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Collective examination

Frustrated by the lack of information available on breast cancer, women from different cultural backgrounds are coming together, to help educate other women.

by Faiza Mushtaq
The McGill Daily

MONTREAL (CUP)—Hema Dias Abeygunawardena was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1990, soon after immigrating to Canada from Sri Lanka. But a mixture of fear, anger and self-pity led her into denial, convincing herself that breast cancer was a white women's disease. She was determined not to tell anyone or to seek medical care; she was just going to wait "till [she fell] dead of the disease."

Her story illustrates the medical establishment's failure to recognise the experiences of women from different cultural backgrounds, especially when it comes to breast health.

It was only after Abeygunawardena spent some time in the library looking up medical information that a change in attitude came about. She became more willing to talk about her diagnosis and to seek treatment. The taboo status of breast cancer in her own community made it especially difficult, however. There had been no prior discussion of anyone else having gone through the same suffering.

It is vitally important to have visible reminders that breast cancer is something that can be dealt with and that can be survived, adds Abeygunawardena.

By speaking up and becoming involved with support and education groups, she has become a source of guidance for many South Asian women. She hopes opening up the channels of communication will lead to "more women taking the step to go out and get screenings and breast check-ups."

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The search for a cure has dominated the discourse surrounding breast cancer in the past. Now, however, activists are stressing the need for a more comprehensive approach to educate women.

In the past 30 years, the United States alone has funnelled over $30 billion into the search for a cure for cancer. But as Pat Kelly, a survivor and activist from Burlington Breast Cancer Support Services in Ontario points out, "we're no closer to finding a cure than we were 30 years ago."

Things, in fact, seem to be getting worse.

Incidences of breast cancer have increased from the 1.2 percent growth between 1940 and 1982 to approximately four per cent between 1982 and 1987. In March 1995, an Ontario government task force recognised the accumulation of persistent toxins in the environment is related to the cancer epidemic. The task force recommended the phase-out of organochlorines used in the manufacturing of pesticides, certain plastics and the bleaching of paper.

But, strangely, key players in the war on cancer—particularly the American Cancer Society—are notably lax in mentioning the environmental component of the cancer epidemic. Similarly, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation has been remarkably silent concerning the link between environmental toxins and breast cancer.

No environmentally oriented study has been funded by the organisation in over two years. Even the National Cancer Institute of Canada, which distributes funds raised by the Canadian Cancer Society, devoted only four percent of its 95/96 budget to research examining environmental impacts on cancer.

But activists are taking matters into their own hands, fighting the incompetence of the medical establishment with education.

Diane Carr, who suffers from breast cancer, was spurred into an activist role following an encounter with an ill-informed and uncaring medical establishment. Not only was it impossible to access any comprehensive medical data, but she also found her doctor unwilling to spare more than a few minutes to discuss her condition.

One of Carr's projects with the Canadian Breast Cancer Network, is to supply information packages to women who are first diagnosed with cancer.

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The Canadian Cancer Society maintains that it is attempting to fill the gap of knowledge concerning breast cancer, by working in conjunction with the medical establishment to improve the existing situation.

Last October, the society launched a nationwide Cancer Information Service which operates out of four cities. Trish King, director of the Regina Call Centre in Toronto, acknowledges most people are not aware of what is happening in terms of cancer research and treatment.

But she adds: "We know the word is getting out there through services such as this one."

They are also developing a Canadian Cancer Encyclopedia, a nationwide database on cancer incidence. The Information service is limited, however, in the advice it can give for individual cases, since doctors are the only ones who have access to each woman's case history and personal diagnostic details.

King concedes that it is up to the physicians and clinics to make a complementary effort.

"We can only give the women the information and the confidence so that they can go back knowing what questions to ask their doctors," she says.

These issues of accessibility are of particular concern to Iona Crawley of Timberlea, Nova Scotia. She was diagnosed with the disease 22 years ago and at the time she had no knowledge that any breast cancer support groups even existed. Now she is working to provide improved medical facilities and support groups for black women in her community.

"[Black women] usually suffer in silence," she says. A mammogram, adds Crowley, is "especially hard for the older women [in my community] who are not educated, and get intimidated by the doctors even before going."

Carr adds: "[Doctors] are telling the women out there that no pain is associated with breast cancer. Well, don't believe them at all, they are not the ones who have felt it."

Carr agrees that this sharing of experiences signifies a way to, as she puts it, "bit by bit haul back what it means to be yourself after having gone through the whole medical experience." ❖

the ubyssey

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* Availability may be limited for some residence areas and room types.

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Fencing AGM. March 28.
Osborne E. 6:00 PM

ONE & Mosaic present:
The 4th Annual Night of Culture, a multicultural fundraiser with net proceeds to the Central African Relief Appeal. Sun. March 9, 1997 at 7 pm in the SUB Ballroom. Tix $8 advance, $10 at door. Call 822-0407.

CREATIVE WRITING MASTERS' SERIES
Wednesdays, March 12 & 19
A discussion series in which alumni writing in varius genres or working in publishing return to UBC to share their experience. Each discussion will feature two established writers of a specific genre, and the talk will be moderated by a Creative Writing Program faculty member.
March 12: Poets, Zoe Landale and Jane Munro. Moderated by George McWhirter.
March 19: Novelists Dennis Bolen and Eden Robinson. Moderated by Keith Maillard.
Buch E474. 12:30-1:30pm.

NOROOZ, THE IRANIAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATION
Sunday, March 23
Sponsored by the UBC Persian Club. Cultural event takes place 6:30-8:30pm in SUB Ballroom. Social even takes place 9:30pm-1:00am at International House. For more info call Susan @221-0632.

news

Ancillary fee forums bring little debate

by Douglas Quan

Students have given their implicit support for approximately $350 increase in ancillary fees at UBC next year, said administrators.

In the past two weeks the administration has held four lunch-hour forums across campus, ostensibly to get student input on proposed ancillary fee increases. Only a handful of students, however, showed up for the meetings.

Administrators interpreted this is a sign that students support the proposals given that other issues have generated heavier turnout.

"If [students] really believe [they are] going to get something important, there is less concern," said Maria Klawe, vice-president academic.

