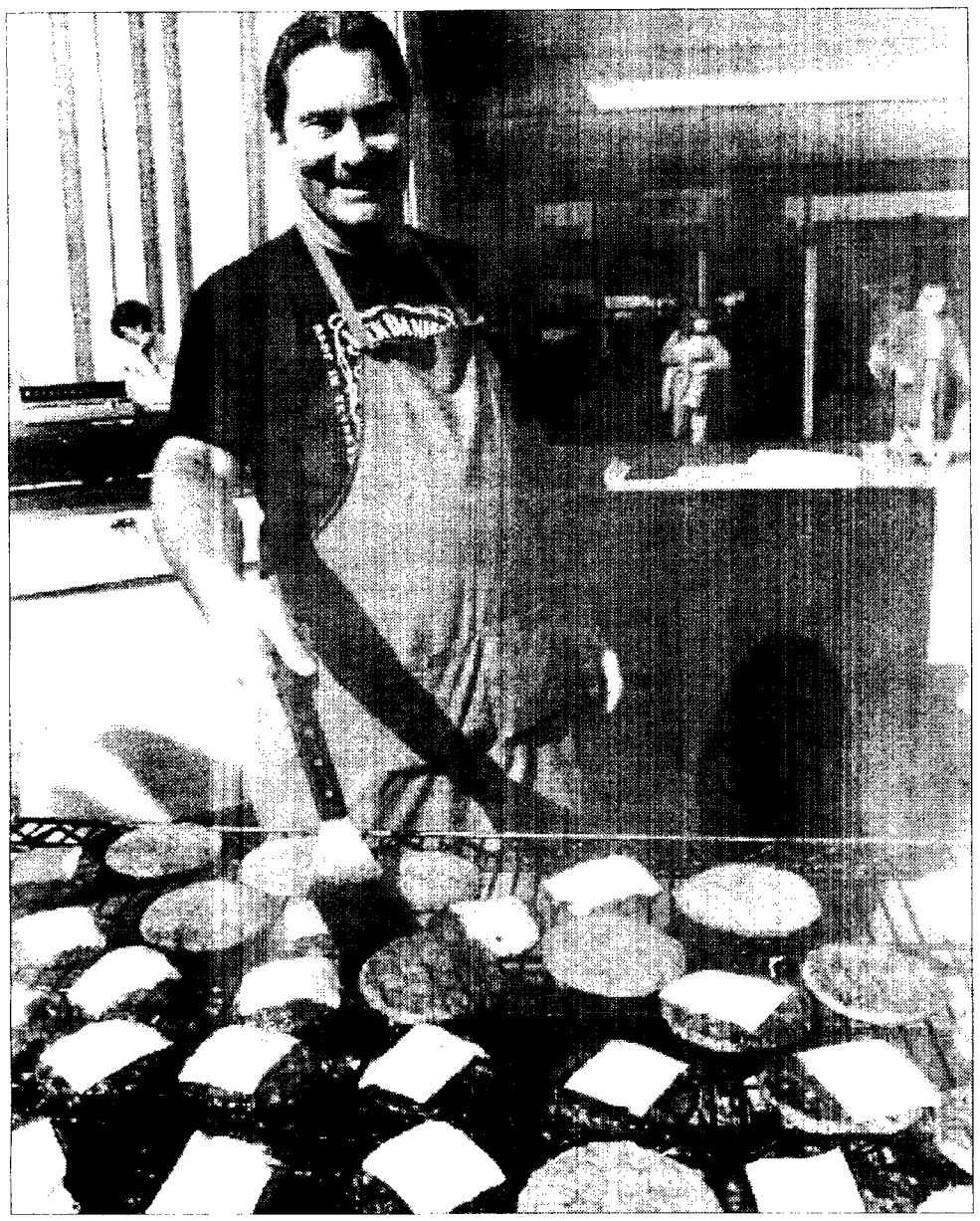
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

UBC REPORTS

Volume 39, Number 6 March 25, 1993



Gavin Wilson photo

It Must Be Spring

Happy chef, AMS beverage manager Jeff Harvey, enjoys the sunshine as he barbecues burgers at the SUB Plaza. Return of the plaza barbecue is a sure sign of spring on campus.

Researchers zero in on cause of Huntington's

A team of UBC medical researchers is zeroing in on a mysterious gene which causes Huntington's disease, an incurable brain disease.

"We've identified a 'rearrangement' of the genetic material in two patients with Huntington's disease, but this represents only the first step in understanding how the disease occurs," said Dr. Michael Hayden, a professor of Medical Genetics and principal investigator of the team.

Huntington's affects one person in 10,000, usually striking between the ages of 30 and 50. However, onset of the disease can occur anywhere from adolescence to old age.

The illness is characterized by abnormal movements, speech difficulties, psychiatric or behavioural disturbances and intellectual impairment. Each child of an affected parent has a 50 per cent chance of inheriting and developing Huntington's.

The UBC researchers have discovered a new arrangement of the repetitive element Alu — commonly found in chromosomes — occurring close to two genes. The phenomenon was identified in two Canadian families with Huntington's disease.

Having excluded one of the genes as the Huntington's candidate, the scientists are currently assessing the remaining gene more rigorously.

They did not detect the same type of genetic organization in a study of 1,000 copies of chromosomes from healthy people.

The findings of the research team — which includes colleagues from the University of Toronto — are being published today in the British scientific journal Nature.

In another report to be published this month, an international consortium of researchers has found other changes in genetic material from many patients which provide evidence for identification of the gene causing Huntington's disease.

Although there is presently no effective treatment for the disease, patients may benefit from psychological counselling and medications which help diminish involuntary movements and others which act as mood modifiers.

Genetic counselling is available to the families of Huntington's patients, and may include a predictive test, developed in 1986 by Hayden, which estimates who has inherited the defective gene.

"These new discoveries will make our predictive capabilities more definitive and much easier," he said.

Hayden, an internationally respected authority on Huntington's disease, has been searching for its causes for more than a decade.

The Huntington's disease study represents a major scientific effort supported by the Medical Research Council of Canada, the Huntington Society of Canada and the Canadian Genetic Diseases Network, one of the federal Centres of Excellence with headquarters at UBC.

Facility in receivership

B.C. Research woes imperil UBC projects

by Gavin Wilson

Staff writer

UBC scientists were all set to launch a collaborative project with B.C. Research that would convert a forest industry waste byproduct into the base material for pharmaceuticals.

But the day after the $200,000 contract was signed, the south campus research facility was declared insolvent and its 145 employees thrown out of work.

"Now all we can do is wait and see if the corporation will survive," said Chemistry Prof. James Kutney, the project's principal investigator.

Kutney's research project is one of many UBC activities affected by the financial woes of B.C. Research Corp., which went into receivership March 12 after the provincial government refused to give it a $1 million loan guarantee and continued annual research funding of $1.5 million.

Kutney's agreement with the corporation was intended to bring his basic research closer to commercialization. It involved converting a byproduct of the pulping process into a base material for steroidal pharmaceuticals such as cortisone and birth control pills.

Another UBC researcher, Peter Jones, of Family and Nutritional Sciences, was slated to join the team to investigate the compound's potential as a cholesterol-lowering agent.

B.C. Research's uncertain future could undo other joint research projects, disrupt the work of graduate students, deprive naval architecture students of needed facilities and result in the loss of several adjunct professors, university officials say.

The corporation's chief purpose was to provide research and development services to small- and medium-sized B.C. companies, but UBC scientists and engineers also made use of its unique facilities.

An agreement with the receiver has allowed B.C. Research staff to continue to work without pay, but no one knows how long the facility's doors will remain open.

Among the UBC faculties potentially affected by the corporation's demise is the Faculty of Applied Science, which stands to lose a number of adjunct professors who were affiliated with the faculty, said Dean Axel Meisen.

As well, several engineering graduate students conduct thesis work at B.C. Research facilities, and are often co-supervised by B.C. Research staff.

"The biggest impact, however, would be on the undergraduate naval architecture option in the Dept. of Mechanical Engineering," Meisen said. "It requires access to their Ocean Engineering Centre and its facilities as part of course work."

Another potential casualty could be the Food Technology Centre, a collaboration among B.C. Research, UBC's Dept. of Food Science and the B.C. Institute of Technology.

For the past four years, the centre has responded to the food industry's needs for technical assistance in the development of new products and processes, said John Vanderstoep, head of the Dept. of Food Science and a director at the centre.

He said the centre, which in the current fiscal year holds industry contracts worth about $400,000, could possibly survive the B.C. Research collapse as a separate entity.

"It is hard to know what the outcome will be," he said. "Everything is still up in the air. We're looking at all the options."

*See **RESEARCH**, Page 2*

Professor wins $50,000 Killam research prize

by Gavin Wilson

Staff writer

Zoology Prof. Peter Hochachka is one of three Canadian researchers to win a $50,000 1993 Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Prize.

