

SUMMER

THE UBYSSSEY

Rally commemorates Prison Justice Day

by Lucho van Isschot

Canada's prisons are dangerous, violent and overcrowded places.

Last Sunday, a small handful of people gathered on the steps of the Vancouver Art Gallery to commemorate National Prison Justice Day.

The event was organized by Claire Culhane, a life-long political activist and president of the Vancouver-based Prison Justice Group.

Culhane has been organizing vigils and demonstrations since 1976 to remember those prisoners who have died "unnatural" deaths in Canadian prisons.

On August 10, 1976, inmates of the Millhaven federal penitentiary in Bath, Ontario organized the first National Prison Justice Day to commemorate the death of Eddie Nallen.

Nallen was being held in solitary confinement at Millhaven when, in a moment of desperation, he slashed his wrists.

After slashing his wrists, Nallen attempted to cry for help. Nallen pushed the emergency "panic" button—which was supposed to signal the guards—but no one responded.

The "panic" button didn't work. Millhaven prison guards had snipped the wires.

Eddie Nallen died on August 10, 1975.

An inquest into Nallen's death was conducted soon thereafter, and Millhaven officials were ordered to repair the "panic" button.

Ten months later, another inmate, Bobby Landers, died in solitary confinement at Millhaven. Like Nallen, Landers had called for the guards' help after slashing his wrists. The "panic" button had not been repaired.

According to former Millhaven prisoner Brent Taylor, National Prison Justice Day is an important political event for prisoners throughout Canada.

Taylor was arrested in 1983 for so-called "terrorist" acts he carried out in association with the radical political group known as

the Squamish Five. Taylor has spent most of the last nine years of his life inside Millhaven.

"All across the country prisoners will be fasting and doing work stoppages to remember their brothers and sisters who have died unnatural deaths in prison," Taylor said.

"I saw a lot of deaths in Millhaven, including people being shot by high powered rifles from the guard towers. But most of the deaths I saw were suicides—and these were, perhaps, the most disturbing," Taylor said.

According to federal statistics, some 324 people (318 men and six women) have died "unnatural" deaths inside prisons in the past ten years. Suicide, murder and fatal accidents are all defined as "unnatural" causes of death.

However, Culhane is skeptical about the federal statistics on unnatural deaths in prisons.

"I don't believe anything they say. I don't know if I believe anybody," Culhane said.

For instance, Culhane points out that more than six women prisoners have died unnatural deaths in Canadian prisons over the past ten years.

"In one women's prison alone there were three deaths in a single month," Culhane said.

While the statistics on unnatural deaths in prisons are shocking, the general statistics on Canada's prison system are even more shocking, Culhane said.

There are some 29,555 people serving time in some 255 correctional facilities across Canada, Culhane said. And as 112.7 out of every 100,000 Canadians are currently in prison, Canada has the second highest rate of incarceration in the world after the United States.

Some \$40 million has just been spent on a new prison in Muskoka, Ontario, to cope with the problem of overcrowding in prisons, Culhane said.

And in addition to constructing new prisons, the federal government is making additions to existing prisons, Culhane said.

"Very quietly, all prisons are being expanded across the country," she said.

According to Culhane, the rate at which the prison system is expanding corresponds to the growing rate of incarceration right across the country.

Bad economic times, high unemployment, and an increasing sense of desperation are forcing some Canadians to turn to alternative means of survival—including crime.

"I think [the government] is preparing. It is inevitable when things are going so bad," Culhane said.

"They have enough money to build a prison in Prince George for young people, but they don't have \$10,000 to get a crisis line for street

kids in Vancouver. I mean, who do they think they are kidding?" Culhane said.

Canada also has one of the highest rates of recidivism (rate of former prisoners who eventually return to prison) in the world, Culhane said.

"The reason for the rate of recidivism, which is estimated at 60 to 80 per cent, is so self-evident. I mean, even bank managers can't find jobs," she said.

Culhane considers herself to be a prison abolitionist. But, she says, we cannot conceive of abolishing prisons before we solve the social, political and economic problems which have made prisons necessary.

"Prisons are an integral part of society, so we can't talk about

abolishing prisons until we change society. We can't argue about these things in a vacuum," Culhane said.

Eventually, Culhane would like to see 95 per cent of Canada's current prison population released into the general community. If the prison system were reduced, there would only have to be one prison for all of Canada, Culhane said. Even conservative estimates suggest fewer than 15 per cent of prisoners are either violent or dangerous, she said.

"It would be better to release them into the community, to be able to rehabilitate them, and so they can make restitution.

"There are answers. All we need is a little sanity and a lot of power," Culhane said.



Claire Culhane of the Prisoners' Rights Group speaks about injustices in the prison system at a demonstration to commemorate National Prison Justice Day, Sunday, August 9 on the steps of the Vancouver Art Gallery.

SIOBHAN ROANTREE PHOTO

UBC intervenes in student society fees suit

by Frances Foran

The UBC Alma Mater Society has been granted intervenor status in the court case that could sentence BC student unions to death.

The AMS show of support for the Simon Fraser Student Society's decision to fight the March 6 ruling that mandatory student union dues are unconstitutional is joined by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). The CFS has granted \$7,500 to defray the legal costs and "to help the student movement some way," said CFS national treasurer Sandra Rein.

