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Temps hit hard by bookstore's cost-recovery plan

by Douglas Quan

If you thought morale in the UBC Bookstore was bad now, it will only get worse, a two-year employee of the campus outlet is warning.

Stephen McIlvenna says plans by management at the bookstore to drastically reduce the number of casual employees like himself will put a tremendous burden on an already overworked staff.

"It's a sinking ship, that's the general feeling," he said.

The Ubyssey has learned that the UBC Bookstore's two dozen casual workers will either lose their positions or see significant reductions in their hours in an effort by store management to save $700,000 in expenses this year.

According to the bookstore financial director Debbi-Jo Matias, the staff reductions, while unfortunate, were the "financially prudent" way to go in order to help offset an unforseen slump in sales this year.

"The market's tough, so we're going to keep ourselves lean," she said.

Matias added that she considered cutting hourly staff only after having examined all the ways she could cut from operating expenses.

While the number of job losses is unknown, Matias said all the store's hourly employees will be affected.

"Someone who works 20 hours a week, we're going to try and get away with them working four," she said.

A cost-recovery plan was ordered by UBC vice president finance Terry Sumner at a meeting with bookstore director Debbie Harvie earlier this month.

Sumner told *the Ubyssey*, "Unless we take corrective action as soon as possible, we could be in a situation where we'd have a loss for the year."

The bookstore's '98/'99 budget projects $33 million in sales, an $8 million profit on those sales, and $500,000 in net income.

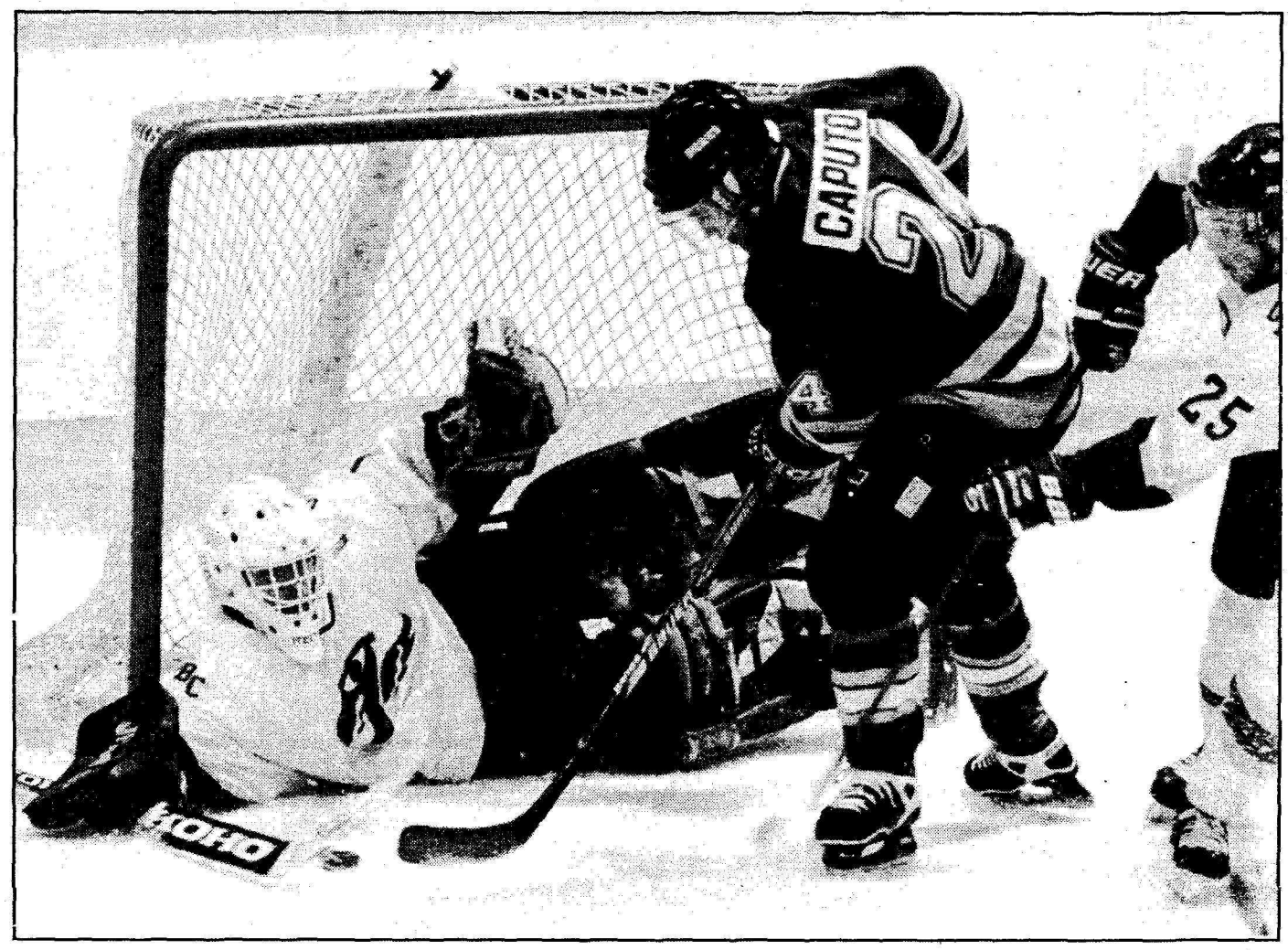
As it turns out, the bookstore is slated to make $30 million in sales and a $7 million profit from those sales. But rather than try to recover the entire $1 million shortfall in profit on sales, Sumner told the bookstore it only had to come up with $700,000 and thereby make $200,000 in net income.

For McIlvenna, the number crunching is more than overwhelming, and he worries that the focus on reducing costs could take attention away from improving customer service.

"That's all [management] cares about now—sales figures. Period."

McIlvenna may not be the only employee questioning the direction of bookstore management. The results of an employee survey commissioned by the bookstore recently shows that less than half of all employees have confidence in the current leadership of the bookstore.

The MarkTrend study suggests, "this lack of confidence could be connected to business vision and direction, as only 41 per cent of employees feel the bookstore's current business vision/direction is clear."❖



SIKKEMA'S SPRAWLING SAVE: UBC goaltender Jon Sikkema goes diving across the crease to rob a Lethbridge Pronghorn in the Birds' home opener this weekend. UBC lost 5-4 on Friday, but recovered to post their first win of the year by a 4-0 score. Sikkema posted a shutout as UBC upped their season record to 1-3. However, the weekend took its toll on the already injury-riddled Thunderbirds, as centre Geoff Lynch was lost to a serious ankle injury Friday. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

see "UBC offensive in home opener" on page 6

Closure near in 1995 Poli Sci fiasco

by Douglas Quan

UBC is one step closer to closing the books on the 1995 political science fiasco that crippled that department's image and divided the university campus.