The prizes are presented by the Canada Council in recognition of distinguished lifetime achievement and outstanding contributions to the advancement of knowledge.

Hochachka, a world expert in comparative biochemistry, won in the category of natural sciences. Other winners were Andre Roch Lecours, of the University of Montreal, for health sciences, and Alan Davenport, of the University of Western Ontario, for engineering.

Hochachka has pioneered research into the metabolism of deep-diving seals and other species living in oxygen-deprived

*See **KILLAM**, Page 2*

Inside

Canny Canines 3

Offbeat: When it comes to dogs, 'B' doesn't always stand for brains

Periodical Relief 3

Short-term measures reduce cuts to the library's serial collection

Mighty Mentors 6

Around & About: UBC's Alumni Mentor Program hits its stride

Assisted Suicide 8

Forum: Ethicist Alister Browne reviews objections to assisted suicide

Letters

Sexual assault statistics cited in Sun incorrect

Editor:

RE: The Vancouver Sun article "Woman's story of rape blamed on earlier trauma," (March 6, 1993).

The statistic attributed to Student Health Services stating that "200 women at UBC are assaulted in some manner each year by men" is not true and did not originate from the Student Health Service.

The Sexual Harassment Office has received approximately 200 complaints of sexual harassment behaviour ranging from graffiti on campus to unwanted attention from another individual. Of these complaints eight per cent involved activities of touching, kissing, or physical attack, usually against women.

Any assaults are to be deplored and are of great concern to all of us on the campus. However, we are not helped in our fight against assaults by misuse of statistical information.

Donald Farquhar, MD
Director
Student Health Service

Research

Coninued from Page 1

Science Dean Barry McBride said his students and professors benefited from, among other things, their interaction with the forest bio-technology group at B.C. Research.

"Certain facilities were useful to us, and those will be a loss, but the impact will not be extensive," McBride said.

B.C. Research offered research services to industry in waste management, fisheries and food, forest biotechnology, analytical chemistry, occupational health, specialty products and processes, ocean engineering, engine systems and alternative fuels, integrated engineering services and business development.

Killam

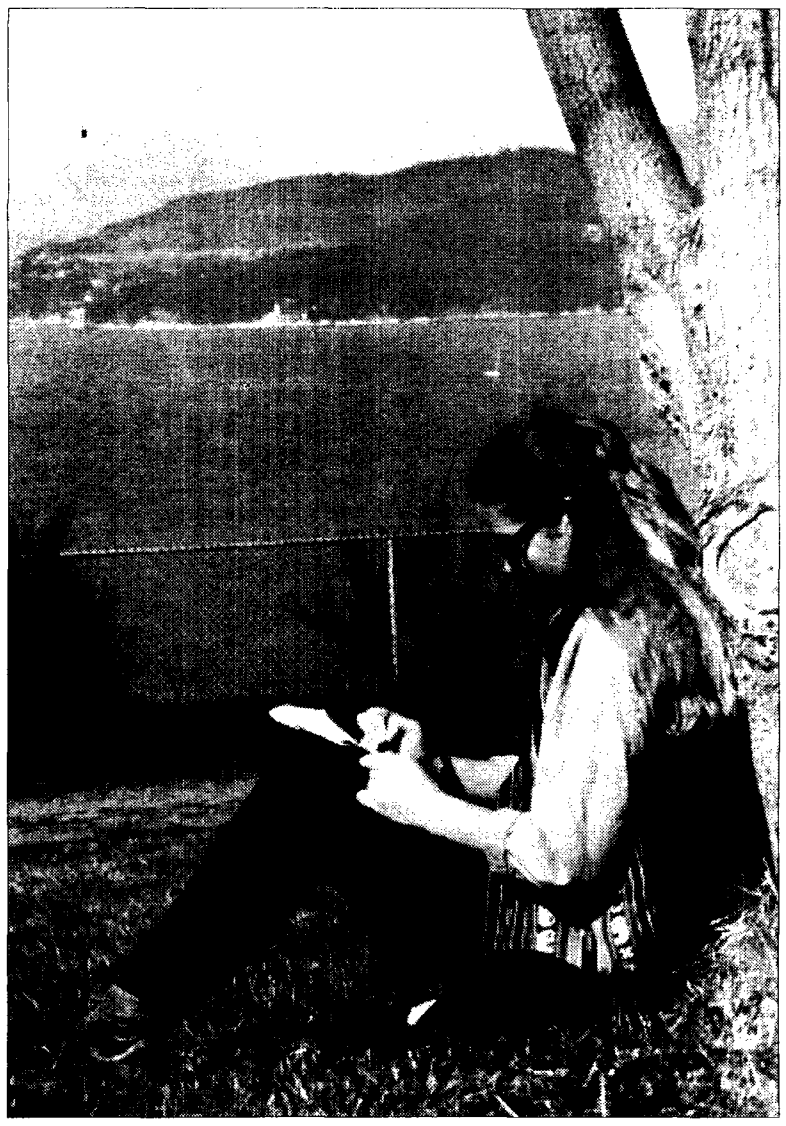
Coninued from Page 1

conditions, discovering biochemical mechanisms they use to survive extreme environmental situations.

He also studies adaptation to high altitudes in mountain dwellers, such as the Quechas people of the Peruvian Andes and the Sherpas of Nepal.

Hochachka's research has made a strong impact on fields other than adaptational biochemistry, including clinical medicine, sports medicine and ecology.

He will be presented with his prize at a ceremony held at UBC on April 19.



Charles Ker photo

Wish You Were Here . . .

Basking in the sunshine behind the Museum of Anthropology, first-year student Larissa Hretchka writes to friends in the east who were digging out after the "storm of the century" last week.

Committee looks at new term for registrar

An advisory committee to consider the re-appointment of Registrar Richard Spencer has been appointed by President David Strangway.

Spencer's term, which began August 1, 1988, expires June 30.

Both Spencer and K.D. Srivastava, vice-president, Student and Academic Services, are willing to consider a re-appointment subject to review and campus consultation by an advisory committee in accordance with the practice followed for renewals for a second, and final, five-year term.

The committee, chaired by Srivastava, also includes Dean Barry McBride, Faculty of Science; Psychology Dept. Head Richard Tees, Education Professor Thelma Cook; and C.L. Greentree, a fourth-year Applied Science student.

The committee is expected to submit its recommendations no later than May 15.

Please submit comments to K.D. Srivastava's office at 822-5075.

News Digest

UBC has won its bid to host next year's McGoun Cup, the debating championship for universities in B.C., Alberta, and Saskatchewan.

UBC's debating club, which recently sent three, two-member teams to the McGoun competition at the University of Calgary, has qualified three teams to compete in the national debating championships at the University of Guelph this month.

At this year's McGoun tournament, UBC law students Robert Brookfield and Mathew Englander were recognized among the top teams. Planning student Geoff De Verteuil received an award in the individual category.

• • • •

The Thunderbird Winter Sports Centre is undergoing a $1 million renovation that will upgrade the main entry, add four dressing rooms and renovate the alternative entrance adjacent to the Osborne Centre.

The project, which began in December, is scheduled for completion this May.

The front of the building will be upgraded for disabled and patron access with automatic doors. In addition, the lobby will be expanded.

The upgrade at the alternate entry to the centre will be combined with building code upgrades that will include sprinklers throughout the stairways as well as the upstairs lounge and banquet room.

The project funding is somewhat unique, according to Michael Kelly, director of Athletic and Sport Facilities. Kelly said this is the first time all renovations in a major development phase have been totally funded with retained earnings from centre operations.

IMAGINE
A New Spirit of Giving

copies plus plus plus plus
COLOUR LASERS!
$1.45 1st copy
.95 each additional copy
(8.5 x 11 from same page)
UNIVERSITY VILLAGE
2ND FLOOR 2174 W. PARKWAY
VANCOUVER, B.C.
224-0225
FAX 224-4492
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
M-TH 8-9 FRI 8-6
SAT-SUN 11-6

Berkowitz & Associates
Statistics and Mathematics Consulting
· research design · data analysis
· sampling · forecasting
Jonathan Berkowitz, Ph.D
4160 Staulo Crescent, Vancouver, B.C., V6N 3S2
Office: (604) 263-1508 Home: (604) 263-5394

Wanted: UBC Alumni
Remember when you were approaching graduation and had a lot of questions about career options? Today's students are also searching for answers, and ways to fit into the job market of the '90s. The UBC Alumni Association Mentor Program brings alumni and students together for informal dialogue and information-sharing. The time commitment is minimal; if you have time for a coffee or lunch you have time to be a mentor.
For information, or to register, please call UBC Alumni Association at 822-3313.

Friends of Chamber Music presents
Tashi
performing: **Wolf**, Italian Serenade;
Tashi salutes the 20th Century &
Brahms, Clarinet Quintet.
Tuesday, March 30, 1993, 8:00 PM.
at the Vancouver Playhouse.
Tickets: $22 (students $11)
from the Vancouver Ticket Centre (280-4444) or at the door.
Programme subject to change.