The pending appeal will decide whether to uphold the decision of the Commercial Appeals Commission (CAC) which ruled in favour of anti-student union lobbyists that mandatory student society fees violate the Charter of

Rights and Freedoms.

The commission found that freedom of association implies freedom from association, a point which has been rejected by the Supreme Court in other union fees disputes.

The commission's ruling relied solely on the testimony of the claimant, ignoring a request by David Morris of the BC Registrar of Companies that BC student societies be given an opportunity to make submissions on the Charter issue.

The case was originally launched by Simon Fraser alumnus and student-union foe Phil Eidsvik, who co-founded Students for Freedom of Association, a group he said stands for "students' choice."

Eidsvik, who claimed to dislike the "intensely political" Simon

Fraser Student Society, has been campaigning to de-unionize it for three years. He contends that the society's finances have been mismanaged by overpaid unionized staff, some of whom are ex-officers of the society.

The CAC ruling was in appeal of Morris' decision that it was beyond his authority to intervene in the society's mandatory membership by-laws.

AMS president Martin Ertl said the case is of direct interest to UBC and student societies everywhere, because the CAC ruling states that "non-essential" student services, such as a theatre and a bookstore that lose money, are "aggregate conduct contrary to the public interest."

Ertl said self-interest also played a role in the AMS decision to intervene which was granted in

June. "We don't want to be accused of financial improprieties."

According to the AMS' lawyers, constitutional autonomy from the university puts them in a better legal position than the their SFU counterparts, and may provide immunity if the Charter is found to apply to universities.

Kyong-ae Kim, counsel for the SFSS, said even if the Charter applies to universities, there are important legal precedents which have found mandatory employees' union dues constitutionally permissible and may overturn the CAC's ruling.

However, two years ago when UBC upheld its mandatory retirement clause had it was decided the Charter's anti-age discrimination provision did not apply to universities. Kim said this could bear on the SFSS case when it resumes in

early spring.

"I don't see how the court could uphold the CAC ruling. I am fairly confident it will be overturned," she said.

Eidsvik himself does not think the show of force from the CFS and the AMS will affect his case.

"Student societies are always looking after their own bureaucracies and not students' interests," he said.

"The CFS legal fund was established to protect students' rights and now they are arguing that the Charter has no application to universities—that means no freedom of speech, no freedom of association," he said.

"If student societies were so great, why would they be afraid of voluntary membership? That would force them to give students better services."

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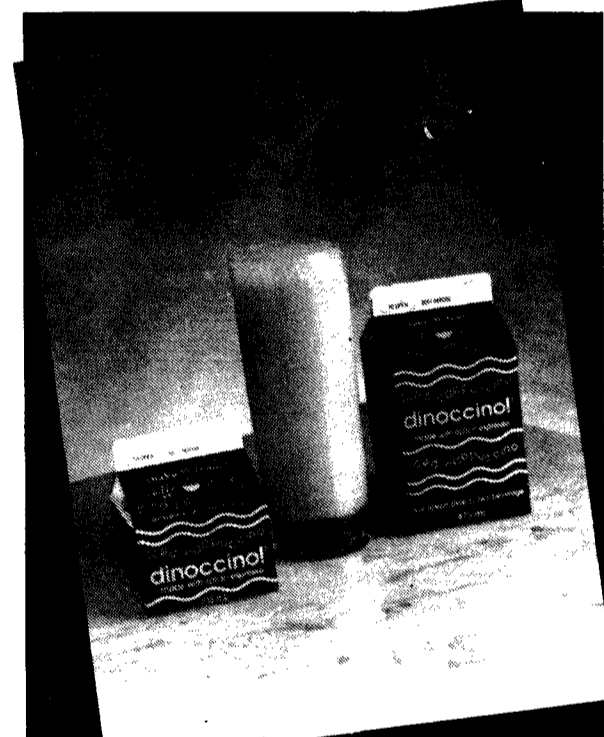
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UBC to get Light Rapid Transit?

by Rick Hiebert

UBC and Simon Fraser University might be linked to a light rapid transit (LRT) system planned to run from Vancouver to Coquitlam by 1996.

The Vancouver Sun reported last week that, according to anonymous sources in the provincial government, a commuter train system will be set up to run from UBC through Kitsilano down Broadway and into North Burnaby along Lougheed Highway. The route would then go north and stop in downtown Coquitlam.

The trains would be street level, running on tracks laid down the middle of roads, and run by a conductor, who would drive the trains and stop for traffic lights.

Yet, according to Len Traboulay, chair of the Greater Vancouver Transit Commission which oversees municipal public transit, the route "was going to start, to the best of my knowledge around Broadway

and 12th or Broadway and Commercial.

"It may well be that the New Democrats in Victoria have decided to expand the route very recently, which would make a great deal of sense. I'm not opposed at all to the route going out to UBC. It makes excellent sense, given how many people commute onto campus," Traboulay said.

Students will have to lobby hard to get the route, said Traboulay who is also mayor of Port Coquitlam (which would be one of the main beneficiaries of the route).

The proposed transit system would cost \$500 million less to build than a Skytrain type elevated rail system. Also, the technology for surface rail is quieter and less obtrusive than Skytrain and easier to fix and replace.

The system would be modeled on systems in Calgary and Portland, Oregon.

