't always promise that. It was certainly out of proportion to the provincial budget this year. Universities must look at that realistically and decide how best to manage their financial affairs.

The Ring: You've been quoted as saying everybody can't expect the maximum increase in salaries under AIB guidelines. Is cutting wage increases your idea of a solution to the problem of universities?

McGeer: The AIB doesn't make up our provincial budget. It's provincial revenue that does that. So if people expect to get more than provincial taxes will yield, then they have to ask people to pay the difference, and this is essentially what is happening. And the only place they can get it is from fees. It looks to me like what is happening is that universities are saying we want more than taxes will produce. Therefore, they have to go to students to get that money.

The Ring: Is there any solution to this problem that universities face?

McGeer: Well there are two solutions. One is to cut their expenses and the other is to get funds from students. The province has done more than its part.

The Ring: UBC is requesting additional funding for operating this year. Have they any hope of receiving more money?

McGeer: No.

The Ring: I didn't think so.

McGeer: Neither did they. As I've said they either have to cut costs or raise fees.

McGeer Aide: (Are you finished? You've got a deputy minister and cabinet colleagues waiting to see you.)

The Ring: Just about. I have a question about the Winegard Report. In that report UVic's role appears to be defined in a way in which UVic itself has never done. UVic is referred to as a "highly residential undergraduate arts and science school with few professional programs and limited graduate work." If the Winegard Report is implemented is UVic's future sealed?

McGeer: Universities are free to chart any course they feel they can successfully complete. Whether or not they'll be able to convince students and the Universities Council depends on how well they do it. I'd use the UBC motto of *tuum est* but you might consider that as favoritism. ■

Senate

UBC's Senate has turned down requests for a recount of ballots cast by students in the January elections of two students to the Board of Governors and five student members-at-large to the Senate.

A recommendation to deny the recounts was made to Senate last Wednesday (April 20) by its Committee on the Implementation of the Universities Act, which has been considering the requests since February.

Prof. A. F. Sheppard, chairman of the committee, said a recount in the Senate election was requested by a defeated Senate candidate on the ground that an alleged error in the counting of student ballots in the Board election had tainted the Senate election.

Prof. Sheppard's report said the committee was satisfied that the count in the Board election was accurate and that any confusion concerning those results did not affect the count in the Senate election.

The recount of Board ballots was requested by the Student Representative Assembly of the Alma Mater Society through the AMS secretary-treasurer. Neither the resolution by the SRA nor the secretary-treasurer's letter stated any reason in support of the request, Prof. Sheppard said.

"The (Senate) committee is satisfied that the officially announced results of the election ... were accurate," the report said. "The problem was that the student scrutineers prematurely released the results on the evening of the election before their accuracy had been checked. The next day the Registrar's Office discovered arithmetical errors which did not alter the outcome. Since the committee is satisfied that the results which the Registrar officially announced were accurate, it does not feel the errors in the unofficially and prematurely released results warrant a recount."

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Rules and regulations governing student membership on the 12 faculties of the University were rescinded by Senate last week on the recommendation of its Committee on the Implementation of the Universities Act.

The rules and regulations, which were implemented in 1973 and 1974, will remain in force as guidelines until they have been reviewed by faculty committees. Prof. A. F. Sheppard, chairman of the Senate committee, said this "will not lead to chaos, because before a faculty can change its rules regarding (student) representation, those rules must come back to Senate for approval so Senate will exercise the right of supervision over provision for student representation."

Prof. Sheppard said the 1973-74 rules and regulations had been passed under the old Universities Act, which has been superceded. The new act grants the faculties power to provide for student representation at faculty meetings. This provision was not in the former act, he said.

* * *

Two new regulations affecting student representation on the Board of Governors have been approved by Senate.

The first provides that "until the Universities Act is changed, a student representative on the Board ... is considered to have vacated his seat on the Board when he ceases to be a duly registered student at the University."

The second regulation provides "that a vacancy for a student position on the Board be filled immediately by the student body through an election conducted by the Student Representative Assembly of the Alma Mater Society, the winning candidate to hold office until the next regular election."

* * *

Senate has agreed that the Centre for Continuing Education will take responsibility for remedial programs in English offered after 1979.

Although Senate agreed a year ago that "school-level instruction in basic English composition is not the proper function of the University," some program in remedial English will be necessary for those students admitted to UBC with outstanding ability in other subjects. The new admission standards will come into effect in 1979, after which the composition workshops, now offered as part of English 100, will be discontinued.

The Centre for Continuing Education's remedial English program will have to be completed by students deficient in English composition before they enrol in English 100. An advisory committee with representation from the Faculty of Arts will monitor the curriculum and standards for the program.