UBC REPORTS

UBC Reports is published twice monthly (monthly in December, June, July and August) for the entire university community by the UBC Community Relations Office, 207-6328 Memorial Rd., Vancouver B.C., V6T 1Z2.

Managing Editor: Steve Crombie
Editor: Paula Martin
Production: Stephen Forgacs
Contributors: Ron Burke, Connie Filletti, Abe Hefter, Charles Ker, Gavin Wilson

Editorial and advertising enquiries: 822-3131 (phone) 822-2684 (fax).

UBC Reports welcomes the submission of letters and opinion pieces. Opinions and advertising published in UBC Reports do not necessarily reflect official university policy.

Material may be reprinted in whole or in part with appropriate credit to UBC Reports.

150 fewer places in coming year

Senate approves cuts to first-year admissions

by Gavin Wilson

Staff writer

Senate has approved new enrolment quotas that will reduce by 150 the number of new students admitted to first-year studies in the faculties of Arts and Science next September.

The reduction in first-year admissions, which is still subject to approval by the Board of Governors, is required to keep UBC's enrolment constant and maintain the quality of programs, said Daniel Birch, vice-president, Academic It will not affect the overall number of students attending the university,

"We are not reducing enrolment, we are reducing intake," he said.

New admissions had to be trimmed because increasing numbers of students are staying in school right through to graduation, instead of dropping out, Birch said. High dropout rates in the past opened up more spots for students entering from high school.

Admission from Grade 12 to the Faculty of Science will be cut by 100 places — to 1,100 from 1,200 — in the 1993/94 academic year.

Admission to first-year in the Faculty of Arts will be cut by 50 places, to 1,450 from 1,500. This marks the first change in Arts admissions since quotas were introduced in 1986/87.

Senate rejected an Arts proposal that the 50 places be taken from the mature student category. The faculty said this would stop entry grade point averages from rising too high, but other senators argued that mature students deserved the opportunity for direct access into first-year studies.

Birch said mature students are often from disadvantaged groups in society and should not be discouraged from enrolling in university.

"We should be mitigating rather than exacerbating our role in reproducing the inequalities in our society," he said.

Senate also voted to improve access for B.C. college transfer students entering the Arts and Science faculties.

Under the plan, half of the available transfers — more than 600 — will be reserved for B.C. college students. The other transfers will be made on the basis of grade point average alone and will be open to students from other universities and UBC faculties, as well as to B.C. college students.

"This is more than a gesture, it's a solid contribution to solving the problem," said Robert Will, chair of the Senate Admissions Committee.

The squeeze on available places at UBC has been made tighter by the high retention rate among undergraduates, who are staying on in record numbers to complete their degrees.

This reflects the increasing quality of students enrolled at the university and the fact that today's students are much more serious about their studies, Birch said.

In the mid-1970s, the dropout rate in first-year Arts was 32 per cent. By the mid-1980s, this had fallen to 20 per cent.

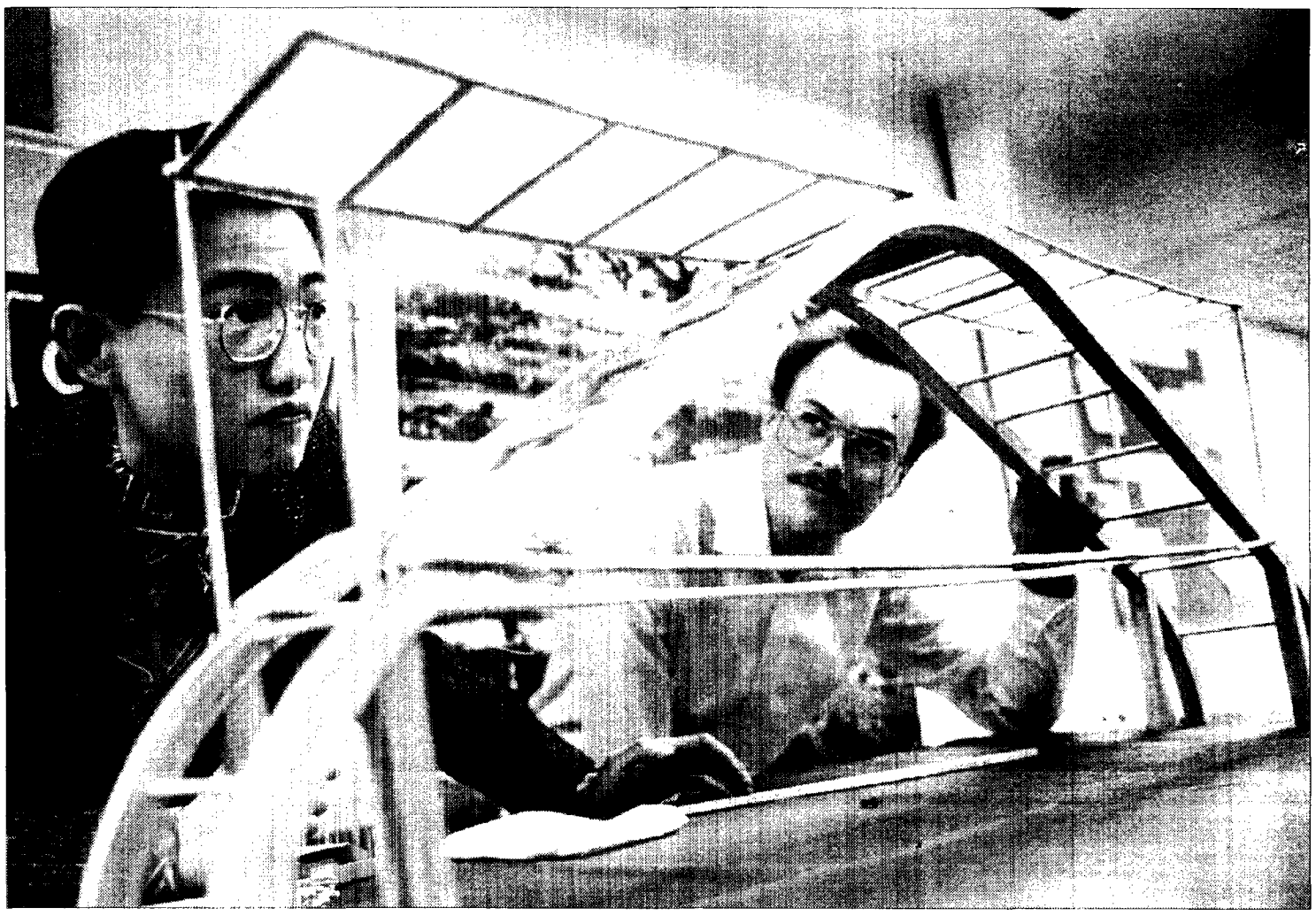
Higher retention rates can also be seen in the number of students who go on to complete their studies and receive degrees.

UBC awarded 5,245 degrees in 1991/92, up from 3,929 degrees in 1984/85, an increase of 33 per cent. Yet during the same time period, enrolment was up only eight per cent.

Birch said the admission cuts do not in any way reflect on UBC's commitment to high-quality undergraduate education.

"We're doing our utmost to maintain the quality and quantity of undergraduate education at UBC and at B.C.'s university-colleges," he said.

In joint ventures with Okanagan and Cariboo university-colleges, 550 students are enrolled in the third and fourth year of UBC degree programs. Another 5,500 students are enrolled in the first and second year of these programs, showing their tremendous potential for growth, Birch said.



Gavin Wilson photo

Winning Bridge

Students David Chan, left, and Barry Gerbracht examine their award-winning entry into Concordia University's annual bridge-building competition. The pair were part of a six-member team of third-year engineering students who designed and constructed the bridge using laminated popsicle sticks and more than 2.5 kilometres of dental floss. The UBC entry took third place by supporting a weight of 607 kilograms.

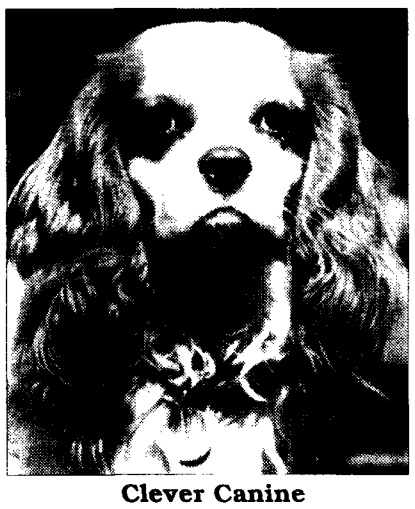
Offbeat

by Staff writer

Beware breeds beginning with B.

That's one of the messages in Psychology Prof. Stanley Coren's new book, The Intelligence of Dogs.