The proposed route has, however, caused a few political

waves. The route would go through the constituencies of four NDP cabinet ministers and three NDP backbenchers on its way from UBC to Coquitlam.

Richmond, which has three Liberal MLAs, had also been lobbying heavily for a LRT system and plans to build a major bridge to deal with commuter traffic to Vancouver, missed out. Richmond mayor, Greg Halsey-Brandt, said last week, "Sometimes I feel if there were a couple of NDP MLA's it might be helpful."

Politics aside, most agree that as a route to North Burnaby and Coquitlam would serve 250,000 potential riders as compared to around 160,000 riders using a system from Delta and Richmond into Vancouver, the right route was picked.

The NDP promised a transit link to North Burnaby and Coquitlam in last year's election. If the government started now on getting the system ready by planning routes and laying

track in the next year, it could be ready by 1995 or 1996.

Art Cowie, Liberal MLA for the riding of Vancouver-Quilchena (which would benefit from a LRT system going to Richmond) and Opposition critic for BC Transit, agrees the right choice was made.

"There's nothing new about the idea for rapid transit along the Broadway route through Burnaby. When I was in a community planning class at UBC in 1966, we talked about the value of light rapid transit along this route, so I'm not surprised," Cowie said.

"Unless we have some kind of transit system going to UBC we will be faced with a real disaster," he said. "We have around 50 to 60 thousand people funnelling through Kitsilano and Kerrisdale each day, jockeying for position in cars and trying to cram onto buses, so we really need something to alleviate this pressure."

"Now that we might recognize that Point Grey may not have been the best place to put a university, we really have to make it as accessible as possible by transit."

Students like proposed ALRT

by Rick Hiebert

Student politicians like the idea of the proposed light rapid transit from UBC to SFU and Coquitlam. But they differ, apparently, on how important it is to lobby for.

The route (as reported in The Vancouver Sun courtesy of anonymous government sources) is still uncertain, but Jacquie Best, BC chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, is excited about the idea.

"It would be absolutely ideal as far as students are concerned," Best said. "When we have 40 per cent of students living on scholarships or loans, any way we can help students use rapid transit would help students in the long run. Instead of spending money on a car, they could spend it on food or books."

Best said lobbying BC Transit was a priority for the CFS-BC. The CFS makes submissions to all BC Transit commission meetings talking about fares and

transit routes, and its lobbying efforts persuaded the transit authority three years ago to give students one single fare rate to travel through all transit zones during rush hours. Best hopes the proposed system will be linked up to the BC Transit system, and readily affordable and accessible.

She said the CFS would make it a priority to ensure the proposed route comes about in the next year.

"We don't know how definite the plans for the route are, so it will be especially important for students to voice their concerns. The more support that a UBC-SFU-Coquitlam line gets, the more likely that it will be that it takes place. We have to let the NDP know that we want it and that it is important to us."

Marya McVicar, Alma Mater Society external affairs coordinator, also likes the idea of rapid transit to UBC.

"I think it would be great,"

McVicar said. "I don't think that a lot of students like driving an hour or more to school and its obviously more environmentally friendly."

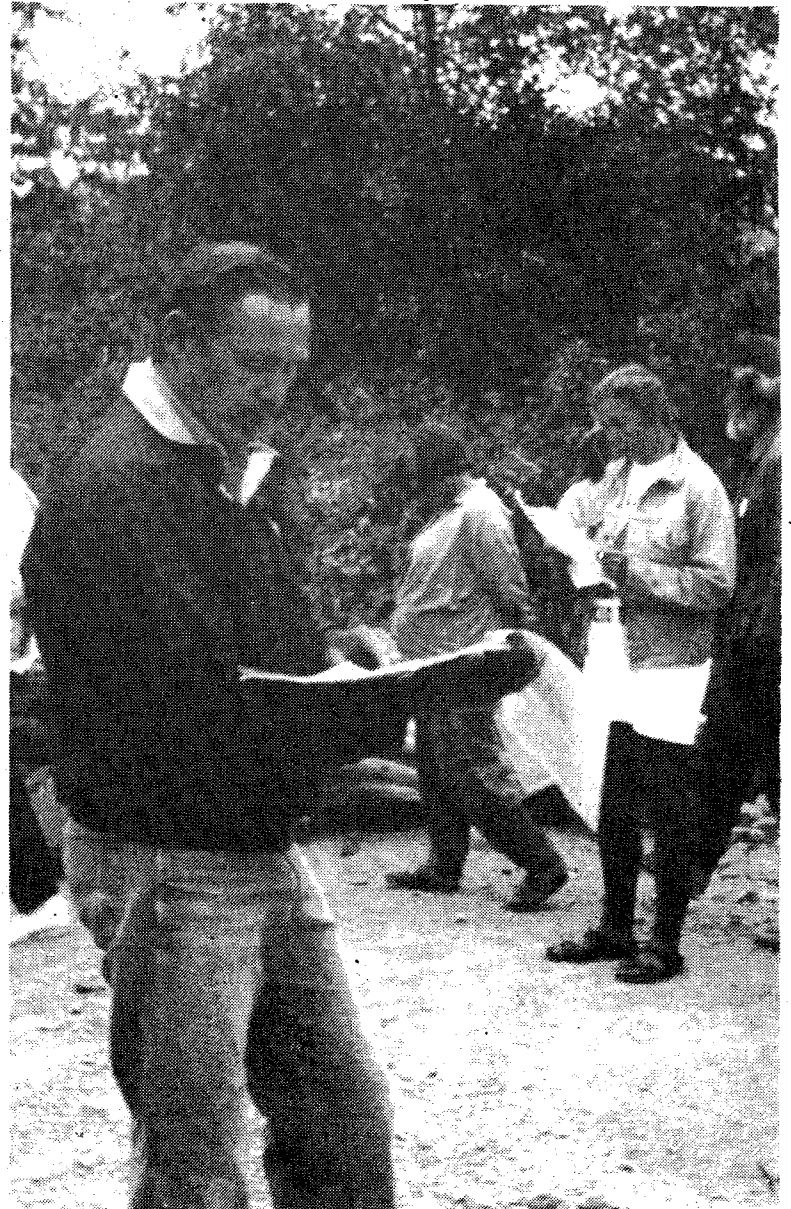
"Every year, we seem to lose more and more parking to buildings, so UBC students will have to come up with some kind of alternative soon. Ultimately there's probably going to be fewer and fewer drivers on campus."

