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# MAC QUILTS!



DR. JOHN B. MACDONALD  
... 'devote energies to other tasks'

## Mac's stay shortest in UBC's history

The five-year reign of UBC president John Macdonald is one of the shortest in the history of the university.

Only one other president, Dr. Frank Westbrook served as short a term.

Westbrook was president from 1914 to his death in 1919.

Macdonald, now 48, was a Harvard University professor of microbiology when named president Nov. 28, 1961.

He assumed the post July 22, 1962.

Macdonald's report on higher education in B.C., published in 1963, initiated the student-sponsored Back Mac campaign of Oct. 1963.

The report called for eight junior colleges, new universities in Burnaby and Victoria and more financial aid for higher education.

When the provincial government ignored the report in its budget for the year, students

embarked on a campaign to bring the problems of higher education to the public.

They succeeded in getting 219,000 signatures on a petition calling for fair treatment of the university.

Macdonald's brief administration saw the establishment of a faculty of dentistry at UBC, and the construction of several new buildings, including three medical wings and the Henry Angus social sciences building.

Simon Fraser Academy, the institution Macdonald envisioned in his 1963 report opened in fall, 1965.

After the Back Mac campaign, Macdonald expressed dissatisfaction with his role as a fundraiser.

"I came to the university determined to give leadership in achieving academic quality," he said.

## Effective June 30, destination unknown

President John Macdonald has left UBC. Macdonald, in his letter of resignation, dated Oct. 20, said he was quitting "in order to devote my energies to other tasks."

He said: "I wish to express my conviction that a change in leadership at not too infrequent intervals is healthy and in the best interests of the university."

Chancellor John Buchanan and board of governor's chairman Mr. Justice N. T. Nemetz both expressed shock at the president's unexpected resignation.

### Mac asked to reconsider

Nemetz, at a press conference today at the downtown University Club, said the board received Macdonald's letter of resignation Friday.

He said the board had met with Macdonald and asked him to reconsider his decision.

"However, since he had determined to pursue other activities in the field of education we were unable to dissuade him.

"We deeply regret that we must accept his resignation effective as of June 30, 1967," Nemetz said.

The board chairman said that during discussions with Macdonald, the president indicated he would be continuing his education work in Canada.

"However, he said he has not at present accepted any other position," Nemetz said.

### Great education changes

Nemetz denied a suggestion that the board had pressured Macdonald to resign.

"The resignation was written entirely on Dr. Macdonald's own initiative. We've had nothing but cooperation from the president."

Macdonald said he is grateful to have been able to share in building UBC.

"Momentous changes have been compressed into a relatively short time interval to a degree which is new in the experience of this university."

However, he added: "The building of a university is never complete and it is common for a president, not taken by death or retirement due to age, to have to choose their time to relinquish their position.

"That time has come for me. Respectfully I wish to submit my resignation to take place at the end of my fifth year at UBC."

Macdonald is in Ottawa today attending a meeting of the Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada.

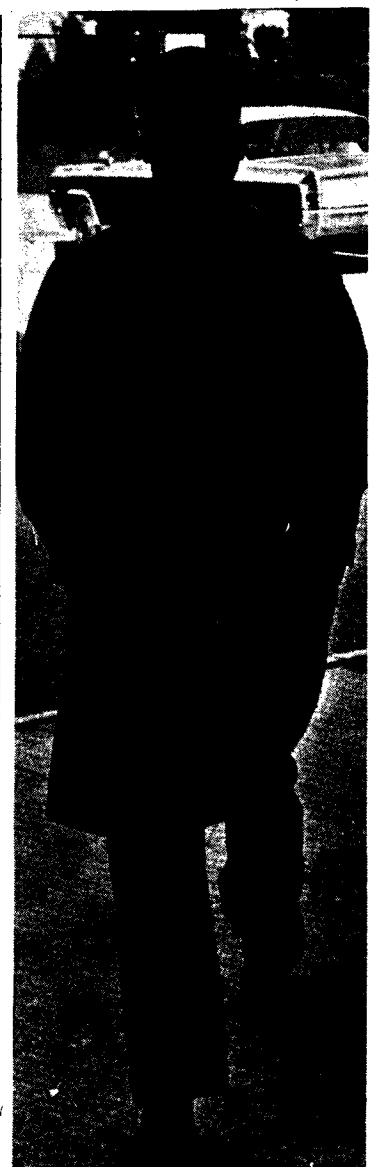
Nemetz said Macdonald will continue as president until June 30, but will be assisted by two deputies, inter-faculty affairs dean, Walter Gage and applied science dean, William Armstrong.

He said a four or five man committee of the board of governors will be named Nov. 3 to find a new president.

In a joint statement issued today, student president Peter Braund and vice-president Charlie Boylan said they did not know why Macdonald had resigned.

"At a public university that is fighting for more money, we think we should know why.

"It is our feeling that the education policies of our provincial government are the source of the president's resignation.



MACDONALD  
... walks out

### AMS plans rally on resignation

UBC student leaders today called a student rally to discuss the sudden resignation of President John Macdonald.

The rally will take place in front of the historic UBC cairn on the Main Mall at noon.

AMS vice-president Charlie Boylan said Dean Walter Gage and a board of governors' representative will be invited to address students.

# EXTRA ★ EXTRA ★ EXTRA