For his publication, Coren sent a four-page questionnaire to 541 obedience judges in North America asking them to rate the intelligence of the 74 most popular breeds.



Clever Canine

Their verdict: pooches beginning with the letter B, except for the Border Collie, aren't the most adept at learning to sit, heel, and stay. Among those that are (in descending order of trainability): Border Collie, Poodle, Shetland Sheepdog, German Shepherd, Golden Retriever, Doberman Pinscher, Labrador Retriever, Papillon, Australian Cattle Dog and Corgi.

The book also contains plenty of fido folklore. For instance, did you know that the dog was partly responsible for creating the Anglican Church?

It seems that a messenger dispatched to the Pope by Henry VIII brought his dog along. When the messenger bent down to kiss the Pope's toe, His Holiness received a bite from Bowser as well.

Needless to say, the King's request for a marriage annulment was denied.

As for his own choice in dogs, Coren has a champion Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and a Cairn terrier. The latter, he says, is considered by many to be "untrainable."

Coren's book will be published at the end of the year.

Periodical cuts reduced as funding source sought

by Abe Hefter

Staff writer

The Senate Library Committee has unanimously approved a series of short-term measures designed to reduce anticipated cuts to the Library's serials collection.

Due to escalating costs, the Library is facing a shortfall of about $500,000 that could lead to numerous cancellations of serial subscriptions during the 1993-94 fiscal year unless other sources of funding are found.

Professor Sherrill Grace, associate dean of Arts and chair of the Senate Library Committee, submitted the committee's package of combined measures to the March 17 meeting of Senate.

The measures call for transferring $77,000 back to the Collections budget which had been earmarked for the binding budget last year, as well as the use of a portion of the Library Stabilization Fund to address up to $300,000 of the serials increases anticipated in 1993-94 and 1994-95, due to currency fluctuations and a sharp decline in the value of the Canadian dollar during the second half of 1992.

The committee determined that a further $200,000 could be found if the university implements an adjustment for currency rate fluctuations on a 10-year average, an inflationary adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index and an allowance of approximately 1.5 per cent for new material.

"These measures, however, will not likely provide sufficient funds, in which case the Library may cancel up to $200,000 worth of subscriptions in 1993-94," Grace said.

If so, Library units would be asked to give priority to cancelling titles with excessive price increases, while retaining titles with low cost if librarians and users feel they are being utilized and reducing remaining duplication as much as possible.

Grace said the Library will make contingency plans for an additional cancellation in 1994-95 if necessary.

The library's collections budget is $6.5 million. Based on a Senate decision this budget has been divided since the mid 1970s between monograph and serials acquisitions at a 35 per cent to 65 per cent ratio, a policy which the current Senate Library Committee acknowledges and re-affirms.

Calendar

March 28 through April 10

Seminars

Monday, March 29

Plant Science Seminar
The Natural Capital Concept In Large-Scale Landscape Management. Dr. William Rees, Community/Regional Planning. MacMillan 318D at 12:30pm. Refreshments. Call 822-8233.

Mechanical Engineering
Effect Of Buoyancy On Jet In Cross Flow. Fariba Aghdasi, PhD student. Civil/Mechanical Engineering 1202 from 3:30-4:30pm. Refreshments. Call 822-6200/4350.

Biochemistry/Molecular Biology Seminar
Atomic Force Microscopy Of DNA And DNA-Protein Complexes. Thomas Jovin, Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Molecular Biology. IRC #4 at 3:45pm. Refreshments at 3:30pm. Call 822-5925.

Astronomy Seminar
Cataclysmic Variables. Paula Szkody, U. of Washington. Geophysics/Astronomy 260 at 4pm. Coffee at 3:30pm. Call 822-2696/2267.

Tuesday, March 30

Pharmaceutical Sciences
Structure-Activity Relationship Of Synthetic Cytochines. Dr. Ian Clark-Lewis, assistant professor, Biomedical Research Centre, Biochemistry. IRC #4 at 12:30pm. Call 822-2061.

Botany Seminar
Effect Of Forest Fertilization Of The Ectomycorrhizae Of Western Hemlock. Gavin Kernaghan, MSc candidate. BioSciences 2000 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-2133.

Oceanography Seminar
Upper Thermal Limits On The Oceanic Distribution Of Pacific Salmon. David Welch, Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo. BioSciences 1465 at 3:30pm. Call 822-2828.

Occupational Hygiene Programme Seminar
Pregnancy Outcome And Elf Magnetic Field Exposures: The California Experience. Dr. Michael Yost, assistant professsor, Environmental Health, U. of Washington. University Hospital G226 at 4pm. Call 822-9595.

Statistics Seminar
Robust Bayes-Type Version Of Classical Estimators. Dr. Peter Lachout, Charles U., Prague, Czechoslovakia. Angus 426 at 4pm. Refreshments. Call 822-3167/2234.

Wednesday, March 31

Microbiology Seminar
Molecular Studies And Gene Expression In Leishmania. Dr. Rob McMaster, Medical Genetics. Wesbrook 201 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-3308.

Pharmaceutical Sciences
Benign Prostatic Hypertrophy - Delaying The Knife. Ms. Wendy Leong, grad student, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Sciences. Family/Nutritional Sciences 320 at 4:30pm. Call 669-6500 pager 421.

Thursday, April 1

Pharmaceutical Sciences
Induction Of Aryi Hydrocarbon Hydroxylase (AHH) By 2,3,7,8-TCDD And Coplanar PCB's In Rainbow Trout. David Janz, grad student, Pharmacology/Toxicology, Pharmaceutical Sciences. Family/Nutritional Sciences 60 from 11:30am-12:30pm. Call 822-2692.

Statistics Seminar
Semiparametric Mixture Models. Dr. Mary Lesperance, Mathematics/Statistics, UVic. Angus 426 at 4pm. Refreshments. Call 822-3167/2234.

Friday, April 2

Chemical Engineering
Modelling Of The Flow And Protein Concentration In Hollow Fibre Bioreactors. Marek Labecki, grad student, Chemical Engineering. ChemEngineering 206 at 3:30pm. Call 822-3238.

Monday, April 5

Plant Science Seminar
Epitope Mapping On A Plant Virus Coat Protein By Means Of Fragments Expressed In Bacteria, And Synthetic Peptides. Dr. Uli Commandeur, Agriculture Canada, Vancouver. MacMillan 318D at 12:30pm. Refreshments. Call 822-8233.

Microbiology Seminar
Genetic Analysis Of Protein Secretion In E. Coli. Dr. Thomas J. Silhavy, Molecular Biology, Princeton U., Princeton, New Jersey. IRC #4 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-3308.

Tuesday, April 6

Pharmacology/Therapeutics
The Mechanism Of Antihistamine-Induced Sedation In Human Brain. Dr. Peter Reiner, Psychiatry. University Hospital G279 from 12-1pm. Call 822-6980.

Botany Seminar
Interactions Between Respiratory And Phenylpropanoid Metabolism In Lithospermum Erythrorhizon. Anne Walton, MSc candidate. BioSciences 2000 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-2133.

Oceanography Seminar
Micro-Zooplankton Dynamics In The Sargasso Sea. Evelyn Lesard, U. of Washington. BioSciences 1465 at 3:30pm. Call 822-2828.

Statistics Seminar
Asymptotic Distribution Of Data-Driven Smoothers. Dr. Ricardo Fraiman, U. de la Republica, Montevidco, Uruguay. Angus 426 at 4pm. Refreshments. Call 822-3167/2234.

Wednesday, April 7

Anatomy Seminar
Reversal Of Divergent Differentiation By Ras Oncogene-Mediated Transformation. Dr. N. Auersperg, professor, Anatomy. Friedman 37 from 12:30-1:30pm. Call 822-9071.

Pharmaceutical Sciences
Implementation Of Pharmaceutical Care. Ms. Terryn Naumann, grad student, Clinical Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Sciences. Family/Nutritional Sciences 320 from 4:30-5:30pm. Call 822-4645.

Lectures

Tuesday, March 30

Centre For Research In Women's Studies Lecture
Reading From Bloodlines. Janet Campbell Hale. Family/Nutritional Sciences 50 at 12:30pm. Call 822-9171.

Political Science Lecture
The Clinton-Yeltsin Summit: Issues And Consequences. Professors Brian Job/Paul Marantz/Leonid Polishchuk. Buchanan A100 from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-5480.

Lectures In Modern Chemistry
Zirconocene Complexes Of Unsaturated Organic Molecules: Vehicles For Selective Organic Synthesis. Dr. Steve Buchwald, Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge. Chemistry South Block B250 at 1pm. Refreshments at 12:50pm. Call 822-3266.

French Lecture
Les Contes De Mlle De Lubert (1710-1769). Maryse Duggan. Buchanan Tower 799 at 2pm. Call 822-4025.