The Ubyssey has learned that the BC Human Rights Commission has dismissed all complaints of discrimination against the political science department by former graduate student Lorraine Rigo.

The commission has also recommended dismissing the complaints of another former graduate, Carol Rice. But rather than respond to the recommendations, Rice withdrew her case.

That move, according to UBC lawyer Dennis Pavlich, inhibits the university from getting a degree of finality on the matter.

"We want to make sure that that withdrawal is a with-prejudice withdrawal," Pavlich said. "We would not want this issue to be brought again before the commission."

Rigo did not return *the Ubyssey*'s calls and Rice refused to comment.

At the same time that Rigo and Rice brought their charges of discrimination against the political science department to the commission in 1994, their complaints were the subject of a larger investigation by Vancouver lawyer, Joan McEwen.

The university commissioned McEwen to conduct an investigation after 12 graduate students complained to the dean of graduate studies of "pervasive racism and sexism" in the political science department.

In her report, released in 1995, McEwen concluded that there *was* a basis for the students' allegations, and also deemed the university's response to those allegations inadequate.

Following McEwen's recommendations, the university immediately suspended admissions into the political science graduate program.

(It was reopened by the graduate studies dean later that fall).

Both McEwen's report and the university's response caused a furore within the faculty of arts. Many professors felt the report lacked balance and worried that academic freedom was being stifled.

McEwen refused to comment on the recent decisions of the BC Human Rights Commission.

But political science professor Donald Blake, who headed the department at the time of the investigation, said he was relieved to hear of the dismissals.

"[The commission decisions] indicate that there was no reason for people to feel they would be discriminated against in this department on the basis of their race or gender. And that continues to be the case."

Blake also challenged the university to revisit its response to the McEwen report.

"The university is going to have to respond publicly once the information is out there that the complaints were dismissed," Blake said.

Pavlich said it was premature to say if the university would review the actions it undertook in 1995, but said it was something they may consider.❖

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THE XHIBIT. If you found last week's SUB Concourse art display intriguing or thought-provoking, and would be interested in discussing any of the themes further, please join us for dinner ($4) and conversation. Wednesday 5:30 - 7:30. Oct. 28th, in SUB 211. UBC Navigators.

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MARXIST-LENINIST STUDY GROUP meets Wednesdays 12:30, Buchanan B220. Next meeting: "Necessity for Change - A manifesto for today". Also, Britannia Community Centre, Fridays, 7:30pm. "History Begins from the Present".

Health

CANCER IN MEN. Speaker Len Gross, November 12, 12:30 - 1:30, Buch A203.

BREAST SELF EXAMINATION CLINIC. Thursday, October 29th, 12:30 - 2:30. Izzy Mac Lounge - Gage Residence.

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AMS UPDATE
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This person will influence campus development over the next six years. The previous VP Students, Maria Klawe, assisted with the development of the first ever Imagine UBC. As well she advocated for the right of students to make their own choice in establishing new student fees through the Student Technology Fee referendum (1997), and the Athletics and Intramurals referendum (1998).

What are the issues that the incoming VP Students will face? What are the qualities UBC should be looking for in a candidate? What qualities would you like to see in the next VP Students? What are the major student issues the University needs to address?

Don't you think it's important to have an individual who reports to the administration in support of students?

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Monday, November 2
12:30-1:30
SUB Conversation Pit

what's on at ubc

APEC INQUIRY
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Fundraising Committee Meetings
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call 822-3972 for more information

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Representatives from Student Government, Clubs, Volunteer Services and Intramural Sports & Recreation talk to you about getting involved at UBC.
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RAFFI
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SUB Conversation Pit
Wednesday, October 28
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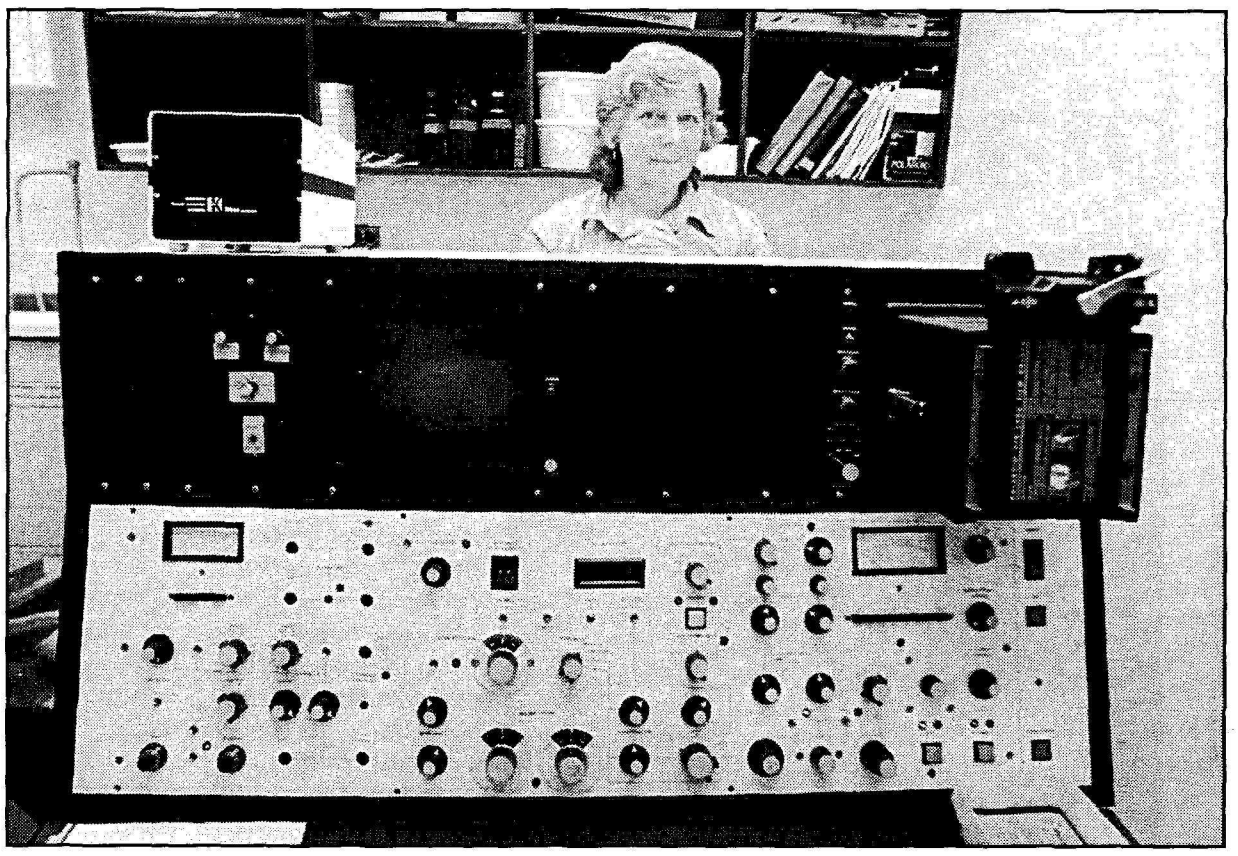
Presented by the AMS & the Student Environment Centre