One student who did show up, however, was not convinced the fee increases were necessary.

"It only benefits select students," said Yuri Artibise. He applied for a student loan but was rejected, and feels that he should not be forced to pay the fee increases.

"I know a lot of people who don't support the [athletics fee]," he said. "There should be user fees as opposed to tuition adjustments."

He added that the forums were ineffective because only those who stood to gain from them showed up. "It would have been better to have a referendum," he said.

Each meeting consisted of 40 minutes of presentations from administrators and students on why students should accept each of four fees, followed by 20 minutes of student feedback.

"My inclination is that it's just window-dressing," said Jeff Meyers, speaking as a student representative Board of Governors. He also feels that a binding referendum is the only option.

"When we're talking student expenditures —especially when there is a government freeze on tuition — it's totally unethical. Direct democracy is needed," he said.

But Klawe maintains that authority lies with the Board of Governors. "It is their responsibility," she said.

That position, said AMS President Ryan Davies, ties the hands of the AMS whose official policy is to hold a binding referendum on any ancillary fees increases.

"If it's not binding, it would be a wasted effort," said Davies, "so our hands are very much tied."

"And the university will continue to trumpet the fact that, 'well we went out for consultation and no one came,'" he added.

Klawe maintained that due process was followed, that students were made aware of the issue and given the opportunity to respond. She added that students were represented on committees that designed the proposals, and will be represented in committees to allocate the fees.

The proposals will go to the Board on March 20. ❖

This month the Board of Governors will be considering proposals for a new student technology fee, and increases to existing ancillary fees.

PROPOSALS:
1) NEW student technology fee
- $90 per year to go toward:
  - improvement of labs, replacement of computers
  - maintenance/upgrades
  - improved Internet access
2) INCREASE in athletics and recreation fee
- presently at $165 ($125 if $40 optional rebate is claimed)
- proposed increase of $9.22 for 97/98;
- eventual increase of $50 over five years
- fee goes towards recreation programs and facilities, as well as social activities like "Innovation '97" for non-athletes and athletes alike
3) INCREASE in Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund
- presently 3.5 percent of tuition
- proposed increase to 4.5 percent of tuition
- fee goes towards improvement of teaching and learning
4) INCREASE in student aid fund
- presently four percent of tuition
- proposed increase to 4.5 percent of tuition
- fee goes towards supplementing bursaries
5) DECREASE in Student Recreation Centre fee
- fee was implemented to cover construction costs of the SRC
- fee will be reduced by $20 this year
- fees is scheduled to be eliminated in 1998/99

Applications lowest in 9 yrs

TORONTO (CUP)—Applications to Ontario universities continue to drop sharply following a 20 percent increase in tuition fees this year.

The number of high school students who have applied to Ontario universities for next September has dropped by 2.5 per cent from last year.

But administrators disagree as to whether tuition increases are to blame for applications being at their lowest point in nine years.

"I'm not sure if tuition fees make a big deal. Students may not be deterred because of tuition. [But] they may be deterred by the panic created in the media about tuition fees," said David Marshall, president of Nipissing University.

But Robert Rosehart, president of Lakehead University, said it would be irresponsible to ignore tuition fee hikes as a key variable.

"I can't ignore the fact that the difference from last year to this year is a 20 percent increase in tuition fees," he said. "Twenty percent in one year is pretty traumatic."

The 20 percent fee increase for the 1996-97 school year marked the largest single-year increase ever in Ontario.

Source: The Varsity

McArthur may replace Meyers on BoG

by Sarah O'Donnell and Ian Gunn

Almost five weeks after students cast their ballots in the 1997 AMS elections, a recount has unofficially changed the results in one of the two student Board of Governors positions.

Late Thursday afternoon, the recount recommended by AMS Ombudsperson Michael Curry on February 5, found that Action Now BoG candidate Kera McArthur had received 1463 votes, two more than independent candidate Jeff Meyers. Meyers had originally been awarded the position by a margin of 10 votes.

The recounted results will not be official until accepted by the registrar's office and ratified by UBC's senate elections committee.

UP IN THE AIR McArthur and Meyers.

McArthur told *The Ubyssey* she was stunned by the results.

"I'm surprised and happy and I'm only disappointed that it took so long. I think a recount should have been done the next day when the results were so close, which would have avoided a lot of trouble for a lot of people," she said.

The delay in the recount has also become an issue for Jeff Meyers, who has been sitting on BoG since late January. "It's destructive to what I'm trying to do on the Board of Governors," he said late Thursday evening, "because I'm constantly being asked by the Board—and rightfully so—what's going on [with my seat]."

Meyers said he had lost all faith in the technological abilities of the AMS' mechanical ballot counter, which tabulated the results, because the recount tallies differed from the original count by more than 30 votes. "My feeling is that there must now be a manual recount," he said.

When asked about the possibility of a second, manual recount, McArthur also said she supported the idea.

Antonio Zuniga, who also ran for a BoG seat on the Action Now slate in January, acted as observer during the recount. "What I think made the difference is the fact that some ballots that were not counted before were counted this time," he explained.

In the original count, he said, ballots that had been spoiled for executive positions were excluded from all ballot counting.❖

Bringing the Conservative cuts home

Families struggling for survival in Ontario knew Harris' cuts would be tough, but the reality was even harsher than they had imagined

by Meg Murphy
The Varsity

TORONTO (CUP)—On her son's 13th birthday, Phyllis cried the entire day. There was no birthday cake, no presents and no cards.

"I will never forget the look on my son's face, nor will the pain of it ever go away," remembers Phyllis, who does not want to reveal her real name. "Ordinarily, we would have said, 'Okay, we can't afford it this week so we'll celebrate next week.' That is a phrase we have come to know well. But not this time."

Phyllis has left an abusive husband and is now raising two sons on $828 a month. She talks of her shame at not having enough money to cook them a decent meal and how she cringes when she must bring them to the local food bank for meals. Last winter, she was unable to afford winter boots for one of her boys and was forced to spend $30, which is worth three days of food for her family, in user fees for filling out medical forms at her children's school.