Graduate/Faculty Christian Forum Lecture
God And The Constitution: Reflections On Religion And Constitutional Change In Canada. Prof. George Egerton, History. Buchanan Penthouse at 4:15pm. Coffee at 4pm. Call 224-0974.

Friday, April 2

Paediatrics Grand Rounds
The Minor Circulation Or What Is A Cardiologist Doing In The Lungs? Dr. Derek Human, acting head, Cardiology. G.F. Strong Auditorium at 9am. Call 875-2118.

Wednesday, April 7

French Lecture
Le Roman Historique. Suzette Bahar. Buchanan Tower 799 at 2pm. Call 822-4025.

Friday, April 9

Paediatrics Grand Rounds
Rounds Cancelled - Easter Holiday. Call 875-2118.

Music

Monday, March 29

Music Concert
UBC Percussion Ensemble. John Rudolph, director. Music Recital Hall at 12:30pm. Call 822-3113.

Wednesday, March 31

Wednesday Noon Hour Concert Series
Alan Rinehart, guitar. Music Recital Hall at 12:30pm. Admission $2. Call 822-5574.

Music Concert
UBC Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Martin Berinbaum, conductor. Old Auditorium at 12:30/8pm. Call 822-3113.

Music Concert
School Of Music. University Chamber Singers. Music Recital Hall at 12:30pm. Call 822-3113.

Miscellany

Wednesday, March 31

Mini-Conference/Workshop
Research In Ethnic Relations And Cultural Diversity. Cecil Green Park Yorkeen Room from 8:30am-4:30pm through to April 1. Call 822-9583.

Nutritional Issues For Women Forum
Bone/Health/Calcium, Susan Barr, PhD, RDN; Body Weight/Body Image, Kosa Matic-Smyrnic, RDN; Nutrients at Risk, Barbara Branda-Turner, RDN. IRC #2 from 7-9pm. Refreshments. Admission by donation. Call 822-4858.

Italian Play
il funeral del padrone by Dario Fo. Buchanan A106 at 8pm March 31, April 1 at 1pm. Call 822-4046/2268.

Friday, April 2

Zen Society
Considerations On Zen Buddhism And Ecology. Dr. Loys Maingon, Arts. Buchanan D121 at 12:30pm. Call 822-4086.

Tuesday, April 6

Faculty Women's Club Annual General Meeting
Looking To The Future In Women's Health Issues. Dr. Penny Ballem, medical director, Women's Health Centre. Cecil Green Park House at 1pm. Executive Election/Babysitting. Call 222-1983.

Museum of Anthropology
Opening day of exhibit: Who Shall Remain Nameless? Makers and Collectors in MOA's Nuu-chah-nulth Basketry Collection. Museum of Anthropology Gallery 9. Call 822-5087.

Charles Ker photo

Music Break

Max Todd, a fourth-year mathematics and sociology student, unwinds with his clarinet beside the Faculty Club rose garden.

UBC REPORTS

CALENDAR DEADLINES

Material for the Calendar must be submitted on forms available from the UBC Community Relations Office, 207-6328 Memorial Road, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z2. Phone: 822-3131. Fax: 822-2684. Notices exceeding 35 words may be edited.

Deadline for the April 8 issue of UBC Reports — which covers the period April 11 to April 24 — is noon, March 30.

Calendar

March 28 through April 10

Notices

UBC Bookstore
Friday, March 25 at 4pm is the last day for requisition purchases for 92/93 fiscal year. Call 822-2665.
Bookstore/Health Sciences Bookshop
Closed all day March 31/April 1 for annual inventory count. Call 822-2665.

William G. Black Memorial Prize Essay Competition
Took place Saturday, February 13. The two winners, UBC students Jacinta Lawton/Mark Mehrer, will split the $1,600 award for essay written on a topic related to aspects of Canadian citizenship.

Campus Tours
School and College Liaison Office Friday morning tours for prospective UBC students. Reserve one week in advance. Call 822-4319.

UBC Speakers Bureau
Would your group like to know more about topics ranging from dolphins to computers of the future? Choose from more than 400 topics. Call 822-6167 (24 hr. ans. machine).

Executive Programmes
Business Seminars. March 30-31: Meeting the Challenges of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse, $695; April 5-6: Construction Claims, $950; April 7-8: Guidelines for the New Manager, $595. Call 822-8400.

ESL Evening Classes
Conversation Skills; Basic Writing/Grammar; Listening Skills; Advanced Discussion; Fluency/Pronunciation; Advanced Composition; Academic Writing Workshops; TOEFL Preparation. Beginning April 26/27, twice a week, 7-9pm. Call 222-5208.

Downtown Evening Course
Non-native speakers of English develop and refine your business communication and writing skills. Starting April 26, Mondays/Wednesdays 4:45-6:45pm. Call 222-5208.

Introduction To Microcomputers/Word Processing
Non-native speakers of English with no prior experience with personal computers become familiar with the computer, technical vocabulary and WordPerfect 5.1. Beginning May 4 from 7-9:30pm. Call 222-5208.

Professional Engineering Practice Tutorials/Lecture
Series designed to assist applicants in writing APEGBC's Professional Practice Exam. Wednesdays 6:30-9:30pm now through April 17. Registration required, fees vary. Call 822-3347.

Reachout Program
Student volunteers write letters to students intending to attend UBC, explaining life at UBC and in Canada, to ease the apprehension of international students. For information go to International House or call 822-5021.

Women Students' Office
Taking registration for career planning, assertiveness, self-esteem, making peace with food, bicultural women/mature women students support. Advocacy/personal counselling services available. Call 822-2415.

Reading/Writing/Study Skills Centre
Develop your writing skills for interest and possibly profit. Travel Writing/The Artful Business of Freelance Writing start in March. Call 222-5245.

Fine Arts Gallery
Tues.-Fri. from 10am-5pm. Saturdays 12-5pm. Free admission. Main Library. Call 822-2759.

Sexual Harassment Office
Advisors are available to discuss questions or concerns and are prepared to help any member of the UBC community who is being sexually harassed find a satisfactory resolution. Call Margaretha Hoek at 822-6353.

Statistical Consulting/Research Laboratory
SCARL is operated by the Department of Statistics to provide statistical advice to faculty/graduate students working on research problems. Free consulting for graduate students with supervisor's approval available this semester. Call 822-4037 or e-mail scarl@stat.ubc.ca.

Surplus Equipment Recycling Facility (SERF)
Disposal of all surplus items. Every Wednesday, 12-5pm. Task Force Bldg., 2352 Health Sciences Mall. Call Vince at 822-2582/Rich at 822-2813.

Institute Of Pacific Relations Research
A review of Canadian participation in the Institute of Pacific Relations (IPR, 1925-61) is being prepared at the Institute of International Relations. Anyone with information on the IPR please call Lawrence Woods at 822-6875.

Clinical Research Support Group
Faculty of Medicine data analysts supporting clinical research. To arrange a consultation, call Laura Slaney 822-4530.

Professional Fitness Appraisal
Administered by Physical Education and Recreation through the John M. Buchanan Fitness and Research Centre. Students $40, others $50. Call 822-4356.

Stress Study
Seeking management/professional staff who feel they cope with stress quite well or not well at all for participation in a two-hour group interview. Call Bonita Long at 822-4756/Sharon Kahn 822-5454.

Muscle Soreness Study
Seeking volunteers ages 20-45 to participate in exercise/post-exercise soreness study which requires 5 days of testing. Honorarium. Call 822-7571.

Child Studies Research
Is your baby between 2 and 22 months? Join UBC's Child Studies Research Team for lots of fun. Call Dr. Baldwin at 822-8231.

Psychiatry Research Studies
Psychiatric study involving eye test. Volunteers are needed as control group. Study involves one eye test at Vancouver General Hospital and one interview at UBC—total time 1 1/2 hours. Stipend $15. Call Arvinder Grewal at 822-7321.

Medication Treatment For People With Depression. Call Annie Kuan/Dr. R. A. Remick at 822-7321.

Menstrual Cycle Study
Seeking healthy women volunteers ages 18-40 who have not had menstrual flow for 3 months or longer to participate in a 2 month study, to assess the effectiveness of a progesterone-like medication in stimulating menstrual flow. Call 875-4566.

Behaviour Study
Do you check or clean too much? Psychology is looking for people who repeatedly check (e.g. locks, stoves) or clean excessively to participate in a study. Call 822-7154/9028.

High Blood Pressure Clinic
Adult volunteers needed to participate in drug treatment studies. Call Dr. J. Wright in Medicine at 822-7134 or RN Marion Barker at 822-7192.

Drug Research Study
Male and female volunteers required for Genital Herpes Treatment Study. Sponsoring physician: Dr. Stephen Sacks, Medicine/Infectious Diseases. Call 822-7565.

Heart/Lung Response Study
At rest and during exercise. Volunteers aged 35 years and more and of all fitness levels required. No maximal testing; scheduled at your convenience. Call Marijke Dallimore, School of Rehab. Medicine, 822-7708.