Researchers clamour for new funds



STEAMED: Elaine Humphrey loses out on bid to get funding for new equipment. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

by Nicholas Bradley

Two weeks after UBC received a $50 million donation for research funding from UBC alumni Stewart Blusson, the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) has approved funding for one high-priced UBC research proposal and put 10 more under consideration for funding.

"At the end of the day we're all feeling pretty pleased with ourselves," said Richard Spratley, UBC's director of research services.

Not everyone at UBC shares Spratley's enthusiasm, however. Just ask Elaine Humphrey, UBC's director of the EM (Electron Microscope) facility. "I'm really steamed about this," she said of CFI's decision to reject her proposal for funding.

Her proposal for a state-of-the-art scanning electron microscope (SEM), at a cost of $500,000, was one of five UBC proposals in the over $350,000 category that the CFI rejected outright for funding.

Humphrey doesn't understand why. "The new [SEM] would have put us at the top of the heap. At the moment we're bottom of the pile...We would have been leaders in Western Canada," Humphrey said.

The CFI, announced in the 1997/98 federal budget, is an $800 million, privately-administered fund to create an infrastructure forest research in Canada. It will pay 40 per cent of the costs of approved projects, leaving universities to look to government, private sources, and industry donations to pay the balance.

In the CFI's under-$350,000 category, 10 UBC proposals were accepted, primarily to purchase single pieces of equipment in medicine, forestry, engineering and science.

Spratley said competition for funding is intense.

"Things that are trendy are coming from every university in the country. They've had 18 proposals in applied genomics.

"What they're going to try and do is look at this on a national basis, and then allocate funds accordingly."

Spratley explained that funding is "based on more than just need."

Not referring to Humphrey's project specifically, Spratley added that the CFI's purpose is "not renovation, but innovation."

The one UBC proposal in the over-$350,000 category that did receive CFI funding was that headed by Forest Sciences professor Kermit Ritland to build a Genetic Data Centre at UBC.

The centre will collect and analyse molecular genetic information in forestry and agriculture. CFI's contribution to the centre will be $382,000.

One high-profile project still in the running for funding is a proposal to build a Centre for Integrated Genomics, headed by Victor Ling, professor in the pathology and laboratory medicine department and Douglas Kilburn, of the UBC biotechnology lab.

An initiative funded by the BC Cancer Foundation, Ling said that the Centre will address issues of "how we can use genome science to impact on cancer research and ultimately cancer control."

Ling and Kilburn have requested $32 million in CFI funding.

Other UBC proposals still under consideration include proposals for a Laboratory of Molecular Biophysics, a Brain Research Centre, and a Clean Burning Engine Lab.

However, whether any of the proposals still under review get approved will remain unknown until at least January, when the next round of decisions will be made. "It's really very unclear—nothing like this has ever been done before," said Spratley of the CFI process.

Humphrey remains adamant that her research is worthy of funding. She said her proposal also has obvious medical uses, from attempting to replace a missing gene in the lungs of cystic fibrosis patients, to studying viruses. Genetic science, said Humphrey, needs the resolution and image quality offered by SEMs.

"We have had at least two top-notch people refuse to come to UBC because we don't have good imaging...because we're at the bottom of the pile as far as the microscopes go."

Humphrey said she is finding some support within the university. Acting Dean of Science David Measday has pledged $100,000 in matching funds, and she said she will now look to VP Research Bernie Bressler for additional funds.❖

Black to run anti-treaty campaign

by Cynthia Lee

Controversial newspaper publisher David Black will run anti-Nisga'a Treaty ads across the province in his 55 community newspapers to counter supportive ads sponsored by the provincial government.

Black, recently criticised for insisting his papers not print editorials supporting the treaty, made the announcement during a debate on freedom of the press sponsored by UBC's Sing Tao School of Journalism Thursday night.

"They're lying to us," said Black of the government ads. According to the pro-Treaty ads, the Nisga'a would be self-sustaining and pay its complete share of taxes.

But the ads are misleading, says Black, because the Nisga'a nation is in fact receiving subsidies outlined by the Treaty. He says that the Nisga'a government will not pay stumpage fees or royalties to the crown on mineral extraction, that the band will also be exempt from income taxes for the next 12 years, and face no GST, fuel or sales tax on anything purchased by the band for the next eight years.

For these reasons, Black will start his own ad campaign.

The announcement comes in midst of a complaint against Black from the BC government to the provincial Press Council against Black.

In late September, the publisher attracted attention when he made it mandatory his papers not run any pro-Nisga'a Treaty editorials and made it mandatory they all run an anti-Nisga'a column.

"We're seen as pretty darn responsible publishers," said Black in defence of his decision to run an anti-Nisga'a Treaty column by Mel Smith, a constitutional affairs columnist. "Here I am trying to bring out other points of view and [the BC government] is spending $5 million on advertising."

Throughout the debate, Black expressed how "passionate" he felt about the Nisga'a deal, saying it was the first time in his 23-year proprietorship he had ever laid down the editorial line.

Black pointed out his decision does not apply to letters to the editor and opinion pieces. "The buck stops at the editorial."

But an emotional Steven Tate, an audience member of the Tshiaimp First Nations from Prince Rupert, made several statements disagreeing with David Black's arguments. "You've got a big paper...but what about our voice?"