Senate's Committee on Standards in English also recommended that students not have to bear the full cost of this extra program they are required to take. That recommendation was referred to the Senate Budget Committee.

Directory assistance?

Some 5,000 new B.C. Telephone directories are being distributed on the UBC campus.

That means that 5,000 copies of last year's directory are about to be discarded.

And that means that Tex Eymundson, a senior technician in the Faculty of Education, wants to hear from you.

For some years now, Mr. Eymundson has been collecting old telephone directories for recycling. This year proceeds will support Vancouver-area Boy Scouts, who are raising money to attend their annual jamboree in Prince Edward Island.

Mr. Eymundson will pick up directories almost anywhere on campus provided they can be stockpiled in department offices or some other convenient place.

Call him at local 4946 if you're prepared to assist his project.

Executive director appointed to UCBC

Gerald A. Schwartz of Montreal has been appointed executive director of the Universities Council of British Columbia.

Mr. Schwartz, 40, is presently the assistant executive director of the Montreal Childrens' Hospital. He was formerly its director of finance and has also held lecturing appointments on the faculty of management at McGill University.

The Universities Council of B.C., under the chairmanship of Dr. William Armstrong, advises the minister of education on university affairs, makes recommendations regarding the disbursement of money allocated to the universities, and co-ordinates some aspects of university planning to minimize unnecessary duplication of programs.

As executuve director, Mr. Schwartz will be responsible for organizing the day-to-day operations of the Universities Council.

Mr. Schwartz's appointment becomes effective June 1.

This is the last regular edition of *UBC Reports* until September, and the last of "Next Week at UBC" until Summer Session. During July and August, we will keep you up to date on what's happening on campus with "Next Week at UBC," published Wednesdays beginning July 6. Notices should be sent to Information Services, Main Mall North Administration Building, by 5 p.m. Friday of the week before publication.

NEXT WEEK AT UBC

MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Three exhibitions are currently on display. A special exhibition by Fine Arts students entitled **Huacos and Huacas: Objects from Sacred Places of Ancient Peru** continues until May 15. Anthropology students have prepared two exhibitions, **Chinese Peasant Textile Arts: Kwangtung and Szechuan Provinces,** and **The Strangled Man, Haida Argillite Carving in Retrospect,** which continue until June 15. An exhibition of **Costumes and Textiles** from the museum's collection begins June 14. 6393 N.W. Marine Drive.

SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM

Telephone numbers for information on summer recreation programs are: Youth Sports Camp, 228-3341; Skate UBC, 228-3177; Ice Hockey School, 228-3177; Soccer School, 228-3341; Empire Swimming Pool, 228-3400 or 228-2494. Pool opens May 16.

SUNDAY, MAY 1

5:00 p.m. **AN AFTERNOON OF LATVIAN MUSIC.** Arturs Jansons, viola; Olga Grike and Dace Karklina, voices; and Brigita Ritmanis-Osis and Ina Dennekamp, piano. Recital Hall, Music Building.

MONDAY, MAY 2

2:30 p.m. **COMPUTING CENTRE LECTURE.** First in a series of six lectures on **Introduction to Computing** by Alvin Fowler, Computing Centre, UBC. Room 310, Computer Sciences Building.

3:30 p.m. **BIOCHEMICAL SEMINAR.** Dr. B. J. Jourdan, Centre de Biochimie et de Biologie Moleculaire, Marseilles, France, on **Synthesis and Processing of Ribosomal RNA in Drosophila.** Room 200, Wesbrook Building.

4:30 p.m. **EPIDEMIOLOGY AND STATISTICS** course. Dr. J. M. Elwood and Dr. B. J. Morrison, in the third in this series, discuss **Case-Control Studies.** Conference Room, second floor, Cancer Control Agency of B.C., 2656 Heather St.

TUESDAY, MAY 3

2:30 p.m. **BOARD OF GOVERNORS OPEN MEETING.** Board and Senate Room, Old Administration Building.

4:00 p.m. **BASIC SCIENCES COURSE.** Dr. M. Yeung, Medicine, VGH, on **Pathophysiology and Pharmacology of Asthma.** Lecture Hall A, Faculty of Medicine Building, Vancouver General Hospital, 10th and Heather St.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

11:00 a.m. **HEALTH CARE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY SEMINAR.** Dr. Peter Hoogewerf speaks on **The Future of Research and Family Practice in Canada.** Room 146, Mather Building.

2:30 p.m. **COMPUTING CENTRE LECTURE.** Second in a series of six lectures on **Introduction to Computing** by Alvin Fowler, Computing Centre, UBC. Room 310, Computer Sciences Building.