"It has been one year since the start of the 'cuts' by the Harris government. Back then, I expressed concern about just how difficult these cuts would make life for my children and me. Little did I know just how terrible it would really be. There have been many days of deep despair for us."

She has stopped going to counselling about the abuse she has survived because the service has been cut.

"Each of us are flowing deeper into despair and hopelessness. I used to tell my children, 'It will get better, you'll see, we're over the worst,' and they would look at me, nod and seem to agree.

"Now they just look at me. They don't disappoint me by saying 'No, it won't, Mom, but I see it in their eyes. But frankly, I know I don't say it with any conviction anymore, because I don't really think it will," she says.

Slashing the support network Ontario women depended on only makes an intolerable situation worse, says Eileen Morrow, lobby co-ordinator at the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses which recently issued a report, exploring the impact of the cuts on women.

"I think the [Progressive Conservative government] has really sealed the fate of a lot of women who needed the supports that were in place, as inadequate as they already were, to get out of a violent situation," says Morrow.

The Tories have trimmed the budget on emergency shelters by five percent and eliminated all provincial funding for programs in second-stage shelters for women and children recovering from domestic abuse, says the report.

In Ontario, there are about 200,000 sole-support parents, mostly women, on social assistance. The maximum a sole-support family can collect these days is $511 for rent, and $446 for food, clothing transportation and other basic necessities.

"If you can't feed your children and you can't find affordable housing and you are sitting in a shelter because you can't afford the legal fees to reclaim your possessions and you can't go home to a violent situation, you begin to feel pretty hopeless and helpless," adds Morrow.

Queen's Park's scripted excuses

"When critics provide proof of suffering of people in Ontario," reads a recent report, "government leaders provide only scripted replies: social programs have been overspending for years, we can continue to provide all the services Ontario needs by doing more for less."

The Ontario government declined repeated requests to comment on these criticisms, but provided a formal response by fax.

"The government currently spends approximately $100 million for programs and services including shelters, counselling support in sexual assault centres and sexual assault treatment centres for women who have been victims of violence.

"While government cutbacks are affecting everyone, we have maintained support for community safety, which includes violence against women prevention programs and services," reads the statement.

But Morrow says the cutbacks to shelters, combined with the poverty many of these women are experiencing from welfare rollbacks, have left them in dire straits, and she points to a provincial government that has abdicated its responsibility to these women and children.

"Shelters are just attempting to help women survive and the workers are feeling similar to the women who have come to them because they have less and less to offer and emotional support does not feed their children or pay the legal bills.

"The stories the government tells about how we can continue to provide these services without providing money, we know, from working in abused women's shelters, to be untrue," she says.

Morrow adds her organisation lost 100 percent of its provincial funding last October, because they are an advocacy group and the Tories have eliminated all funding for pro-active organisations, mobilising around issues pertaining to violence against women. The group lost one-third of their overall budget, says Morrow, and now she is the only full-time staff member left. In its member groups, there were a minimum of 33.5 full or part-time shelter counselling and advocacy positions eliminated in the first few months after the provincial cuts were implemented, states the report.

Hillary MacKenzie, office manager at Low-Income Families Together, says the cuts to social services are hurting all low-income people, and women and children are taking the brunt of it.

Leaving a painful legacy of abuse

Many women escaping from violent situations are faced with the decision to either live in poverty with their children or return to an abusive home, says the report. It reveals that government cuts to social assistance, its failure to enforce the Family Support Plan—which requires ex-spouses to pay child support—and their most recent decision to cut off anyone who attends university full-time from general assitance and family benefits, have left many women feeling like they have moved from one form of abuse to another.

> **"If you can't feed your children and you can't find affordable housing and you are sitting in a shelter because you can't afford the legal fees to reclaim your possessions and you can't go home to a violent situation, you begin to feel pretty hopeless and helpless**
> **EILEEN MORROW**
> **ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF INTERVAL AND TRANSITION HOUSES**

Cuts to social assistance were the primary factor leading women to stay in an abusive relationship for 66 percent of the respondents surveyed for the report. They were also the major reason why women who did leave a scene of domesic violence decided to return to an abusive partner, with 63 percent citing cuts as their deciding factor for going back.

Fifty percent of the shelters in the survey said their facilities were now being used more commonly as temporary escape than a new beginning for women and children, says the report.

"A lot of damage will have been done to women between now and the next election if we do not furiously resist these government cuts," says Morrow.

She adds that rationalising away this economic violence against women by pointing to places or times where conditions are worse than Ontario is a lame means of avoiding the issue.

"This is not a race to the bottom," she says. "This is a human rights issue. You cannot argue about who is closer to death." ❖

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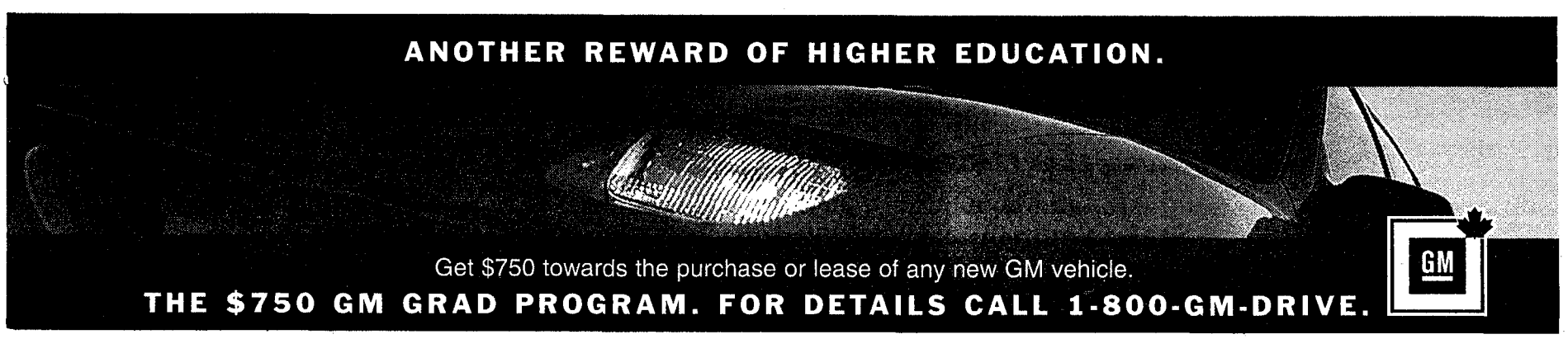
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Friday, March 14 at 12:30 in Buchanan A-104

Billy Bobbing for Oscars

by Peter T. Chattaway

SLING BLADE
opens today at the Varsity theatre

"Billy Bob who?" was the reaction of most people last month when the Oscar nominees were announced and Billy Bob Thornton's name came up — twice! — for the high-profile categories of acting and writing. But few outside the Academy had even heard of *Sling Blade*, which he also directed, let alone seen it.