However, she does not plan to lobby BC Transit for the route yet.

"There are other issues that are more important than transit in the summer," she said. "Maybe in the fall."

However, she said, the AMS is not blind to student transit needs. Director of Administration Caireen Hanert is setting up a carpooling program for UBC students to be launched this fall.

"We really do care about students getting to school and this is something viable we can do," McVicar said.



MacBlo official reads court order and Norleen Lillico recites the UN Biodiversity resolution of which Canada is a signatory as protestors march in front of the logging trucks.

Activists stall logging in Clayoquot Sound

by Elaine Griffith

Friends of Clayoquot Sound, a community-based environmental group, is fighting the NDP's "talk and log" process whereby 90 per cent of the world's second largest remaining area of temperate ancient forest is slated to be clear-cut, while government steering committee talks go on without environmental representatives.

The group, active on forestry and herbicide issues for almost 14 years, is recognized as the first group to set up blockades in BC. Blockading, a practical application of civil disobedience, has been the group's method of action since 1984 when after two years of work, the Meares Island Planning Committee, which represented forestry giant Macmillan Bloedel and the community, arrived at a plan for logging on Meares Island

(near Tofino on the west coast of Vancouver Island). MacBlo withdrew from the process, opted back into the Tree Framing Licence provisions and went on logging.

The frustration after years of wasted volunteer effort made Friends of Clayoquot Sound and Native

peoples feel the only option was to blockade logging activities and, if necessary, get arrested. Mass arrests raise public awareness and let the government know that many people refuse to be intimidated, said FOCS member Morleen Lillico.

"Now the government can't ignore us. They must acknowledge the need for a change in forest policy now," Lillico said.

For the last three and a half years the Socreds, followed by the New Democrats, have run the Sustainable Develop-

ment Steering Committee, also known as the "Task Force," which still has not decided which areas of ancient forest, if any, should be protected. Nor has the committee discussed the possibility of value-added

willing to sit down and talk."

The latest series of blockades led to the arrests of over 50 people for violating a court order not to obstruct MacBlo's logging activities in the southern half of Clayoquot Sound.

Standing at the barricades, sitting with linked arms, or lying in front of the logging trucks, protectors peacefully allowed Ucluellet police to escort or carry them to the waiting vans.

"We are helping the government and they are prosecuting us," Lillico, who was arrested August 4, said. "Public money is paying for the public to be arrested on public land while we are trying to protect our valuable wilderness heritage."

Lillico was part of FOCS' community pancake breakfast, held on a logging road July 31 to bring more people from the

community in to see what went on at the demonstrations. The demos are generally preceded by a one-hour session of non-violence training.

Originally three people were planning to be arrested but the people present, so inspired by the actions of their friends and shocked by the violence of the Courtenay RCMP, decided on the spot to block the road as well. Twenty-five people were arrested that day, and since then five more actions have resulted in further arrests.

Friends of Clayoquot Sound is planning another action and mass arrest for Monday, August 17. And anyone interested is encouraged to take part. Food and support for those arrested is always welcome. For more info call 725-4218.

Freestyle

industry in BC. Environmental reps walked away from the table so as not to endorse a process Lillico calls "ridiculous—they have us sitting at the table while they log."

Inadequate government policy, with even existing regulations not being enforced, lets forestry companies take advantage of the lack of government intervention. Protesters feel they are doing the important government's work for it. FOCS is asking for a moratorium. Then, Lillico says, "we're

Editorial

Who really knows what happened that night in the Watergate Hotel? Last Tuesday night that is, when Canada, the US and Mexico signed the mysterious North America Free Trade Agreement, creating the largest free trade zone in the world.

When the Canada-US free trade deal was in negotiation, the issues and their implications were well-publicized, and while the majority of Canadians didn't support it, at least we knew about it and could say, "We knew it!" when the inevitable happened: thousands of jobs lost in the manufacturing and auto industries, outrageous tariffs on softwood lumber that actually contravene the deal with Uncle Sam, threats to expropriate Canadian water to get the US through a drought, depletion of Canadian fish stocks, and the latest blow, tariffs on our beer that protect the cheap American brew.

The US-Canada deal ultimately reserved the right of the States to call any government intervention in the economy—yes, that includes agricultural boards and social services like medicare—"unfair trade practices" when the US doesn't share those practices.