Black replied: "Your opinion is great, but it's not that of an average Canadian Native."

His opponent in the debate, Robert Mason Lee, a print journalist and broadcast personality, said there is a substantial difference between letters to the editor and a published editorial since a letter only reflect one individual's point of view. "There's a big a difference as the gulf separating the facts from truth.

"I believe in a multiplicity of views. When a proprietor comes in every 23 years...they're not taking an editorial position, they're taking a vendetta." ❖

MAI deal stalled in Paris

by Jeremy Nelson
Prairies Bureau Chief

VICTORIA (CUP)—Four years of high-level discussions in Paris on the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) ended last week with the host country's withdrawal from negotiations.

The pact—which would have established international rules on investment between its 29 member countries—has been on life support since May 1998, when lingering disputes between the countries and mounting public opposition forced a suspension of the talks.

Negotiators finally pulled the plug last week when France refused to return to the table, citing deep-seeded concerns about the lack of labour, cultural and environmental protection in the MAI.

"Negotiators have no idea what is going to happen [next]," said Council of Canadians chair Maude Barlow, who traveled to Paris to help lead international protests against the MAI. "Everything is up in the air."

Critics say the pact would have threatened the sovereignty of individual states by placing too much power in the hands of multinational corporations.

After the collapse of the MAI talks, Canada's Minister of Trade Sergio Marchi indicated he wanted to move the MAI from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development to the World Trade Organisation.

"I think the WTO is the master of its own house," said Marchi, alluding to the fact that the WTO has a better track record when it comes to successfully negotiating agreements.

American negotiators took a different view.

"I don't think we would envision moving this negotiation effectively into the WTO," US trade spokesperson Jay Ziegler told the *Globe and Mail*. "These negotiations have been floundering for a long time, and I think it's fair to say no one knows how to bring it to closure."

Leaders of the anti-MAI movement, however, are not celebrating victory.

"What we have to remember is that the MAI is going to be active in other venues like APEC, and the International Monetary Fund," said Tony Clarke, co-author of the book *MAI and the threat to Canadian Sovereignty*.

"The proponents of the MAI—the big transnationals—are probably going to go underground for a while and there'll be a period when we don't hear anything about it and then suddenly it will surface again."

Concern about the MAI originally arose in 1997 when a confidential copy of the draft text was leaked over the Internet.

If it had been signed, the MAI would have given expanded powers to large businesses, including the right to directly sue any government that passed a law limiting their ability to make profits.

The MAI also would have prevented governments from passing any new labour, environmental or cultural protection for a 20-year period.❖

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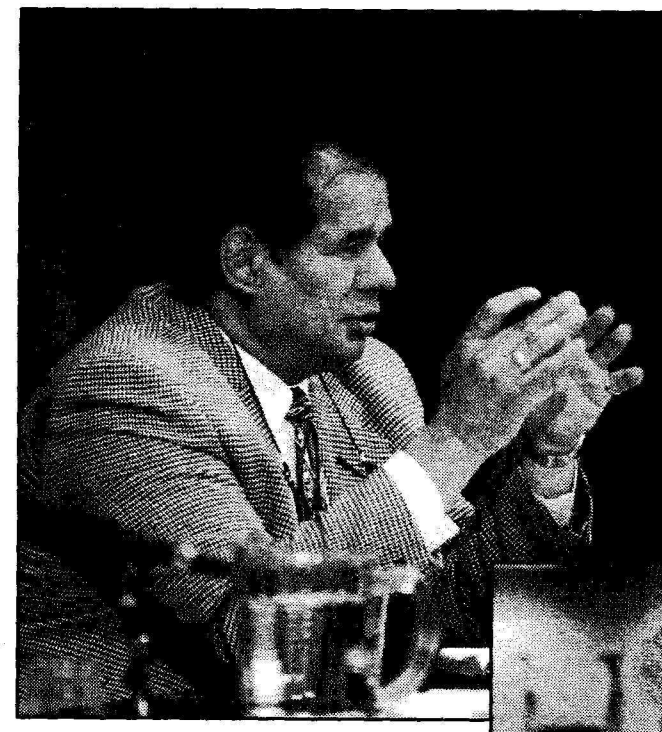
APEC Fallout:

More claims of bias halt inquiry



COUNTERATTACK: APEC inquiry chair Gerald Morin (left) refuted allegations last week that he prejudged the outcome of the hearings. An RCMP officer claims he overheard Morin at a Saskatchewan casino last spring tell fellow gamblers he thought RCMP over-reacted during the APEC conference. Students' lawyer Cameron Ward (below) said the timing of the allegations—brought forward by government lawyer Ivan Whitehall—was suspicious.
RICHARD LAM PHOTO

by Douglas Quan

"Can someone explain to me what's going on?" asked David Malmo-Levine last Friday morning as he stumbled into the room of the APEC inquiry shortly after 8:30.

As the student complainant—one of only a handful to testify so far in this inquiry into the actions of RCMP officers—jostled his way through scores of media scrums, he found the seats usually occupied by three RCMP Public Complaints Commission panel members empty. It became apparent something wasn't right.

Indeed, something was wrong at the close of the three week-old hearings last Friday. As has happened many times before, the inquiry was sidetracked by allegations of bias.

However, this time allegations did not target the government, but the chair of the inquiry, Gerald Morin.

RCMP Constable Russell Black, of Morin's hometown Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, claims that while he was off-duty last spring, he overheard Morin tell fellow gamblers in a casino he thought police mishandled protesters at APEC by using pepper spray on them, and that Morin said he knew what his decision was going to be at the end of the hearings.

Black's RCMP statements—which some observers say could derail the inquiry for good—were delivered to commission counsel Chris Considine last Thursday morning by government lawyer Ivan Whitehall. After conferring for two hours, the panel decided to cancel that day's session, but wouldn't say why it had done so.

Then at the start of Friday's hearings, Morin announced he was adjourning the hearings for three weeks to allow the Federal Court to investigate the allegations.

Reading from a prepared statement in firm and measured tones, Morin also denied "unequivocally" any wrongdoing.

"I have not prejudged. I will not prejudge these matters. I will judge only after all the evidence is in," Morin said.

"I am confident I can continue to chair this hearing."

"I have not prejudged. I will not prejudge these matters. I will judge only after all the evidence is in,"

Gerald Morin
Chair of RCMP Public Complaints Commission

After the adjournment, RCMP lawyer George MacIntosh said he would ask that the Federal Court quash the hearings.