That should change soon. Billy Bob Thornton originally created the character of Karl Childers for a seven-minute monologue he performed as part of a one-man show, and if there's one thing Thornton's good at, it's monologues. *Sling Blade* opens with not one, but two, slyly crafted specimens, the first by a talkative sex criminal (JT Walsh) and the other by Karl, both of them inmates in a prison for the criminally insane.

But between the two there's a good deal of padding, as prison officials prepare a rather one-sided interview with Karl for a pair of student journalists. Turn the light down, they say, and whatever you do, don't interrupt Karl as he tells the tale of murdering his mother and her lover in a crime of righteous passion at the age of 12. When Thornton finally takes the stage — his face the only thing visible in a sea of black and his lips pursed in a tight, permanent and slightly menacing grin — he all but screams, *"Look at me! I'm acting!"*

Still, as staged as it is, it's a fine opening. But once Karl is released from prison and forced to deal with people on the outside—forcing him to *interact* rather than merely *act*—Thornton almost loses his footing. As a writer, he is too consistent; as an actor, perhaps not consistent enough.

Consider the script. The seven-minute monologue is now a slightly overlong 141-minute movie—think *Spitfire Grill* by way of *Rain Man* with a mean streak à la *Of Mice and Men*—and it tends to make the same points again and again. Everyone seems to hate his father, and everyone talks about killing him. Thornton surrounds Karl with marginalised characters—a woman (Natalie Canerday) stuck with an abusive boyfriend (a vicious Dwight Yoakam, evidently trying to outdo Garth Brooks in his 'Thunder Rolls' mode), her preteen son (Lucas Black), and a soft-spoken homosexual (an unrecognisable John Ritter)—and then he actually gets one of them to spell out the obvious point that Karl is a lot like them. As good as Thornton's writing can be, sometimes he would do better to show, not tell.

For the most part, Karl watches, listens and occasionally speaks. And when he does open his mouth, he sometimes comes across as a bit too wise. But Thornton also comes up with inspired moments, as when Karl tries, after one particularly violent domestic spat, to relieve the tension with a joke he once heard. Karl fumbles the punchline perfectly, his game attempt to defuse everyone's pain making the moment all the more endearing.

In fact, caveats aside, Thornton's performance works as well as it does precisely because he embodies so many contradictions, not least of which is his innocent devotion to religion even as the spectre of his past crime threatens to make a comeback. In a day and age when everyone fears the Bible Belt and its vigilantes, Thornton succeeds in making us respect, if not quite approve of, righteous violence, and that's no mean feat. ❖

A not so revolutionary guide to Cuba

DAVID STANLEY — *CUBA: A TRAVEL SURVIVAL KIT* [LONELY PLANET]

Thirty eight years after the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista, the Cuban Revolution plays itself out on the streets of Toronto. Oxfam activists distribute posters encouraging Florida snowbirds to fly beyond Key Largo and settle on the beaches outside Havana. Meanwhile, Miami advertising boards paid for by Cuban expats show palm trees next to prisoners, with the simple message that tourism to Castro's Cuba upholds oppression.

Lonely Planet could not have chosen a better time to release *Cuba: A Travel Survival Kit.* The downing of two planes dropping anti-Castro leaflets, coupled with Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy's visit to Havana, has raised Cuba's place in the popular imagination. 45 percent more visitors were attracted to the island last year than in 1995. And while the Bahamas get inundated with fourteen tourists for every local, Cuba sees but one visitor for every Cuban. The island seems ready to explode, and not in the way that Washington would hope.

Lonely Planet has its origins in a stapled brochure entitled *Across Asia On The Cheap,* distributed to a handful of people around London in the mid-'70s. Today, the books occupy front-and-centre space in most travel stores, their vibrantly provocative covers appealing to those looking to stray from the beaten path. The preface to *Cuba* continues the theme: "By looking at things through local eyes, [Stanley] has long promoted responsible tourism and given readers a perspective different from the self-serving cliches of mainstream journalism."

The book contains numerous maps, wide-ranging hotel and entertainment information, and useful travel tips. Some customs are introduced, such as mixing a mojito, rolling a cigar and offering sacrifices to a santeria deity. Profiles of Jose Marti, Ernest Hemingway and Che Guevara are also offered.

Solid background information primes the reader on Cuban politics. While lamenting authoritarianism and human rights abuses, Stanley notes that "after the US intervention in Grenada in 1983, large quantities of arms were distributed to Cuban factories, farms, and schools in the event of a US invasion, reducing Cuba's reliance on the professional army... No other government in Latin America would have dared do such a thing."

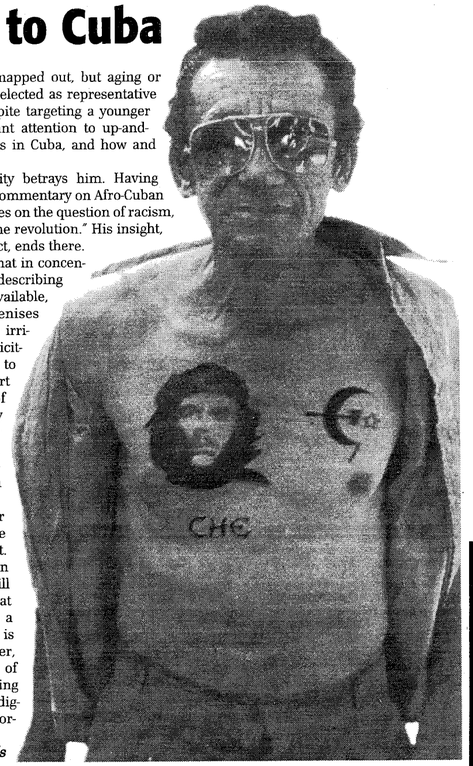
Beyond the opening few pages, however, the author reveals more about himself than Cuba. He begins by showing his age. Havana's hottest clubs are mapped out, but aging or long dead personalities are selected as representative of Cuban art and ideas. Despite targeting a younger audience, the book pays scant attention to up-and-coming artists or movements in Cuba, and how and where to find them.