There is no reason to believe the dynamics of NAFTA are different. The objectives in the US-Canada deal, as with NAFTA, is to eliminate these "unfair" trade barriers and create a "level playing field." (American economists always use baseball analogies; "playing hardball with the big boys" sounds so much more fun than losing your job). The question is obviously, to whom were these practices unfair and whom will their elimination profit? Most likely the same player who profited from the Canada-US deal.

Except that NAFTA will allow Mexico to be exploited by not one, but two countries.

Some predictions. American and Canadian branch plants will relocate in Mexico where workers are paid a third of what Canadian workers earn, inflicting more job loss in this country. Those pesky environmental standards which Canada has partly enforced on industry can be ignored in Mexico, where there are no pollution regulations, as 25 million in Mexico City know every day they are advised to remain indoors. No pesky workers' health standards to bother with either, which Mexican workers have known for years, and which the world only recently discovered after the ill-effects of American industries were felt in Texas and encephalitic babies were being born at an alarming rate—a phenomenon that has become a regular occurrence in Mexicans' lives.

This is the globalization of capital, folks. What we are witnessing is the destruction of tariff walls and interventions that are the hills and valleys to the movement of capital. The world is being parcelled out into larger and larger zones and one supposes that the process will only conclude when the whole world is one single "level playing field" monopolized by the strongest economy.

Welcome to the flat earth.



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THE UBYSSEY

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The Ubysses is a founding member of
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This is the starship Ubysses. To boldly go where no staff has gone before...or at least to attempt it. Captain Sammy Green engages the crew into warp speed 9, but Q fumbles the positron power bypass, causing a momentary short circuit in all systems. The voyages of the Ubysses starship are temporarily halted as members scramble to rewire circuits. First Officers Hao Li and Lucho van Ischot disappear into eternal space as the power failure interrupts transport to planet Z. Counsellor Paula Wellings feels the tensions rise throughout the ship as Commander Frances Foran reports missing pathways from computer systems. The shortage has apparently caused a meltdown of internal circuitry. Dr. Yukie Kurahashi prescribes holodeck therapy to all bridge crew, as fierce insubordination emerges against the bewildered Security Officer Martin Chester. Ensigns Helen Willow-Bee Price, Angelique Augereau, and Elaine Griffith manage to escape certain doom and land on planet X, where they find fame, fortune, and no gimpy uniforms. Back in engineering, Lieut. Joe Altwasser and the android Commander Mark Nielsen argue over which disk to insert into the computer mainframe. Admiral Ellen Pond sends an urgent command for the ship to get its act together. Enemy space ships suddenly appear on the starboard viewer. Alien captain Siobhan Roantree and her warqueens Iris Michael and Gennie Willow-Bee Price demand the surrender of the Ubysses. With photon torpedoes loaded and aimed for attack, Q delivers a baffling sweep of events. In a burst of magnesium fire, angel-like forms of Lillian Au, Keith Leung and Rick Hiebert blind enemy ships, while a shower of effervescent beings known as Jenn Kwong restore the crippled Ubysses to its full glory. From that moment of salvation, the ship and crew zip into infinity, leaving behind a trail of glittering stars.

Editors
Francis Foran • Sam Green • Yukie Kurahashi
Lucho Van Ischot • Paula Wellings

Letters

Write now, ask questions later

It is my great pleasure to write to you. I expect you will be pleased to accept my appeal regarding International Pen Pals for our school students and club members.

Today it is possible to reach into the hearts and homes of people in almost every country in the world. It is a unique and wonderful achievement to be able to learn how others live, to participate in their hobbies and interests and perhaps at a later date to exchange visits with them and to share the joy of real friendship.

The aim of "Seoul International Pen Pal Club" is to provide a channel of communication for all peoples, so that they can learn to understand, respect and live in harmony with each other. We have many students and club members who want to exchange letters and friendship with foreign peoples and they frequently request me to let them have foreign pen friends. I am sure this would help not only their English and emotional life, but also expand their

The Ubysses welcomes letters on any issue. Letters must be typed and are not to exceed 300 words in length. Content which is judged to be libelous, homophobic, sexist, racist or factually incorrect will not be published. Please be concise. Letters may be edited for brevity, but it is standard Ubysses policy not to edit letters for spelling or grammatical mistakes. Please bring them, with identification, to SUB 241K. Letters must include name, faculty, and signature.

knowledge of foreign lands. Furthermore, I surely believe that this will stimulate and promote world-wide friendship as well as serving as a true foundation of world peace.

I feel it is necessary to publish this simple wish among yours. The only information I need of a person is his or her name, address, sex, age, hobbies and picture if possible. I expect to receive many letters from your readers. Every applicant shall hear from a new Korean Pen Pal within 20 days and this service is absolutely FREE.

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All work and still no pay

I read with interest the recent article "UBC payroll system wreaks havoc." I have also encountered problems obtaining my cheque. However, this letter is in

defence of those who work in payroll.

Yes, problems do happen and will continue to happen. There are approximately 12,000 people on the payroll at UBC whom on average get paid twice a month. In the last six months a number of situations have arisen. The strike was one situation as well as the implementation of a new payroll system. Moreover, retroactive pay originating from the new contract had to be processed on the old system. And within that time frame the regular payroll had to be processed.