But the complainants and their lawyers charged that the federal government and the RCMP were involved in a whitewash, and questioned the timing of the allegations.

"I'm concerned Whitehall has approached the panel privately...clearly with the intention of pulling the plug on the hearings," said Cameron Ward, lawyer for over a dozen student complainants.

"I suspect the government is feeling the heat, feeling nervous about how close we're getting to the truth."

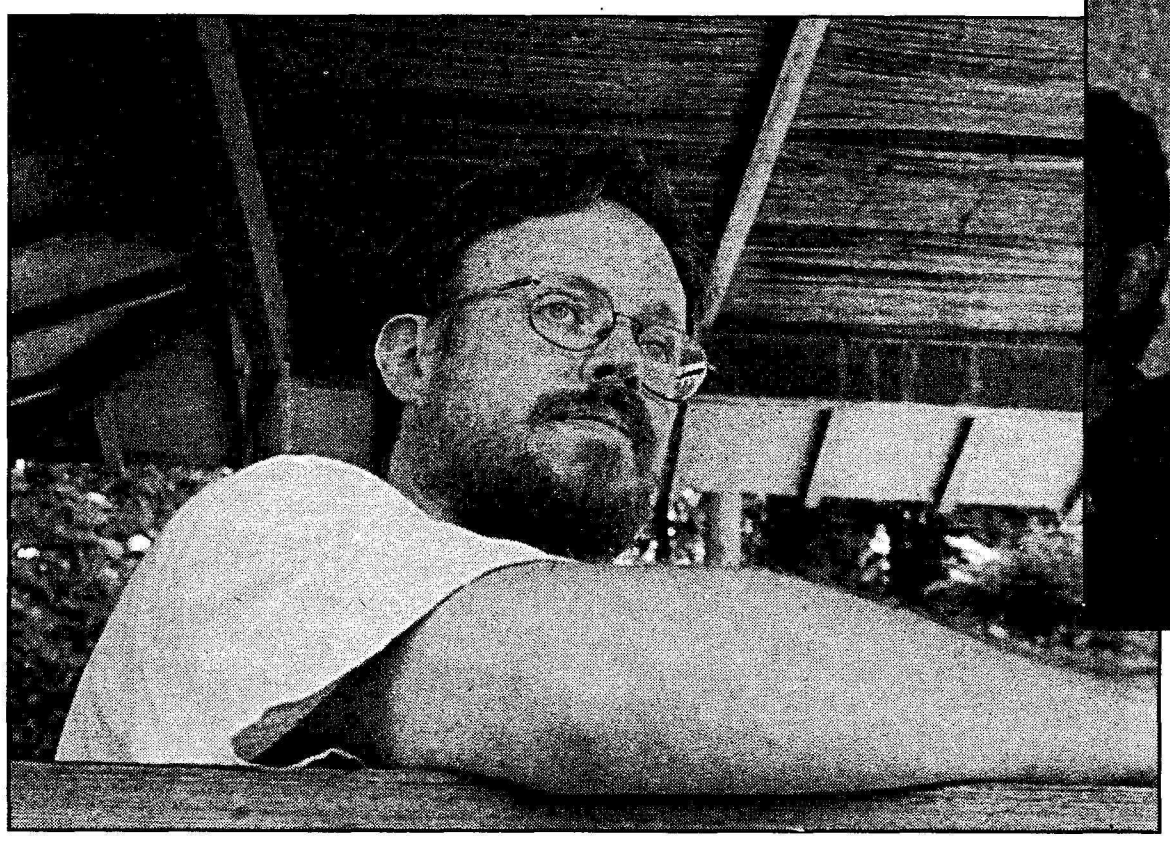
Reform MP and critic of the solicitor general Jim Abbott called the timing of the allegations "suspicious" and reiterated his call for a new, independent inquiry.

In his official statement, Constable Black says his memory of Morin's comments was sparked by the firestorm of opposition attacks against the government following allegations two weeks ago that Solicitor General Andy Scott prejudged the outcome of the hearings .

The inquiry is set to resume on November 16.❖

essays suck
write features

Former sessional suing UBC



FORMER UBC sessional Gary Arbuckle (left) says the contract he signed with UBC was never valid. He has retained Vancouver lawyer Ayman Nader (right) to launch a lawsuit against the university. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

by Daliah Merzaban

The treatment of UBC's sessional lecturers and the validity of their contracts will be questioned in a lawsuit to be filed this term by former sessional lecturer Gary Arbuckle.

Arbuckle, a sessional lecturer in UBC's Asian Studies department from 1990 to 1997, was blacklisted from the faculty of arts last year after Dean Shirley Neuman alleged that Arbuckle had breached UBC's conflict of interest policy. Arbuckle denies the charges.

It was while reviewing his legal options with Vancouver lawyer Ayman Nader that attention shifted to the contract Arbuckle had signed with the university.

According to Nader, the sessional contracts are invalid for a number of reasons. One component of the suit will focus on the inactive role sessionals play in negotiating their eight-month contracts.

"The contract actually isn't signed by both parties—the sessionals and the university—it's just signed by the university," said Nader.

"It's almost always sent to the sessionals after they've started working. That's not a lawful contract."

But Mary Russell, president of UBC's faculty association, said that it's not just sessionals, but all faculty who have unsigned contracts. She said that the UBC Board of Governors (BOG) appointment notice is considered to be the legally binding document that lays out the terms of the appointment. "That's the way it's been historically."

Russell added that there is a delay in the sending out of the notice because BOG meetings are only once a month.

In addition to the BOG notice, there is a sessional agreement between the faculty association and administration outlining the conditions of appointment and reappointment, and a statement of duties provided by the individual departments.

Nader will argue that since the contracts are invalid, it can be assumed tha sessionals are continuously employed, and must therefore be compensated fo the summer term of no work.

"They're not paid for a term in which they're not teaching and that where I say the university owes them either a lay-off notice or pay in lie of notice," Nader said. He added that this payment would probably be on or two months' wages.

In addition to the contract matter, Nader will also raise several other employment issue including the three or four courses sessionals must teach, depending on their faculty, in order t be deemed full-time employees.

"In order to save money the university won't simply have one contract for the three [o four] courses for a full-time sessional," said Nader. "What they will do is provide that ses sional with three contracts, making the sessional appear as if he/she is working as a part time sessional as opposed to full-time."