Stanley's Canadian identity betrays him. Having devoted half a page to banal commentary on Afro-Cuban religious ritual, he only touches on the question of racism, saying it was "banned after the revolution." His insight, like Canada's multicultural act, ends there.

Worst of all, however, is that in concentrating almost exclusively on describing what's where and what's available, the book inevitably tokenises Cubans as sporting hosts or irritants to be avoided. While soliciting the feedback of travellers to Cuba, the book makes no effort to include the opinions of Cubans on their own country and customs. Like a war map, the guide seems like a topographical survey. Perhaps that's why it's called a survival kit.

Travel guides, by their very nature, do not afford the hosts a great deal of respect. Despite going further than their rivals, Lonely Planet still sticks to the established format of seer and seen. Viewed as a repository of facts, the book is worth buying, breezing over, and burying in the bottom of your pack. But if you're looking for insight, inspiration, or indignation, you'd be best off exploring elsewhere.

—Jamie Woods



There's nothing to be afraid of in *Virginia Woolf*

by Martin Gordon Schobel

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF
at the Playhouse until March 8

Have you ever been in a relationship? If you have, then this is the play for you. *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* has it all: fear, sex, false illusions, pent up aggression, shattered dreams and human compassion.

Edward Albee tells a story about two married couples at a small New England college. George (Tom McBeath) is a history professor and his wife Martha (Nora McLellan) is the president's daughter. The two have just returned home from a faculty party when Martha announces she invited one of the new professors and his wife over for drinks. Nick (Christopher Hunt) is a biologist and Honey (Jillian Fargey) his pink-framed, plain wife. When they arrive, George and Martha quickly involve them in their fierce games and power struggles.

In the course of the evening, it is revealed that Martha married George in hopes that he might take her father's place as president. When her father realised that George lacked the needed ambition, he became doomed to remain a "bog" in the history department. Viciously, George and Martha expose each other's fears and weaknesses in front of the unsuspecting younger couple, building to George's final and stunning revelation.

McBeath plays George like a professional typist, with speed and precision, slowing only when the typewriter is in danger of exploding. His biting dialogue and disinterested drone fuel the disintegration between him and his wife. McBeath also uses comic voice and posture to create a dynamic, living, human character.

Martha strikes me as a caricature. From her self-righteous belittling of George to her reckless behaviour, she undercuts her own humanity. McLellan uses this to her advantage. Despite the hatred for life she shows on the surface, she does appear to truly need George. George's acceptance of the wretched creature she is helps her to accept herself. In treading the line between oblivion and weakness, McLellan makes the caricature live.

Hunt makes Nick, the strapping boxing champ, a bashful but assured man looking for career advancement. This works as long as the stakes are low, but as soon as the tension mounts, you wonder what keeps him there. His wife, who repeatedly falls into the older couple's trap, is a pawn used by the others. Fargey plays Honey with youthful ignorance and false self-importance.

Honey is the only character to become visibly drunk, while the others continue on their way seemingly unaffected. This, coupled with the characters' convoluted search for truth, pulls the audience out of the realm of realism, though Pam Johnson's detailed set design helps pull the audience back into a stable reality.

As George says in the third act, "Truth and illusion. Who knows the difference, eh?" *Virginia Woolf* touches on this fundamental struggle — this relationship — that exists in theatre *and* in society. ❖

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UBC Humanists' Society
Humanism & Civil Rights
By Kay Stockholder
(President, BC Civil Liberties Association)
12:30 PM, Mar.11, Buchanan D205
No one likes a whiner and no one wants to be one

Open Forum on Information Technology
Morven Wilson, Executive Director of University Computing and Information Services at Dalhousie University and an applicant for the position of UBC Associate Vice President, Information Technology will outline his vision for information technology at UBC and respond to questions from the floor.
The Forum will be held Friday, March 7th in Geography 212 from 3:30-4:30.

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ubyssey

MARCH 7, 1997 • volume 78 issue 38

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Joe Clark scampered past Federico Barahona on all fours. "Yipes!" yiped Sarah Galashan. "Who let *him* out of the pound?" Doug Quan waved his hand and yelled, "I did, I think!" That wasn't good enough for Ian Gunn, who went looking for the mutt in the dark, gothic Jamie Woods. As Martin Gordon Schobel expressed his fear of the virgin Wolf Depner even as it lay with the Richard Lam. Sarah O'Donnell found a bed for them in Alberta, but Christine Price kept her cats closer to home. Scott Hayward dressed in leather and shook his Wah Kee Ting, while Peter T. Chattaway counted his Todd Silver. Richelle Rae, fast asleep by the cloning machine, counted her sheep instead. Mauran Kim tried to warn John Zaozirny about the dreaded hounds of hell, but it was too late. Afshin Mehin watched the ground open up and swallow them all. Gulp.