Then comes April 30th when a number of September to April appointments end. Records of employment have to be issued. Then in July, the payroll department must contend with processing the faculty retroactive pay. Shortly after that comes September with all the new student appointments.

Consider also that many payroll people have more than one appointment. That means more than one cheque. And if an appointment is terminated, there is a time lag before payroll receives any information for a

new appointment.

What about those individuals who submit the time sheets? It is up to the supervisors to fill out the sheets properly and on time. And this includes job and account codes. What about those departments that send their payroll sheets in a the last minute? Payroll can only do so much.

Yes, as Kurt Karila points out "that the staff have a right to be paid on time." However, if the department doesn't send in the appointment notices in an orderly manner or the payroll sheets are filled out incorrectly then the problem originates with the department. Not with payroll.

Lastly, I agree with Karila, in part, when he says "that payroll will not deal with you in person." Maybe this is because a few rude and ignorant individuals abuse the payroll people verbally and make it difficult for all of us. And after putting up with that I don't blame payroll for not wanting to talk to anyone. Whether your complaint is by letter, phone, or in person, attitude is everything.

Yes, there will be prob-

lems in the future and screw-ups and what have you. But, if supervisors fill out their sheets in full and send them in on time, not at the last minute and a few people had a better attitude, then payroll might work a little better.

The alternative is to farm out the payroll for supervisors to do. From processing the time sheets to creating the paycheques. Then the departments would have to take the heat.

Allan G. Matthews.

Anxious yuppie speaks out

Re: the "Local Anxiety" review of Aug 7.

Since I didn't attend I was looking forward to the review, only to find that I am one of society's undesirables.

Your reviewer spent almost a third of her space making slighting remarks about the audience and the venue. If it is desirable to stamp out anything with any tinge of yuppieism then her comments were appropriate but otherwise they were extraneous to her review.

I had to read the review

portions carefully to even find out what she thought of the performance. How did she manage to have such a good time among so many "white middle-aged semi-politically aware CBC radio listening folk"?

As a CBC listener I at least know that Local Anxiety is not Double Exposure.

Helen Martin

*HOW SAD!!
The Ubysses is not publishing an issue on August 20th, but we'll be back the week after, business as usual. Take the extra week to write some great stories, and come by to see us!!!*

SUB 241K

These articles appear courtesy of the students at UBC's English Language Institute

My poor English

by Erl Katsube

Although I have lived in Canada since 1990, I still have some mistakes when I am writing, speaking and listening English.

My ultimate mistake was in the summer of 1990, my friends and I visited my uncle who is living in Chicago. My air ticket was via Seattle and Minneapolis. At first, of course, we had to check in our luggage. We left our luggage and got on a plane.

During the flight, one of my

friends asked me, "Should we go to pick up our luggages at Minneapolis, because I think the luggage tag said only Minneapolis, not Chicago." I worried about my bags but I was sure our luggage would go to the plane which goes to Chicago automatically. However, we decided to ask someone about it.

At Minneapolis, we asked the hostess, "We gonna go to Chicago via Minneapolis. Do we have to pick up our luggage to transfer?"

She answered, "You must go to customs to check immunity."

??? What? What's that??? She thought I HAVE MANY APPLES instead of I AM GOING TO MINNEAPOLIS. Don't you think the pronunciation is very similar between MINNEAPOLIS and MANY APPLES?

This is the story of my poor English.

It goes without saying I practiced to pronounce Minneapolis.

Coming to Canada

by Satoru Nakagawa

Coming to Canada was the best experience in my life, because for most of my life I did not have a big dream.

Because of Canada and Canadians for the first time I realized exactly what I wanted to do. Coming to Canada was only one of the steps to the dream.

For as long as I can remember I didn't have a goal, but there was only one thing I really liked—sports. Until Junior High School, I did what my parents and teachers said, but after that I think I lost myself. I always felt, "why am I learning this now? I will never use it in my life again."

When I went to Kyoritu University it was the same. I chose chemistry because, except for physical education, that was my best subject. Therefore all through these times I always had the same question for myself, "do I fit into this education system?"

While I was in university, I met my wife. She was from Vancouver, and we didn't speak each other's languages at all. At

that point I had been studying English more than ten years but I couldn't talk to her, moreover my friends couldn't speak to her either. From this time, I started to learn English through listening, and I realised I could do it if I really wanted.

At this point I really started to feel that the Japanese education system didn't fit me because it didn't prepare me for what I wanted.

After my graduation I started to work as a blue collar worker, so I could earn some more to go to Canada. For the first half year I worked in boiler maintenance. I spent almost all my day in a boiler cleaning out charcoal. Half a year was more than I could take at that time, because it was a nightmare for a university graduate.

Then I worked as a construction worker, welder, and translator. Why translator? Because we used to build oil jackets for the other countries. I enjoyed most of my time in this company. But unfortunately, I had to risk my life for money. In order to do the construction I had to

walk around 150-160 foot high beams.

Furthermore, I perceived that not only is Japanese education a problem, but also how Japanese society works is a problem.

After all the preparation, there was only one thing left, that is, physically coming to Canada.

At Fukuoka Airport, a Japanese local airport, my parents came to say good-bye. My father looked quite old, and my mother was crying, but I did not feel any sadness or loneliness at all. I was very happy to get out of Japan. Probably this is the reason I could sleep so well in the small seat.