3:30 p.m. **ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING SEMINAR.** Dr. S. Gracovetsky, Concordia University, Montreal, on **An Approach to the Diagnosis of Human Lumbar Spine Disabilities.** Room 418, Electrical Engineering Building.

THURSDAY, MAY 5

9:00 a.m. **MEDICAL GRAND ROUNDS.** Dr. William D. Odell, Department of Medicine, Harbor General Hospital, Torrance, Calif., is the visiting professor. Lecture Hall B, Faculty of Medicine Building, Vancouver General Hospital. Grand Rounds continues throughout May at same time and place. On May 12, Dr. S. Grzybowski, Medicine, VGH, speaks on **Asthma;** on May 19, Dr. G. Molnar from the Univeristy of Alberta speaks on **Metabolic Derangements of Diabetes — The Challenge of Normalization;** on May 26, Dr. Irving Salit from Rockefeller University, New York, is the guest speaker.

12 noon **DENTISTRY SEMINAR.** Dr. Alan Lowe, Orthodontics, UBC, on **Neural Mechanisms Involved in Tongue Mobility.** Room 388, Macdonald Building.

2:30 p.m. **COMPUTING CENTRE LECTURE.** Third in a series of six lectures on **Introduction to Computing** by Alvin Fowler, Computing Centre, UBC. Room 310, Computer Sciences Building.

7:30 p.m. **BOTANICAL LECTURE.** Mrs. Frances Perry, well known horticulturist from Britain, and a member of The Royal Horticultural Society's Council, speaks on **Garden Perennials.** VanDusen Botanical Display Garden. For tickets and information, phone the UBC Botanical Garden office at 228-3928.

FRIDAY, MAY 6

9:00 a.m. **PEDIATRICS GRAND ROUNDS.** Dr. Andrew N. McTaggert, Division of Child Psychiatry, UBC, on **Suicide in Children and Early Adolescents.** Lecture Hall B, Heather Pavilion, Vancouver General Hospital.

2:30 p.m. **CHEMISTRY SEMINAR.** Dr. Sefik Suzer, Department of Theoretical Chemistry, University of Sydney, Australia, on **Mechanisms and Wavelength Dependence of Photon Induced Ionizations.** Room 225, Chemistry Building.

4:00 p.m. **EPIDEMIOLOGY AND STATISTICS** course. Dr. J. M. Elwood and Dr. B. J. Morrison, in the fourth in this series, discuss **Analysis and Interpretation.** Conference room, second floor, Cancer Control Agency of B.C., 2656 Heather St.

SUNDAY, MAY 8

2:00 p.m. **CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OPEN HOUSE.** This year's theme "We Care . . ." spotlights services provided all year round. Hon. R. H. McClelland, minister of health, will officially open the hospital's new operating room facility. Guided tours, exhibits, refreshments. Continues until 4:00 p.m. 250 W. 59th Ave.

MONDAY, MAY 9

4:00 p.m. **BIOCHEMICAL SEMINAR.** Dr. William Kay, Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, University of Victoria, on **Platelet-Membrane Interactions.** Lecture Hall 1, Woodward Instructional Resources Centre.

4:30 p.m. **EPIDEMIOLOGY AND STATISTICS** course. Dr. J. M. Elwood and Dr. B. J. Morrison, in the fifth in this series, discuss **Screening.** Conference room, second floor, Cancer Control Agency of B.C., 2656 Heather St. Four more seminars are scheduled during May. For dates and times please call the Cancer Control Agency, 873-6212.

TUESDAY, MAY 10

4:00 p.m. **BASIC SCIENCES COURSE.** R. Donevan on **Response of the Lungs to Injury, I.** Lecture Hall A, Faculty of Medicine Building, Vancouver General Hospital, 10th and Heather St. Seminars continue at same time and place throughout May. May 17 — Response of the Lungs to Injury, II; May 24 — Pathophysiology of Respiratory Failure; May 31 — Pulmonary Infections.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

3:30 p.m. **CHEMICAL ENGINEERING SEMINAR.** Prof. Joshua Dayan, Mechanical Engineering, Technion, Haifa, Israel, on **Evaluation of a Chemical Heat Storage System for a Solar Steam Power Plant.** Room 206, Chemical Engineering Building. On Wednesday, May 18, same time and place, Prof. John W. Eldridge, Chemical Engineering, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass., will speak on **Catalytic Reduction of NO_x in Stack Gases.**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

8:00 p.m. **SENATE MEETING.** Free tickets for interested members of the University community are available from Frances Medley, 228-2951. Board and Senate Room, Old Administration Building.