Sexual Response Study
Psychology department requires sexually functional/dysfunctional women to participate in research on sexual arousal. Honorarium. Call 822-2998 Monday-Thursday from 4-6pm.

Late Afternoon Curling
Space available at Thunderbird Winter Sports Centre from 5-7:15pm. Beginners and experienced curlers welcome. Call Alex at 738-7698 or Paul (evenings) at 224-0835.

Pacific Spirit Regional Park Programs
Autumn program brochures are now available for all-ages as well as children's recreational/nature-study outings. Pick up from the Park Centre at 16th, west of Blanca or the GVRD main office in Burnaby. Call 432-6350.

Introductory Main Garden Tours
Every Wednesday/Saturday from March 24 to September 25 at 1pm at the entrance to Botanical Garden. Admission cost includes tour. Call 822-4208.

Colloquia

Monday, March 29

Applied Mathematics Colloquium
Unsteady Solutions Of The Navier-Stokes Equations. Dr. Brian R. Seymour, director, Applied Mathematics. Mathematics 203 at 3:45pm. Call 822-4584.

Thursday, April 1

International Relations Lunchtime Colloquium
International Ethics And The Gulf War. Prof. Robert Jackson/Terry Kersch, Political Science. Buchanan Penthouse from 12:30-2pm. Call 822-6875.

Psychology Colloquium
The Work Of The Imagination. Dr. Paul Harris, Oxford U. Kenny 2510 at 4pm. Call 822-3005.

Thursday, April 8

Counselling Psychology Colloquium
Deepening The Therapeutic Engagement. Dr. James F.T. Bugenthal, distinguished adjunct professor, California School of Professional Psychology; emeritus professor, Saybrook Institute; senior spokesperson, existential-humanistic perspective, psychology. Counselling Psychology 102 from 10:30am-12:30pm. Call 822-5259 to register.

Martin Dee photo

Testing, Testing . . .

UBC staff member Charlotte Marshall signals to audio technician Kathy Ihde during a free hearing test conducted on campus from a special mobile van. The testing is part of the campus-wide Hearing Access Project reviewing the environmental, physical and behavioural aspects of accessibility needs of the hard of hearing at UBC. The van will return for another three-day visit in September. Call 822-5798 for more information.

Around and About

By Ron Burke

Alumni showing the way

UBC alumnus Graham Heal wanted to volunteer for his alma mater. Alumni Association Program Co-ordinator Charlotte Baynes wanted a way to connect students with the association before they left UBC. Student Placement Services Manager Evelyn Buriak wanted to provide more career planning resources to students in general programs.

Combine these wants and you have the Alumni Mentor Program.

In the short run, the program is designed to offer students information on different careers, delivered with both encouragement and a dose of harsh reality. Long-term, the program may also help students take their UBC expertise into the community.

"I wanted to give something back to an institution that treated me very well."

- Graham Heal

"My experiences at UBC were completely positive," says Heal, a 1983 Arts graduate who has gone on to a career as a marketing executive. "I wanted to give something back to an institution that treated me very well."

After approaching the Alumni Association with his idea, Heal was challenged by Baynes to come up with a list of 25 alumni who were willing to be mentors. When he came through, Baynes looked for a way to contact students interested in having a mentor. This is where Student Placement Services came in.

For Buriak, the program presented an opportunity to offer students, particularly those in general arts and sciences programs, some contact with UBC grads who had gone on to successful careers.

She points out that students in professional programs, such as Law and Engineering, often have contact with grads through professional associations or internships. But for students in general programs, it can be tougher to have access to information about different careers and how to move into them.

"Students often need to hear that even though they graduate and may not move right into their careers, that's OK," says Buriak. "They can start with other jobs and still get to their careers."

For student Russ Hannay, who is completing his bachelor's degree in Geography this year, the mentor program is "great."

After graduating, he hopes to use his UBC education to contribute to community development projects in various B.C. locales.

"The contacts I've made already through my mentor will help make this possible," says Hannay. "I see the program as something that benefits both the students and whichever communities we take our UBC education into."

Over at the Alumni Association, Baynes is pleased with the program. After a tenuous start, when few students seemed interested in participating, the challenge now is to recruit enough mentors to keep up with the demand. In February, 107 signed up to be matched with a grad.

Baynes provides students with a list of questions they may want to discuss with their mentors. For the mentors, she provides some tips on their role, such as how much contact to expect with the student and the importance of talking about the realities, both positive and negative, of various careers.

Alumni or students interested in more information on the mentor program should call Charlotte Baynes at the Alumni Association, 822-3313.

Athletes strike gold in Toronto to wrap up month of medals

by Abe Hefter

Staff writer

Middle-distance runner Allan Klassen and distance freestyle swimmer Turlough O'Hare have closed out their respective Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) careers in gold-medal fashion.

Their performances capped off a successful month in the pool and on the track for UBC athletes.

Klassen finished first in the 1,500 and 3,000 metre events at the CIAU track and field championships March 9-10 at Toronto's SkyDome. He closes out his CIAU career as a two-time All Canadian in both track and cross country.

Silver medals in Toronto went to Erika Forster and Byron Jack in the triple jump and to the women's 4-by-200 relay team of Karen Gubbels, Maureen Cinq-Mars, Diana Osborne and Laura Walberg.

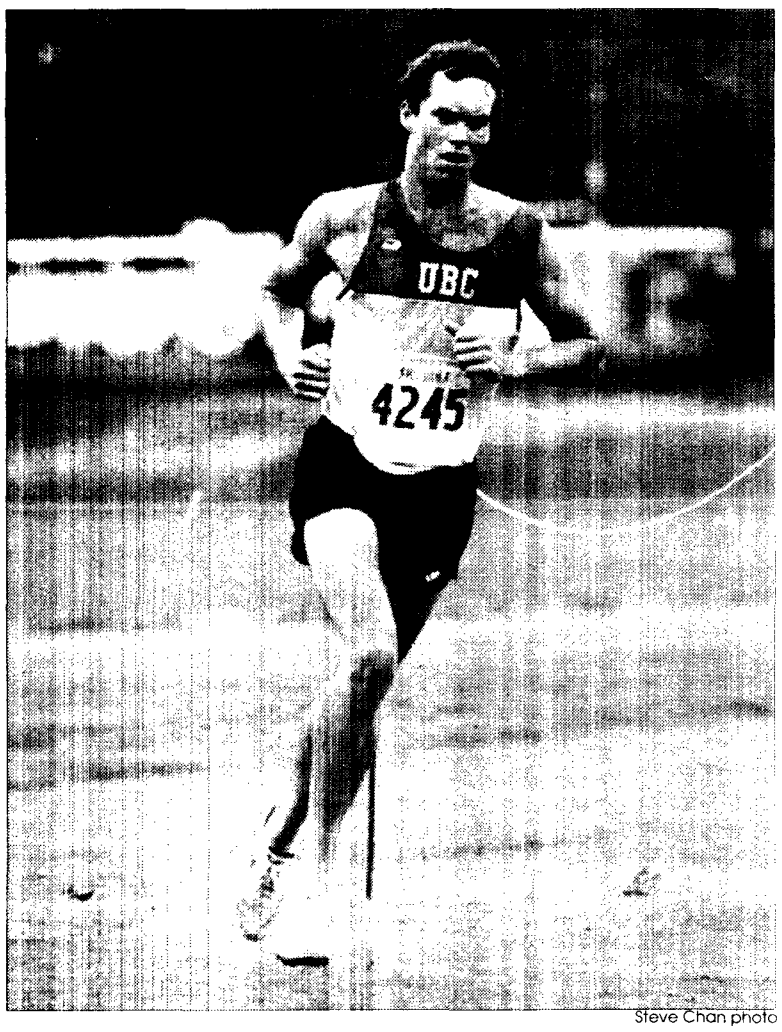
Meghan O'Brian won a bronze in the women's 3,000 metres.

In swimming, Turlough O'Hare, fresh off his four-gold-medal performance at last month's Winternationals in Saint John, New Brunswick, netted three more first-place finishes at the CIAU swimming championships March 5-7 at the University of Toronto.

O'Hare won the 200, 400 and 1,500 metre freestyle events, bringing his CIAU career gold medal total to 10.

Anne Barnes finished first in the 50 and 100 metre backstroke events and came in third in the 100 metre backstroke.

Both Barnes and O'Hare will represent Canada at the World Student Games in Buffalo in July.



Steve Chan photo

Allan Klassen picked up two gold medals at the CIAU track and field championships this month in Toronto. Klassen clocked winning times in the 1,500 and 3,000 metre events.

Classified

The classified advertising rate is $15 for 35 words or less. Each additional word is 50 cents. Rate includes GST. Ads must be submitted in writing 10 days before publication date to the UBC Community Relations Office, 207-6328 Memorial Road, Vancouver, B.C., V6T 1Z2, accompanied by payment in cash, cheque (made out to UBC Reports) or internal requisition. Advertising enquiries: 822-3131.