Finally, getting off the plane was a real step to my dream, and at the same time I could really feel this is my kind of country.

After learning English, I will not have any problem fitting into Canadian culture. Because of these things I just love Canada, and I will never forget that moment.

It was the best experience in my life so far.



SIOBHAN ROANTREE PHOTO

Jimmy Sidler at the demonstration for National Prison Justice Day, Sunday August 9th on the steps of the Vancouver Art Gallery.

THE UBYSSEY

Two student-at-large positions are available on the Advisory Board to The Ubyyssey.

The purpose of the Advisory Board to The Ubyyssey is to examine and to make specific recommendations on The Ubyyssey with regard to the following:

- i) the relationship between The Ubyyssey and the Alma Mater Society;
- ii) increasing the readership of The Ubyyssey;
- iii) increasing the participation of individuals and groups from all political, social, and cultural segments of the campus;
- iv) active recruitment, training and support for members of the staff of The Ubyyssey;
- v) dealing with grievances with The Ubyyssey and between members of its staff;
- vi) the relationship between The Ubyyssey and the Canadian University Press;
- vii) competition between The Ubyyssey and other AMS publications, both current and future; and
- viii) other related matters.

The Advisory Board to The Ubyyssey will meet at least twice a month beginning in August 1992 and ending in March 1993.

Resumes will be accepted until Friday, August 14th at 4:30 p.m. by Terri Folsom, Administrative Assistant, in SUB 238.

The AMS is to make a nomination for a student representative to the B.C. Student Assistance Program Appeals Committee for the 1992/93 loan year.

The requirements for nomination are:

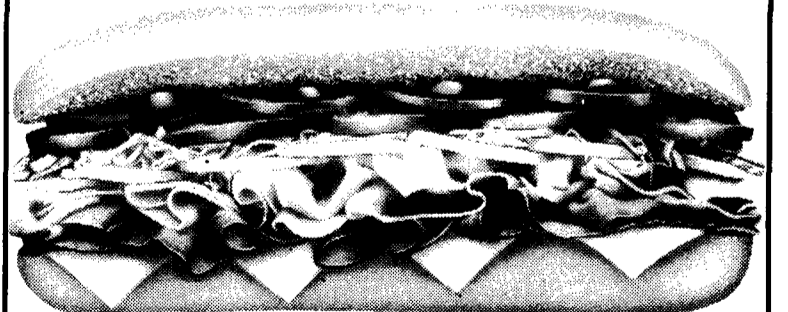
- to be available to travel to Victoria normally once per month during the loan year for an all day meeting;
- to be a full time student during the 1992/93 educational period;
- a resume of your background and experience; and
- analytical ability, good judgement and maturity.

Further information can be obtained from Carole Forsythe, Vice President, in SUB 248 at 822-3092.

Resumes will be accepted until Wednesday, 12 August at 4:30 p.m. by Terri Folsom, Administrative Assistant, in SUB 238.



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Two women's projects work out of new AIDS Resource Center

by Paula Wellings

The new Pacific AIDS Resource Centre is the home of two groups working to facilitate women's understanding, prevention, treatment of and survival with HIV and AIDS.

The Positive Women's Network and the Women and AIDS Project—run out of the educational department of AIDS Vancouver—together form a education-service team that intends to improve women's health care in Vancouver.

In March of 1989, a group of women began to meet to discuss the issue of women and HIV/AIDS. From this original group came the Positive Women's Network, granted society status in 1991.

The Positive Women's Network moved into the new AIDS Resource Center along with AIDS Vancouver and the Persons With AIDS Society, at the beginning of July.

Karen Gallager of the Positive Women's Network believes the move will help women gain access to the services they need.

"A lot of what we do is guide women through the process that they might have to be involved in with AIDS Vancouver or PWA, so that they're able to get those services. If women don't feel comfortable going into AV or PWA we will work with them on their own. So we try to make it as user-friendly as possible," she said.

Beth Easton of the Women and AIDS Project also believes the move will improve services.

"This is the first time that the two, a prevention-mandated project and a support service project, have existed simultaneously [for women]. So we're really looking forward to integrating and melding those two issues. Because we know that one is integrally connected to the other, and they both reinforce one another," Easton said.

The Women and AIDS Project is an education-oriented project which focuses primarily on workshops and publications as a method of teaching prevention, and AIDS/HIV issues.

The project runs on the belief that women should have access to information, and be free to make their own choices on the basis of that information.

"We know that the most effective is the work where we can sit down and provide a place for women to talk and to hear themselves and to share experiences and to receive information. A key to the work we do is that it's not about judging, it's all about 'this is the information.' We try to provide a space where women can get that information and find their own solutions: solutions that they can live with, that they're comfortable with, that they can find pleasure with.

"All of this talk about safer

sex kind of loses it. Focusing on that and the necessity of focusing on that has often led to the neglect of women's sexuality and sexual pleasure and desire. We really try to continue to have the dialogue, talk about both of those things at the same time. It's imperative," Easton said.

The Positive Women's Network works from the belief that women must determine their own needs, and the network will work to fulfill them.

"A lot of women are very isolated and very afraid to come out, to come into a building, or they just need more information initially before they make a decision if they want to come into counselling or a group. But women don't have to come into this building to get services," Gallager said.