Nader said these are "abusive employment tactics" because part-time sessionals, wh teach only one course, are not covered by the faculty association agreement, which pro vides job security and benefits.

Russell did not deny that this type of contracting does take place, but said that the number o contracts does not have bearing on whether a sessional is considered full or part-time.

"It's just the [course] load that counts—it's not the number of contracts," Russell said.

The lawsuit will also address work done by sessionals outside the terms of their agreement.

Nader says sessionals sometimes work after the end of their contract in order to addres students' concerns regarding the course.

With the new sessional agreement, ratified by full-time sessionals two weeks ago, ses sionals will receive an additional $200 for marking an exam after the contract expires. Bu Russell said this has not always been the case, and she emphasised that new provisions stil only apply to sessionals teaching two or more courses.

She agrees the old agreement was problematic.

"I think in crafting the new agreement there was some implicit recognition that the old agree ment wasn't working. That's fair to say."❖

Study states that students pay too much

by Alex Bustos
Ottawa Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP)—University graduates in British Columbia are paying the full cost of their education, a new study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives argues.

In a paper released last week, University of British Columbia Economics professor Robert Allen says post-secondary education in BC is not—contrary to popular belief—heavily subsidised.

In fact, Allen's findings suggest some BC graduates pay up to two-and-half times the cost of their undergraduate degree.

According to the study, the first of its kind in Canada, students pay for their diplomas in two ways: tuition fees and taxes from post-university employment.

Using UBC figures, Allen concluded that tuition fees for a four-year bachelor program at the University cost on average $11,480.

Taking data from the 1991 census, the professor then points out that university graduates earn substantially more than those without post-secondary education.

He concludes that BC graduates pay $50,000 more in net taxes than non-university graduates over their working lifetime.

This tax figure—which includes income tax, Canadian Pension Plan contributions and employment insurance payments—balloons to $120,000 for males with an engineering degree.

If tuition fees and taxes are added, females pay on average $61,066 and men $74,376.

In contrast, providing four years of undergraduate study to females costs the government $28,469, while the cost incurred by males is $30,099.

"If what I'm saying is true, then students are already paying their education in full, and to increase fees would be overcharging them and limiting access."

Robert Allen
British Columbia
Economics Professor

From the numbers, it is clear that education pays for itself in the long run.

"If what I'm saying is true, then students are already paying their education in full, and to increase fees would be overcharging them and limiting access," says Allen, whose study lends favour to calls for zero tuition.

"My hunch is that this overall conclusion... also applies to the other provinces."

But Mark Milke, Alberta director of the fiscally conservative lobby group the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, says Allen overlooks the fact that low tuition levels subsidise the rich at the expense of the poor.

At present, tuition fees in Canada cover roughly one-third of education costs.

"It's an interesting [study], except that it's still absurd to think that a son and daughter of a millionaire should be given the same tuition break as someone who earns $20,000," says Milke.

"It makes far more sense to charge students the full cost of education, but provide generous assistance for those who can't pay."

But according to Maura Parte, BC chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students, Allen's study provides ample reasons to eliminate tuition fees.

The problem with Milke's argument of Harrison and Milke, argues Parte, is that he presumes "only the individual benefits from education."

"What's important about Mr. Allen's study," says Parte, "is that it suggests society as a whole benefits."

In addition, Parte says there's no guarantee an income-contingent tuition system will give benefits to those in need.❖

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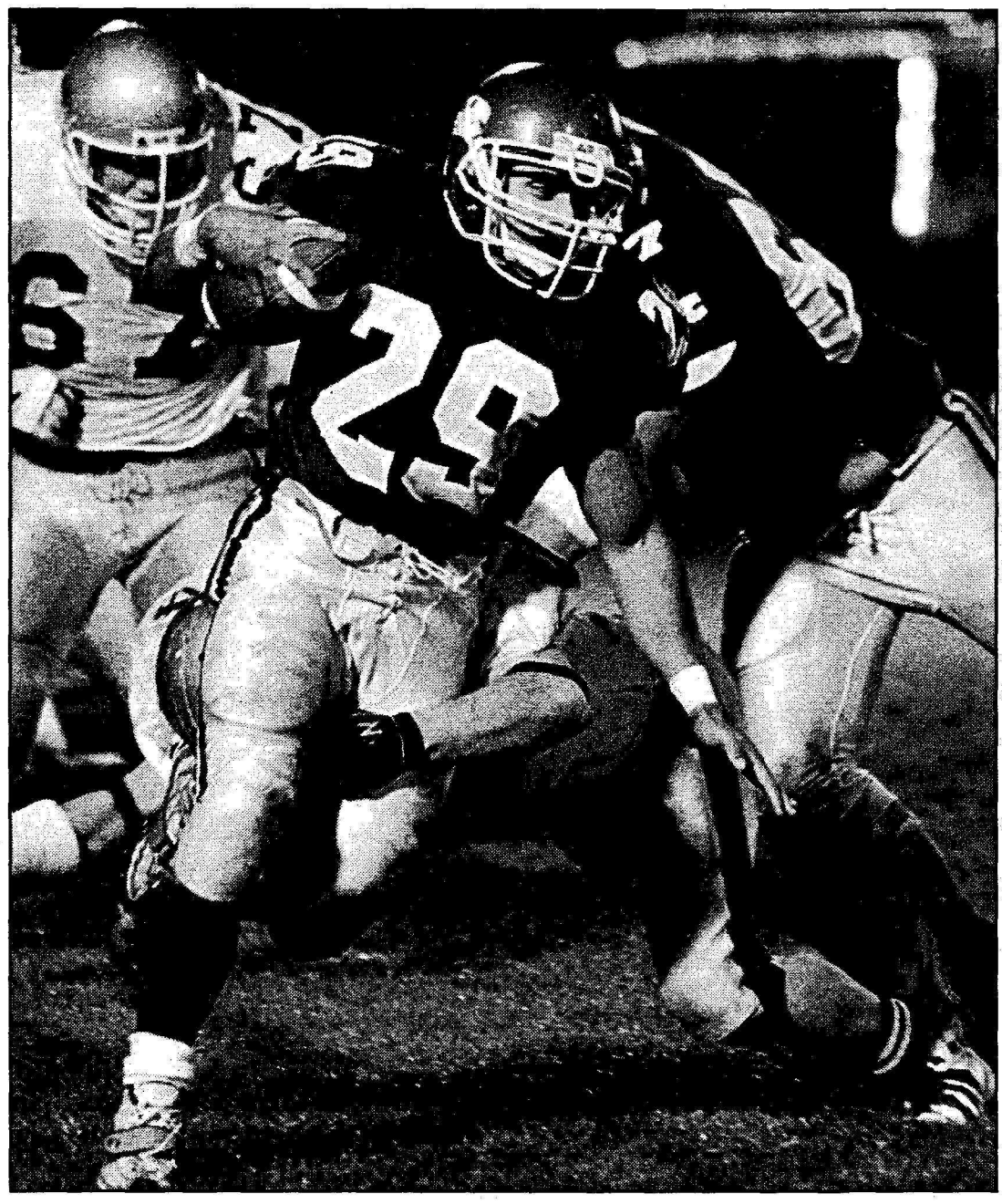