The deadline for the April 8, 1993 issue of UBC Reports is noon, March 30.

Miscellaneous

DO IT RIGHT! Statistical and methodological consultation; data analysis; data base management; sampling techniques; questionnaire design, development, and administration. Over 15 years of research and consulting experience in the social sciences and related fields. 433-7807.

EDITORIAL SERVICES Substantive editing, copy editing, rewriting. Dissertations, reports, books. I would be delighted to look at your manuscript, show you how I could improve it, and tell you what I would charge. Please call me for more information. Timothy King, 263-6058.

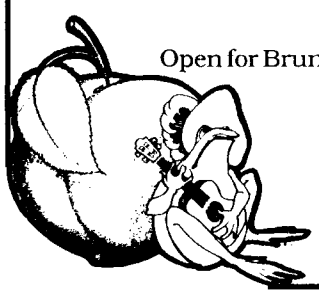
HOME IMPROVEMENTS "Why pay high rates when a handyman can do the job?" CEE BEE Handyman Services. 734-4900.

Accommodation

FOR RENT Vancouver well-furnished house, Dunbar/Southlands, Aug. 1 for one year. Prefer young family or couple. No smokers or pets. Four bedrooms, study, TV room, three full bathrooms, $1,550. Phone Edmonton (403) 432-9195.

IMAGINE
A New Spirit of Giving

The Frog & Peach
For the relentlessly untrendy
Open for Brunch Saturday & Sunday 11:30 - 2 p.m.
4473 W. 10th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
Phone: 228-8815



$10 off with this ad when a second entree of equal or greater value is ordered

Weddings, Workshops, Parties!!

If you require space for a workshop or are planning your wedding or Xmas party, come and enjoy the unique architecture of the UBC Medical Student & Alumni Centre at 12th Ave. & Heather St. Prices are reasonable and space is available evenings and weekends. Weekdays available June-August.

Please Call 879-8496.

UBC FOOD SERVICES

Spring Hours of Operation
April through June, 1993

All Food Services units operate Monday through Friday in the spring except for the SUB Cafeteria which operates seven days a week.

ARTS 200	**Last day** is April 2
THE BARN	7:30 am to 4:00 pm
EDIBLES	**Last day** is April 16
IRC SNACK BAR	8:15 am to 3:30 pm
PONDEROSA	**Last day** is April 16
ROOTS	**Last day** is April 2
TREKKERS	From April 19 — 7:30 am to 2:00 pm
	From April 26 — 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
EXPRESS	From April 26 — 7:30 am to 3:30 pm
UNDERGROUND	**Last day** is April 23
YUM YUMS	**Last day** is April 16
SUB CAFETERIA	From April 22
	7:30 am to 3:30 pm
	From May 8
	7:00 am to 7:00 pm (Mon to Fri)
	7:00 am to 3:00 pm (Sat & Sun)
	From June 28
	7:00 am to 7:00 pm (7 days a week)

Neuroscientists gather at UBC

by Connie Filletti

Staff writer

Neuroscientists from several developing nations recently participated in a campus-wide program designed to train them in leading-edge neurobiological techniques.

"It is well-known nationally and internationally that UBC is an excellent place for this type of advanced training. One of the university's major strengths is in neuroscience," said Chris Fibiger, head of UBC's Neurological Sciences Division.

Eight post-doctoral fellows from China, India, Iran, South Korea and Thailand spent one month working in the laboratories of UBC researchers from the faculties of Medicine, Arts and Science.

They had the opportunity to study some state of the art procedures in neurochemistry, neuropharmacology, neuroanatomy and neurophysiology which are not available to them in their own countries, Fibiger said.

"The students are now in a position to return home and help train other scientists in these techniques."

Fibiger, who co-organized the intensive training workshop with Anthony Phillips, a UBC Psychology professor, said that in addition to the laboratory experience, the students had the opportunity to participate in lectures given as part of UBC's graduate program in neuroscience.

He added that the experience was also valuable to the participating UBC researchers.

"Faculty members learned about the limits their colleagues have to work with, and how they could facilitate the students' ability to participate at the frontiers of brain research after leaving UBC," Fibiger explained.

The workshop was sponsored jointly by the Paris-based International Brain Research Organization and the Brain Science Fund of Tokyo.

UBC Multicultural Liaison Office

Spring mini-conference co-sponsored with the Office of the Associate Vice President Research Humanities, Interdisciplinary Initiatives, and Social Sciences. Mini-conference is free of charge.

Workshop on Research in Ethnic Relations and Cultural Diversity*

This workshop is designed for researchers in the areas of multiculturalism & ethnic relations. Four panels of experts will be available to comment on presentations, and plenary addresses will be given at the start of each day.

Date: Wednesday, March 31 & Thursday, April 1, 1993
Time: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Place: Yorkeen Room, Cecil Green House, UBC

Limited spaces available. Please register with the Multicultural Liaison Office at 822-9583. Wheelchair accessible.

* Sign language interpreters will be available on request. Please contact the Multicultural Liaison Office no later than one week prior to the workshops at 822-9583 to book. Conference materials will be available in alternate formats.

Watch for further workshops in April.

clothworks

Wholesale/Retail

- plain 100% cotton, canvas & muslin
- fabrics 36" to 120" wide
- fabric dyes & paints
- custom t-shirt printing
- plain t-shirts
- garment dyeing
- one-day workshops - learn to print textiles

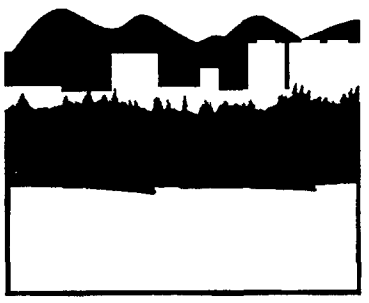
Hours: Mon.- Fri. 9:30-5:00
Sat. 10:30-4:30
Sundays: Call ahead

- a super natural textile store -

1717 W. 4th Ave.
(just east of Burrard)

739-0266 • 739-0276
Parking in Rear

The UBC Conference Centre



Comfortable and Affordable

Walter Gage Court has 48 guest suites, ideal for families or extra guests. Each unit contains a bedroom with twin beds, living room with a hide-a-bed, kitchenette, television and private bathroom. Enjoy UBC's many attractions just minutes from downtown Vancouver and the airport.

The UBC Conference Centre welcomes visitors year round!

Telephone: (604) 822-1060 Fax: (604) 822-1069

People

by Staff writers

Davies

School of Nursing Professor Betty Davies is the recipient of both the 1993 Award of Merit and Award of Excellence in Nursing Research from the Registered Nurses Association of B.C., (RNABC).

The Award of Merit honours a colleague who has had a major influence on nursing practice, education and health care. The Award of Excellence in Nursing Research recognizes outstanding performance in the areas of clinical research, mentoring and external peer review.

Davies, who joined UBC in 1987, specializes in sibling bereavement. She will receive her awards during a special presentation ceremony at the RNABC annual meeting and convention in Vancouver on April 14.

• • • •

Bowen Island artist and UBC professor emeritus Sam Black has received the Honor Award and the Casson Medal from the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour.

Black was recognized for his painting "Encroaching Flowers" which was recently on display as part of the society's Open Water 1992 Exhibition at the John B. Aird Gallery in Toronto.

Black previously won the award in 1983 and 1985.

• • • •

Dr. Cornelis van Breemen has been appointed head of the Dept. of Pharmacology and Therapeutics in the Faculty of Medicine, effective March, 1993.

Van Breemen, a vascular pharmacologist, practiced veterinary medicine prior to earning graduate degrees in physiology and pharmacology from the University of Alberta.

He obtained his postdoctorate education in Israel, England and Germany before joining the Pharmacology Dept. of the University of Florida in 1967.

Van Breemen comes to UBC from the University of Miami where he has been a faculty member since 1969. His main research interests include cardiovascular and pulmonary disease.

• • • •

Assistant Prof. Sharon Manson-Singer has been selected co-chair of B.C.'s Advisory Council on Income Assistance.

The 15-member council was created this month to advise and make recommendations to the minister of Social Services on income assistance reform for the 1990s.

Manson-Singer

Its work will focus primarily on developing long-term strategies for income assistance programs, employment initiatives, health services, the handicapped benefits program amd issues relating to the "working poor."

Government statistics indicate more than 300,000 people, including one out of eight children, in B.C. are currently dependent on income assistance.

Manson-Singer, a faculty member with the School of Social Work and research associate at UBC's Centre for Human Settlements, is also president-elect of the Canadian Council on Social Development and chair of the Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia's income security committee.

• • • •

Three members of UBC's Faculty of Medicine are among 10 women honoured by Chabad Lubavitch for their dedication to healing and helping others.