Gallager said the network also runs support groups in Vancouver, in the Fraser Valley, and in Vancouver's Latina community.

Both organizations are specifically concerned with women's access to information, diagnosis and treatment.

While the mainstream belief is that HIV infection is new to women as a group, Easton disagrees.

"Globally you look at this issue ever since HIV has been an issue, it's always been women, it's always been a heterosexual illness, it's always been hetero-

sexual transmission and it's always affected women. It's always been women and it's only now that the numbers have steadily increased, and the rate of transmission of HIV in women has increased, that people's consciousness has begun to shift. People are no longer allowed to deny that HIV and AIDS are just a human issue," Easton said.

According to Gallager, "Women's place in society certainly impacts our access to health care and how we are able to be out in the world. As women generally, our health care needs are looked after last if we are responsible as caregivers for partners or children. A lot of women are marginalized and so their access to the health care system or social services system or, indeed, just the community at large is really limited, through poverty, through language barriers, through any number of social conditions that affect us as a gender.

"There's certainly a very real recognition about the disempowerment of women in general and how that impacts us specifically in relation to this disease."

According to Easton, "Obviously the power dynamic that exists in relationships, if we're having relationships with men, how we're empowered differently when you're talking about safer sex, it's a really important thing. Let alone,

the medical model that AIDS treatment and the definition of AIDS is based on. It's male-based because [AIDS] largely manifested itself in that population [in north america] first and so represents that influence."

Easton and Gallager both believe safety is an important issue for women when they talk about sexuality.

"Women need a safe space. Women with common experiences, whatever they are, however they identify, whether their cultural, social, or class, or race or sexual identity. They also need their own special places within a women's space. We really need to recognize that," Easton said.

Gallager said the network was formed in partial response because some women found PWA and AV inaccessible.

"The two organizations are seen as primarily male-serving organizations and some women didn't feel that their needs were being met or would be met and that certainly was recognized in the formation of the women's network. There's a real commitment on behalf of AIDS Vancouver and PWA to be very supportive of the Positive Women's Network; otherwise we wouldn't be in the building," said Gallager.

The Positive Women's Network and the Women and AIDS Project are both looking for volunteers.

Pornography appears on UBC computers

by Irls Michael

Students have, until recently, been able to access pornography through UBCNet, the UBC computer network.

UBCNet is, however, just a leaf on a tree in relation to the widespread growth of Internet (the international computer network).

It should be no surprise then, that on a system of this incredible magnitude, the world of education and science would sit next to the degrading and dehumanizing world of pornography.

In her book (Pornography and the Sex Crisis), Susan G. Cole writes, "Set up a system of communication and the pornographers soon show up."

This is exactly what has happened to the Internet computer network.

At UBC, the problem is only an offshoot of what is most definitely a social issue.

Nonetheless, several people have been disturbed, myself included, by the pornographic material that has appeared on Internet.

Apparently through UBCNet, one male UBC student gained access to a 22 page file named 'Jessica.txt.' The document had travelled an extensive path on the network and originated at a university in Pennsylvania.

The file was about a woman being kidnapped by three men. They bound and gagged her and repeatedly gang-raped her. They brought her to a 'luxurious' mansion in order to 'teach' her to be a

sex slave. She was drugged, urinated and ejaculated upon, and was forced to witness the beating, rape and degradation of other women.

This description of the article sounds tame in comparison to its actual content. This was the most hateful and cruel piece of 'writing' I had ever read. Women were depicted as non-humans whose only feelings were either fear or unlikely excitement, while being treated as receptacles for the sadistic pleasure of their captors.

Meanwhile, the men were also portrayed as non-humans whose only feelings were enjoyment of sadism. Men became creatures who had nothing better to do than spend their days raping, beating and continuously ejaculating on captive women. The descriptions of both sexes are stereotypes to the extreme: men as ultimately dominant and cruel, and women as completely helpless subordinates.

Recently, AMS president Martin Ertl expressed his concerns about pornography on UBCNet in a letter to UBC president David Strangway. In Ertl's letter to Strangway, he asks the university to "strictly control the distribution of, and access to, material of this nature on UBC's computer systems."

In his reply to Ertl and subsequent letters to all departments on campus, Strangway states, "I nor the University condone such vulgar and reprehensible 'news' items on computer network bulletin boards," and he calls the prob-

lem a "poisonous invasion of our institutions". In addition, Strangway states, "My office has instructed the University Computing Services (UCS) to delete such material from the UCS computer files."

He also requested that "all UBC units be very vigilant that university property is not being used to access, create or store such pornographic material on university computing equipment."

In addition, Strangway writes the "appropriate uses of information technology at UBC" will also be reviewed in the near future by a task force headed by Bernard Sheehan, associate vice-president of Information & Computing Systems.

As a result of Strangway's instructions, UCS has removed access to some of the offensive news groups. Carol Bird, associate director of Academic Services, UCS, confirmed that ALT.SEX and REC.ART.EROTICA—two of the alternative news directories—can no longer be accessed through UBCNet.

Director of the Women's Students Office, Marsha Trew said, "I think the University administration should be commended for what they have done" in response to the problem, when "other institutions have taken no action."

UBC has shut down access to the offensive news groups on the network, which is a positive step. It would be great if it were that simple for the rest of society to just turn pornography off.

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