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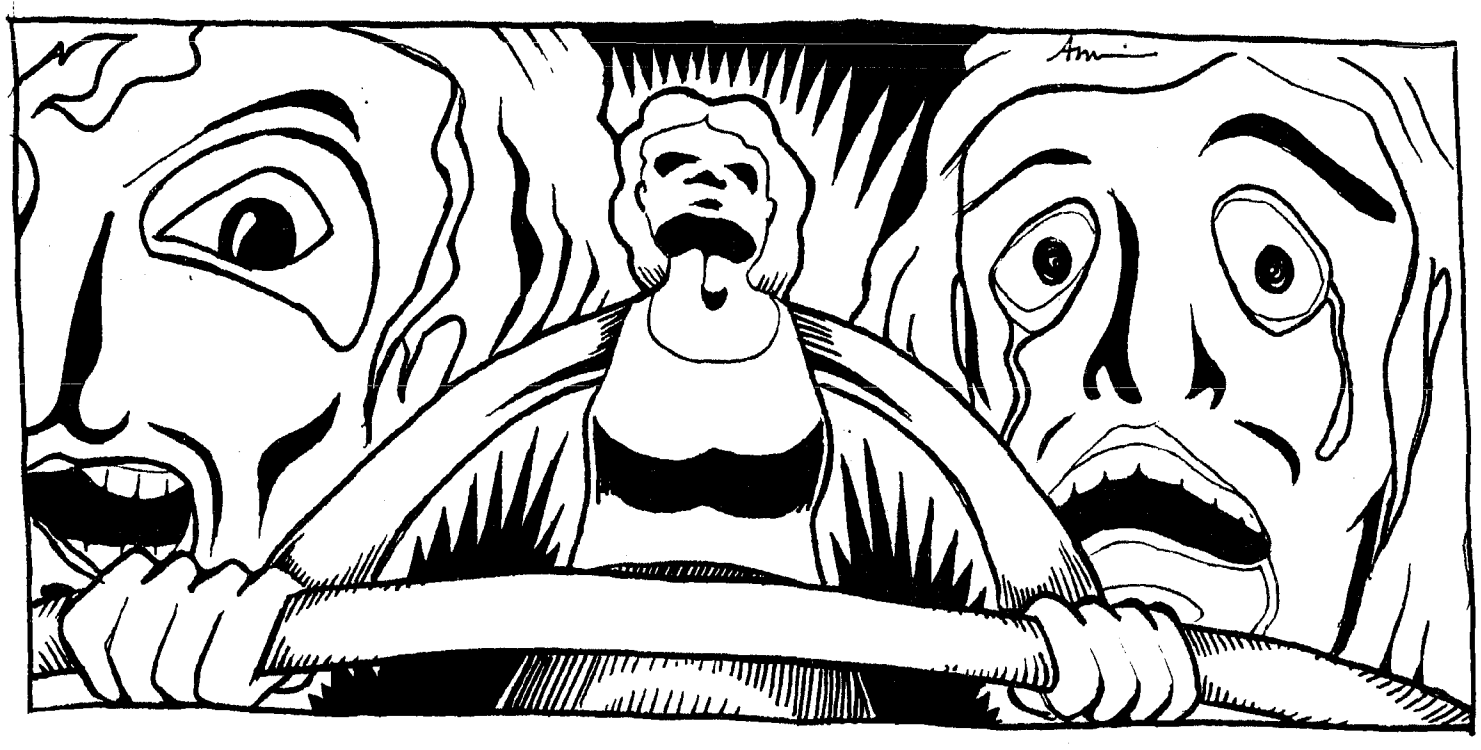


International women's week

What initially started in 1908 as a march of women in New York City, demanding the right to vote, the right to form unions and to put an end to child labour, has come to be known as International Women's Day.

That is, one day out of 365, dedicated to the struggle of being a woman. What does *that* struggle entail? What happens to the rest of the year? Is one day enough? And do enough women know what that one day signifies?

For instance how many women are aware of the pioneering role Emily Stowe took as the first woman to practise medicine in Canada.

Even more important, how many of our future women doctors, lawyers and politicians realise the sacrifice and struggle of Mary Wollstonecraft, Nellie McClung or Susan B. Anthony.

How far does our memory stretch? Pop culture is more readily available and our female heroes should be plentiful. Gloria Stienem, founder of *Ms. magazine*, Simone de Beauvoir, author of *the Second Sex*...and how about Anu DiFranco?

It's not as easy as it should be for women to find a modern day female mentor. This is not for lack of available information. Certainly, the facts are far more attainable today than in the past. However, many text books used in the education system are 20 or 30 years old and at the time they were published representation was not a priority. The problem is that we are not taught enough at an early age about the role women played in our history.

Unfortunatly some women feel as though they are pushed too hard to identify with feminism and end up resenting the idea that because they are women they must feel passionate about "women's issues". As a result some young women fall into a comfortable niche, and sometimes forget, or choose to ignore the stereotypes and discrimination of which they are too often the recipients.

Heck, we got the vote now, don't we?

Then again, what issue is not a women's issue? Women make up more than half the world's population and so if something affects humanity it is a concern for women.

But, there is always room for more within the movement. We can come out, march with a group of women and carry a sign, but that isn't enough. Women need to educate themselves everyday and take a more active role in ensuring equal representation, something our ansisters fought so hard for.

Let March 8 be more than just a long walk, look at it as a time to take stock of how you fit into the movement. ❖

letters

Koerner library rains supreme

I would like to like to lodge a complaint about the new Walter C. Koerner library. If you are sitting on the clock tower side in the study carrels by the window, it is a very distracting place to study, nearly impossible...when it's raining.

When I go to study, a window seat is always better; it's natural to look out the window—just for some minor distraction from the mildly tedious strain of homework. But when it's raining, the minor distraction becomes a major captivation.

Hundreds, thousands of raindrops, rolling down the huge plate of glass; each one going a different speed, each taking a unique line of travel—some like shooting stars when they catch the light of my fluorescent study lamp, others creep. But it's what makes them GO! A raindrop strikes the window, forming tiny lines made up of micro-raindrops; one micro-drop touches another and another, bearing it to the natural force. It begins to move, slowly falling down the window picking up more and more micro-drops—then faster—picking up more drops—more speed—ACCELERATION!! Then WHAM!—the drop is hit by another drop from above. Together they shoot like a star—but too fast for their gathering strength again. The harder it rains the more chaotic the drama, faster and faster; countless raindrops all account for the numberless incidents on this lively, vibrant window in the rain.

Oh. The rain is letting-up—the raindrops disappearing. The window is all but lifeless now...the odd dropp...still. I look through the window at the tower's clock: 8:00pm. God, where has the time gone? It's getting late.

So, like I was saying, do something about those damn raindrops—get some curtains or something—it's too distracting and I can't get my homework done.