Dr. Carol Herbert, head of Family Practice; Dr. Victoria Bernstein, head of intensive care at University Hospital (UBC Site); and Dr. Dorothy Shaw Millman, a clinical associate professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, were cited for their concern about family and community.

The presentations were made during the organization's annual Week of the Jewish Woman Dinner held in Vancouver earlier this month.

• • • •

Steven Pelech, an assistant professor of Medicine, is the recipient of the 1993 Merck Frosst Prize, sponsored by the Canadian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Pelech has been a UBC faculty member since 1988. He is currently investigating the controlling mechanism for cell growth and division.

The annual award, which recognizes meritorious research in biochemistry and molecular biology in Canada, will be presented to Pelech this June at the society's annual general meeting in Windsor, Ont.

Grad conference spotlights students

by Charles Ker

Staff writer

It's Tuesday, about 8:30 a.m., outside the Graduate Student Centre's Patio Room where the question of the hour is, "How many people do you expect?"

Deanne Achong and Noel Currie are ready to open the Language and Literature Today II conference but the audience is so far limited to a handful of organizers and friends.

Half an hour later, when the two graduate students finish their 20-minute dialogue on "Feminisms within the Academy," the room rings with applause from a near-capacity crowd.

"We were more than pleased with attendance," said Peter Dickinson, one of six organizers of the second annual graduate students conference within the Faculty of Arts.

More important than the numbers, however, was the fact that students did most of the organizing. They not only presented the papers, but also acted as moderators, sat on panels and looked after the more mundane aspects of room bookings, budgets and coffee supply.

"The usual situation for graduate students is that they find themselves spectators on the fringe of major professional conferences," said Prof. Herbert Rosengarten, head of the English Dept. "Here, they're involved from beginning to end in every aspect."

As many graduate students look towards a university teaching career, they see organizing their own conferences as a means of developing expertise they'll need later as academic professionals. The format is also useful as a forum for students to share ideas among themselves and to associate with faculty members as peers.

Unlike last year's Language and Literature Today gathering, which involved students primarily from the English Dept., this year's effort was a collaboration of English and French as well as the Comparative Literature and Interdisciplinary Studies programs. In all, 122 participants, including 20 faculty members, attended 31 paper presentations.

Eva-Marie Kroller, chair of UBC's Comparative Literature Program and co-organizer of the conference, predicts these student initiatives will gain popularity as students are increasingly pressured to publish and present papers before graduating.

Fiamengo

"You don't have to present a conference paper to get a degree but you're certainly more marketable if you do," said Canadian Literature scholar Janice Fiamengo, who recently passed her PhD candidacy exams.

Despite being "extremely nervous" beforehand, Fiamengo was grateful for the chance to present her first paper at the graduate student conference in front of a more relaxed crowd of faculty and friends.

> **"You don't have to present a conference paper to get a degree but you're certainly more marketable if you do."**
>
> - Janice Fiamengo

Later this month, she'll use a $500 grant from the Faculty of Graduate Studies travel fund to help finance a trip to England where she'll present a paper to the British Association for Canadian Studies in Cambridge.

The Graduate Studies awards office receives about 300 applications each year for travel fund grants, 90 per cent of which are accepted. Of 131 applications submitted last year from Faculty of Arts students, three dealt with Comparative Literature, seven came from English and two from the French Dept.

Given that students get one grant of up to $500 per degree, Kroller says the student conferences are both convenient and economical.

Joining Dickinson, Kroller and Susan Fisher on the conference planning committee were students Sue Sorenson from English, Jane Tilley from French, and Asst. English Prof. John X. Cooper.

UBC reviews ways to improve access for hearing impaired

UBC administrators are studying the implications of an order by the B.C. Council of Human Rights which said the university must improve access for hearing impaired students.

In a ruling earlier this month, the council said UBC did not do enough to help a deaf student who alleged discrimination after being denied a sign language interpreter.

Nigel Howard wanted to attend UBC in 1989 and study towards his teaching certificate. However, he wasn't able to secure the $40,000 needed to have an interpreter accompany him to class.

An Ad Hoc Committee on Hearing Accessibility was recently established at UBC to examine the accessibility needs of hard of hearing students, staff and faculty.

Forum

The case for assisted suicide

by Alister Browne

Alister Browne is an ethicist in the Division of Biomedical Ethics, UBC. This is an excerpt from the first in a series of bi-weekly talks sponsored by the Centre for Applied Ethics.

Sue Rodriguez will die within three years. Without intervention, her death will be from respiratory insufficiency, pneumonia, or choking. She wants to avoid these forms of death, and to shield her young son from the sight of her deterioration. So she asking for the right to assisted suicide.

Assisted suicide is prohibited by sec. 241 of the Criminal Code. Should the law be changed to allow for it, or if a patient is too weak to swallow a pill, active voluntary euthanasia?

The Canadian Law Reform Commission (1982) said "No." B.C.'s Royal Commission on Health Care and Costs (1991) recommended that assisted suicide be allowed, but no provision be made for active voluntary euthanasia. The Netherlands is currently taking steps to legalize both. What should we think?

It is easy to make out a prima facie case for legalizing assisted suicide and active voluntary euthanasia. We have a right to minimize our suffering. We have a right to preserve our dignity. Sometimes we can only minimize our suffering and preserve our dignity by dying, and sometimes we need help to die. Thus we should be able to request and receive the means to death, or if we are too weak to utilize those means ourselves, to authorize one to give us a lethal injection.

Against this case is a host of objections to legalizing those practices. The sole issue at dispute between the friends and enemies of assisted suicide and active voluntary euthanasia is whether any of those objections is sufficient to cancel the case.

Three objections stand out above all.

First, it is sometimes argued that we can never get suitably voluntary and informed consent to justify either form of assisted death. But there is a two-word refutation of this: "Sue Rodriguez."

If the claim is then that we can seldom get appropriate consent, this is false. There are many people in the position of Sue Rodriguez. Of course, the seriously ill are vulnerable, and subject to pressures and manipulation. But that's life. Almost every important decision we make—what to do for a living, whether to marry or divorce, when to retire — is made under similar circumstances. It is demeaning for individuals to make these decisions throughout their lives and then, in the end, be prevented from determining the time and nature of their death.

Second, there is the slippery slope argument. If we allow assisted suicide and active voluntary euthanasia, this will erode respect for life and open the door to killing people without, or contrary to, their request.

But the simple fact is that there is no firm evidence for this. All we have is the mere possibility of those consequences. That, however, is sometimes claimed to be sufficient: Do we really want to take the chance?

This way of putting the argument assumes that matters are fine now. We can try to improve them by legalizing assisted death, but since we run the risk of making them much worse, that is an unreasonable gamble.

This, however, misdescribes the case. Things are not fine now. There are the Sue Rodriguezes of the world, whose autonomy is being denied, with consequent suffering to themselves and others. We know legislative changes will improve their lot. It is possible that evil will come from those changes, but there is no evidence it will. Thus described, the gamble seems eminently reasonable.

Third, it is argued that assisted death is not a proper part of the art of medicine. But physicians are far from composed on this. Many see terminal care as a part of total care, and assisted death as a part of terminal care. The law, however, should not take sides in the debate. As long as the debate continues, physicians should not for this reason be prevented from practicing medicine as they see fit. And even if it were determined that physicians cannot properly assist their patients to die, that is no reason for the law prohibiting everyone from giving such assistance.

It is a disgrace that anyone journeys to die at the hands of Dr. Kevorkian, or dies following the instructions of Final Exit. But as long as the law prohibits assisted suicide and active voluntary euthanasia, we can look forward to more of exactly that.

Carina wants to travel through Europe next summer.

She needs someone to coordinate her tour. Someone to take care of the details to ensure every day of her trip is a success. So do the 5,000 other students who travel with EF.

Can she count on you?

You are someone who is looking to begin a fast track career in a non-traditional business environment. You have an excellent academic record. Having travelled overseas you love to share your knowledge and enthusiasm for foreign cultures. You possess outstanding communication and promotional skills and a keen organizational sense.

EF is the world's largest organization in the field of international educational travel. We have offices in 28 countries worldwide. We are now looking for a small number of exceptionally talented and qualified people to join us in our office in Vancouver.

As a Tour Consultant you will play a vital role in the successful planning and operation of our educational tours to Europe (or Africa, Asia, Australia or Latin America). You will help ensure that every tour runs like clockwork and on budget. You may find yourself helping teachers from across the country to plan their trip. You will be working with our office in Toronto, Ontario as well as other offices worldwide.

Good salaries, generous vacations and other excellent conditions of employment are offered for all positions.

Write to us (please do not call - we reply to every letter we receive) and enclose a comprehensive resume. Address your letter to:

EF

Robin Johnston
EF Educational Tours
609 West Hastings Street, Suite 100
Vancouver, BC V6B 4W4

Fast Track. Good Cause.