THE KING GUTS IT OUT UBC tailback Akbal Singh ran over, around, and through the Manitoba Bisons en route to 272 yards and three touchdowns on Friday. Singh set new UBC and Canada West records for single-season rushing yardage with 1,296 yards. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

Singh sets record

by Bruce Arthur

Akbal Singh is the thing.

The UBC tailback ran for an astounding 272 yards and three touchdowns to break both the UBC and Canada West records for single-season rushing yards Friday night, as the 5-2 Thunderbirds trounced the 0-6 University of Manitoba Bisons 53-14. The win sets up a do-or-die final regular season showdown next week against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

"We're going to be in for a battle," said an exhausted Singh after the game. "No doubt about it, we're going to be ready to play."

Singh's season totals now stand at 1,296 yards. He broke the existing Canada West conference record of 1,260 set in 1994 by Manitoba's Dominic Zagari, as well as smashing predecessor Mark Nohra's UBC record of 1,216 yards set last year.

"The only record that I'm worried about is winning," said Singh, who gave his offensive lineman plenty of credit. "You could pretty much drive a Mac truck through those holes."

"Akbal's the kind of guy that's going to let everybody know about his o-line, and I can't say enough about the guy," said right tackle David Pol. "Obviously, he's a great player."

The game was decided early, as it took the Birds all of 14 seconds to score. On the opening kickoff, wideout J. C. Williams handed the ball to defensive back Matt Young on a reverse, and Young went 95 yards for a touchdown to open the scoring. The Birds scored three more first-quarter touchdowns en route to an early 28-0 lead.

"Wasn't that nice? We needed one of those, too," said interim head coach Dave Johnson, who said that UBC needed to rebound after last week's 47-13 loss to the Calgary Dinosaurs.

Singh and his offensive line were dominant—Pol, Aaron Barker, Chris Paterson, Stu Masi, and first-year backup Damon Stoetling (playing for a banged-up Bob McNeill) dominated the line of scrimmage, while Singh went shooting through the massive holes. But UBC's offensive line still feel they can do more.

"The only record that I'm worried about is winning."
AKBAL SINGH, UBC RUNNING BACK

"We feel that we're playing well, but we could do so much better," said Barker. "But we really wanted [Akbal] to get that [record] tonight."

The game turns UBC's season into a one-game series. With Saskatchewan beating Calgary, UBC must now defeat the Huskies November 6 at Thunderbird Stadium to make the playoffs. UBC is 0-9-1 against Saskatchewan in their last ten meetings, and lost a 38-34 heartbreaker in a Saskatoon rainstorm earlier this year. So to get into the playoffs, UBC has to exorcise some demons before a long-awaited game.

"Now, it's the big one. We got this game done, bring on Sask. I'm not going to look ahead, but we'll have them two weeks in a row if all goes well," said Pol.

And UBC's emotions will be running high.

"Some anger, but mostly frustration," said Paterson of the team's feelings. "You know, we're so close two years in a row—a last-second field goal last year, and a last-second touchdown this year, and it's right there. It's right there. We'll be ready for Saskatchewan."❖

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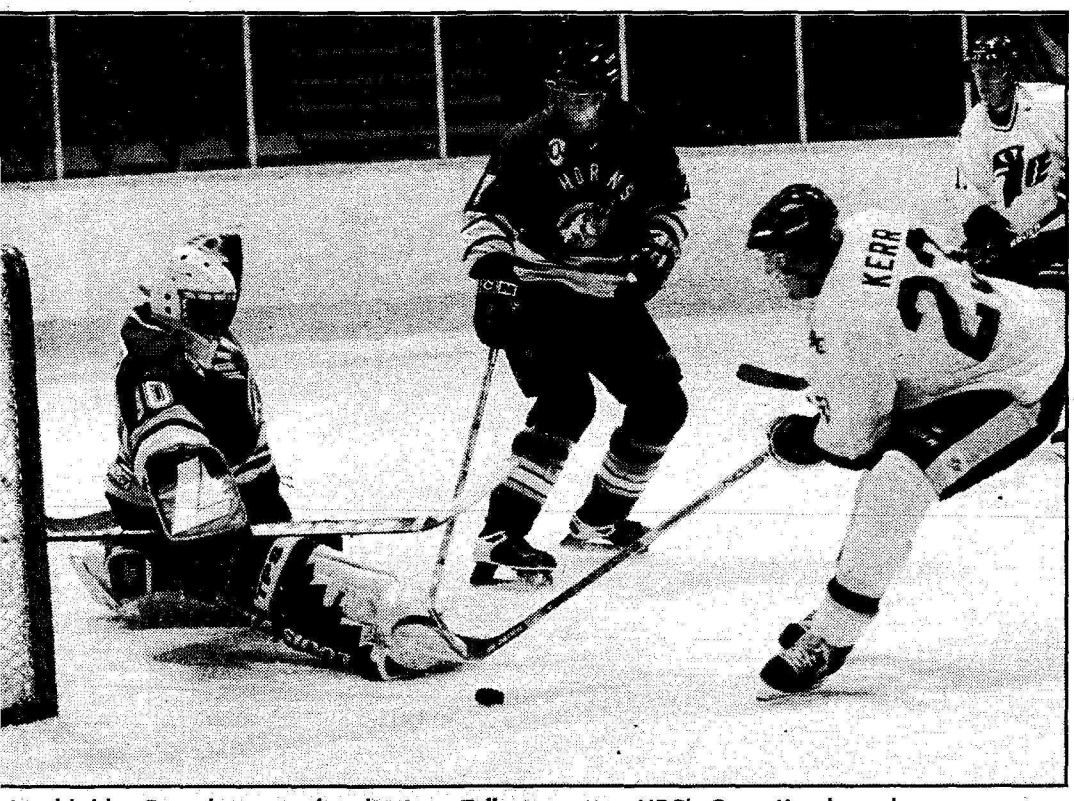