Bryan L. Parachoniak
English 4

Due process is long overdue

Thanks a lot for your excellent editorial "Due you hear the people sing?" - indeed this was long overdue.

Democracy doesn't happen just in ballots once every four years, it's more in how we treat each other in our institutions, how we come to decisions as a group, how we cooperatre. In this respect, the behaviour of the UBC administration has been too often quite shocking and disgraceful.

I'm grateful you pointed this out loud and clear.

Andreas Siebert
Computer Science

Aural hygiene

I recently purchased in-ear headphones for my Wlakman. They were of poor quality, and upon returning them was told I could not get a refund unless I climbed into the filthy dumpster besdie the store to retrieve the discarded bubblepack. The manager:"wanted the option of repackaging them" for resale.

The reason I pay a premium price for brand-new earphones is to ensure a clean and unused product. This is not negotiable. If I was willing to settle for less, I could have saved $15 dollars by purchasing them used. If aural hygiene is important to you, demand the assurance of a factory-sealed product.

Frank Schlapansky Jr.

Hey you—Piss off...

...somebody by writing your opinion in a letter to the editor. Bring your letter, up to 300 words in length, to The Ubyssey office in SUB 241K any time.

op/ed

Misrepresentation on panel in CBC forum

In a democractic society where there is a right to freedom of speech and freedom of association, different interest groups are made known and visible.

As public discussions on issues and ideas become more prevalent in our society, we are making an effort towards a more tolerant, if not democractic, society that respects each other's differences on the grounds of fundamental human rights.

Since the media is the most capable medium to present these issues, it has the added responsibility of presenting fair and equal coverage of all perspectives. Unfortunately, however, this is not always the case.

On March 3, the CBC held a panel discussion on issues affecting gay and lesbian youth in secondary school. I am puzzled by how the CBC handled the panel discussion with six people.

One of the six people was a 17-year-old openly gay Grade 11 student. That student was the only openly gay person on the panel. If the discussion was on gay and lesbian youth in schools, there should have been more representatives from the gay and lesbian community to speak on issues that are pertinent to the community.

It is baffling how the CBC conducted the panel, as it is one of the more progressive outlets of the mainstream media and is perceived as fair. What was even more puzzling was that the panel also included a 19-year-old who claimed to be a UBC Poli Sci student. Is the CBC trying to get a political point of view? Do they know whether that person has a personal or religious agenda?

If the CBC is trying to get a political point of view, they should have invited someone who was better qualified. There are politicians, lawyers and political activists in the community. Were they invited?

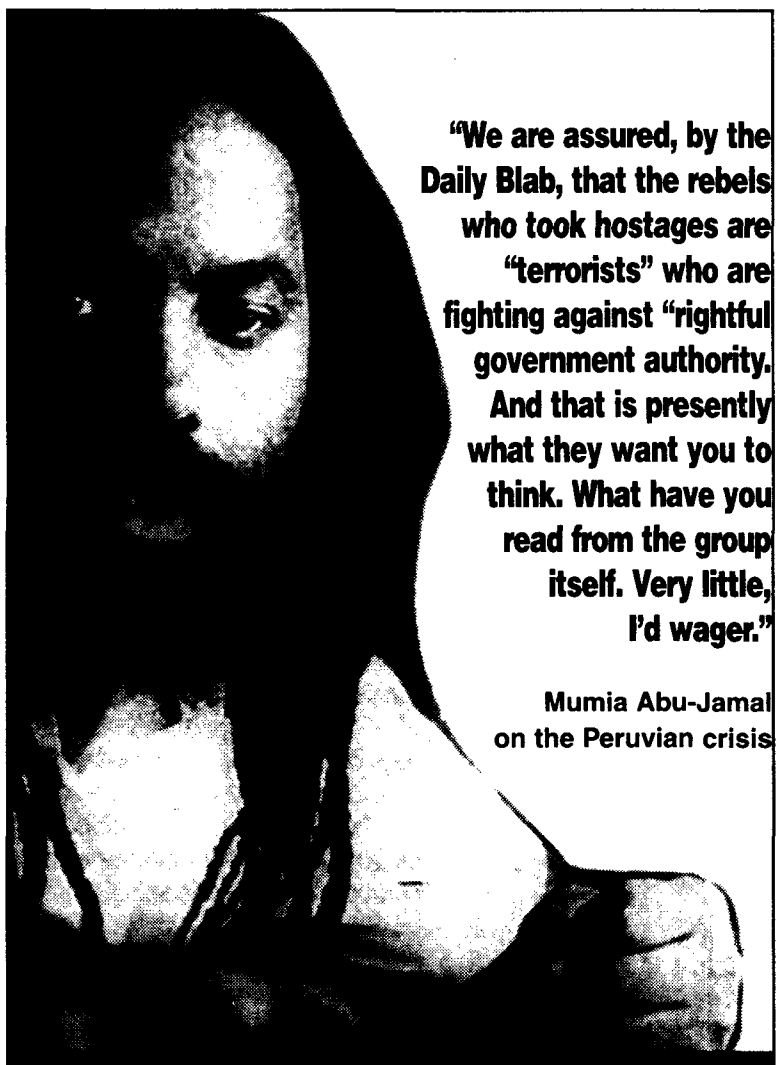
freestyle

A panel discussion that consists of those aforementioned panelists is not representative enough to have a good discussion. So what happened? The audience at the panel was outraged and vented its frustration during the question period.

If there had been a more representative panel, maybe things would have been different. Pissing people off at a public discussion is not the way to build lines of communication and respect.

The media, in this case the CBC, should be more fair and equitable in their selection of panelists. If they can't do that, how can they hope to fairly represent Canadian society.

—Wah Kee Ting
Arts 3



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sports

V-Birds two games from title

by Wolf Depner

EDMONTON—Nobody expected that the women's volleyball team would lose its opening match at this year's national championship tournament. Don't worry, they didn't.

But the second-ranked Birds did not play to full potential as they defeated the McGill University Martlets 3-0 (15-3, 15-7, and 15-13) Thursday afternoon. The Birds looked unstoppable in the first match, but as the game went on they looked less and less like a contender.

Head coach Doug Reimer acknowledged his team underachieved, but put a positive spin on the result.

"That's pretty typical of the first round," he said. "That's why you can't afford to sit back. They've got some players who can play and for a certain portion we didn't play."

"[In the third set] I think we just waited for them to make mistakes instead of taking it to them when they were down," added middle blocker Tanya Pickerell who had a game high six blocks in addition to eight kills.

The Birds blitzed McGill within the first five minutes to take a 7-0 lead and needed only fifteen minutes to win the first match. That momentum carried into the second match, but the Martlets got into the game as the Birds started to make more mistakes. These mistakes carried over into the third match which was at one point tied 13-13.

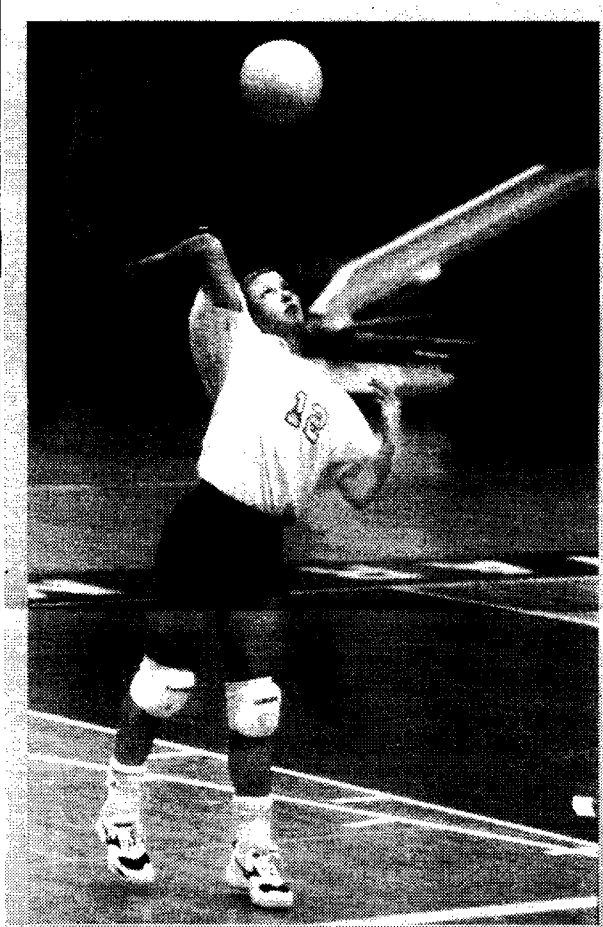
The Birds need to be much sharper when they take on third-ranked Laval Rouge & Or on Saturday afternoon.

The defending Quebec champs thumped York in three straight games (15-2, 15-4, 16-6) and looked very good doing it.

"If you did a poll right now on who is the best team in the country most coaches would pick Laval," said Reimer. "They are a very physical team and a very experienced team. They have come close in the past so I think they're on a mission."

Laval has won silver in the past two years, but has yet to bring home a national championship. Saturday's game has added meaning for both schools as these two teams also met in last year's semi-final. Laval emerged with a hard-earned 3-1 victory. The Birds are still smarting from that loss which cost them a trip to the final for the first time since 1978.

Pickerell added Saturday's game will not be about revenge. "It's just about beating a team that's very good, very competitive, and that is just something we have been looking forward to all year," she said. ❖



JEANNETTE GUICHON serves her community and sets an example in the classroom. SCOTT HAYWARD PHOTO

Setter wins TSN award

by Wolf Depner

She didn't expect it, but volleyball T-Bird Jeannette Guichon received an early birthday present this Wednesday.

The fifth-year setter won the The Sports Network (TSN) Award for her outstanding achievements in athletics, academics, and community work.

"I'm very happy to have received the award," said Guichon who will celebrate her 23rd birthday in early April.

Not expecting to win, Guichon was overwhelmed and had to wing a speech in which she mentioned pretty much everybody except her parents. When asked what she would do with the $3000, she replied, "I'll just save it for a rainy day."

Her former high school coach Caroll Pollock, who played for UBC from 1979 to 1982, was estatic when she heard Guichon had won.

"We are proud of her and of what she has done for her school," she told *The Ubyssey*.

A graduate of Little Flower Acadamy, Guichon has helped out with the volleyball program at the Vancouver all-girls school for the past five years.

"She would come back and do setting sessions with the kids," said Pollock. "She has also run a couple of day camps to help with the junior kids."

Guichon has also been involved in the fight against Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and is a mentor for first and second year students. The Family and Nutritional science major also sits on her faculty council.

Her achievements are as impressive on the court as off it.

While the 5'6" Delta native does not occupy the spotlight game in and game out, she has been instrumental in leading UBC to second place in the national rankings.

"She doesn't pull in as many stats as some of the other players," said Birds' coach Doug Reimer. "As a setter you get overlooked a little bit that way. Everybody knows you are good, but your job is to make other people look good. So I think it's great that somebody like Jeannette won this pretty prestigious award."

Guichon appreciates the award very much, but hopes that it is not the only thing that she will take back from the national championships in Edmonton.

You can bet that would be the icing on the cake. ❖

AMS Elections

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Candidate write-ups in this week's Underground

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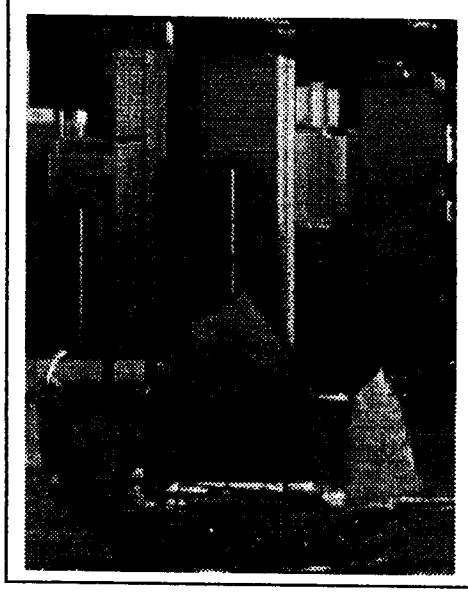

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