D! Lethbridge Pronghorns goaltender Scott Tollestrup stops UBC's Grant Kerr by a skate on ay, but the Birds took the game 4-0 anyway. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

BC offensive in ome opener split

by Sara Newham

e UBC's offence isn't the em.

he Thunderbirds are having e putting the puck in the net, it nly didn't show Friday and lay night against the rsity of Lethbridge horns. UBC, now 1-3, man- total of eight goals in the 5-4 -0 split this weekend at the lerbird Winter Sports Centre.It the second period of Friday loss that UBC ran into penal- uble that cost them the 3-1 Lethbridge opened up the g with a goal in the first e of the game, but UBC came vith a vengeance to score three swered goals. The 'Horns to within one early in the sec- nd then got the tying marker ower play.

/e had a little lapse, and mis- turned into goals on us. That happen," said UBC forward Williams.

the third, the Birds came out strong and tried to rally, but were unable to overcome the deficit by the final buzzer.

"We're a team that's going to have to work hard every night. We can't get outworked by the other team," said fourth-year forward Corey Stock. "It's always a one goal game coming in to the third period. We've just got to find a way to win in the third period"

UBC lost more than the hockey game on Friday night. During the second period Geoff Lynch, in his first game back from a groin injury, collided with the Horns' Derek Robinson along the side boards. Lynch laid on the ice, gripping his ankle for a few moments before being helped off by teammates.

"Geoff Lynch looks to have a serious ankle problem. That could be a long-term problem," confirmed head coach Mike Coflin.

The Thunderbirds had a much better outing on Saturday night, as they came out strong and controlled much of the play. And unlike Friday night, it was the Birds who got the first goal—Sandy Hayer put the puck past Lethbridge goalie Scott Tollestrup at 6:56 of the first period.

UBC goalie Jon Sikkema earned his first shutout of the season. Sikkema was especially good when the Birds were killing penalties, often picking the puck out of the air with his glove to make the save. The defense helped him out by grinding along the boards, making hits, and clearing the puck down the ice whenever they got possession.

The Thunderbirds offense was also potent for a second straight game, as first-year forward Nils Antons led the team with two goals. Coflin, though, singled out the team's defence, and said he was pleased with the team's effort.

"They deserved the win," he said, and Williams agreed.

"I think overall the effort was there. That's basically the one thing the team can control is their effort level, and I think we had that here."❖

Bird Droppings

MEN'S RUGBY

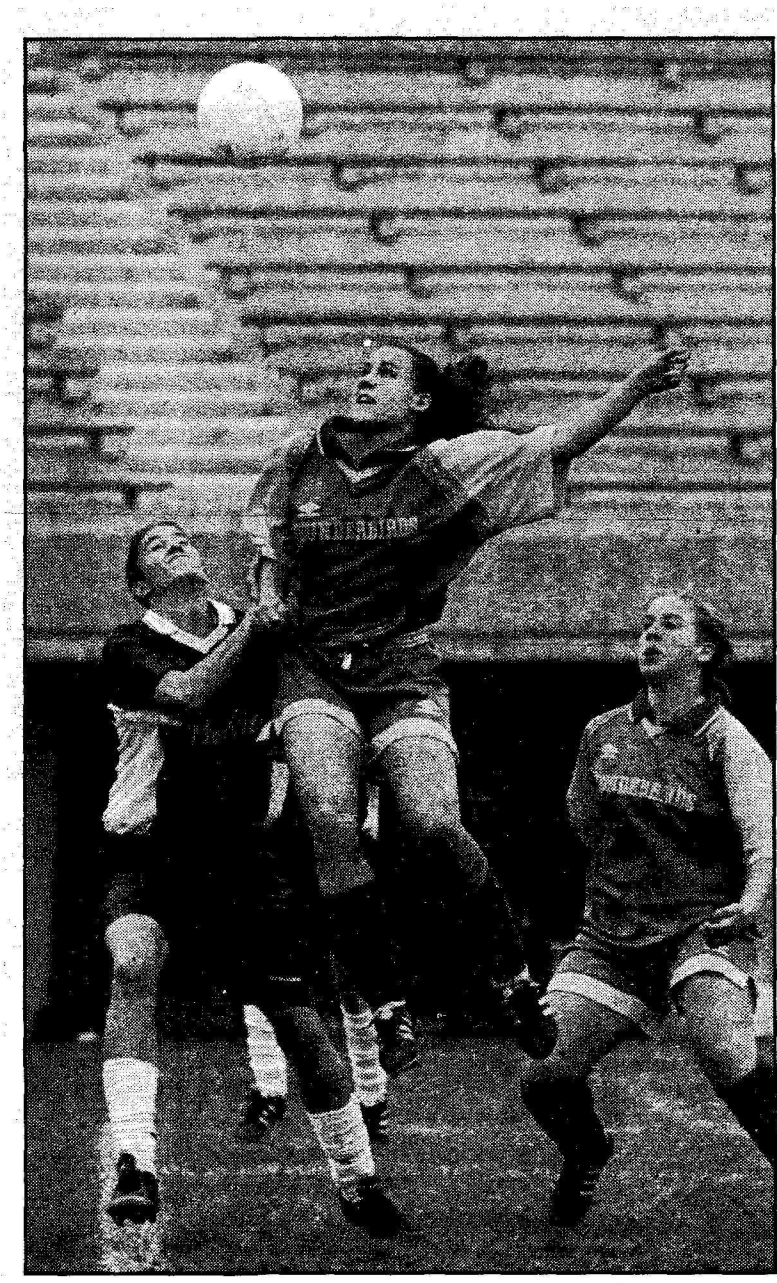
: UBC women's rugby team won the first ever a West final in thrilling fashion over the heav- oured University of Victoria Vikings 22-17 ay. The Birds were led by Cher McKay, who all four tries on runs of 50 yards or longer. ill now travel to Hamilton for the inaugural hampionships in Hamilton November 12-15 Master.

N'S SOCCER

en's soccer team remained in third place at 4- the Canada West after this weekend's games. The T-Birds opened Saturday with a 4-1 romp over the Saskatchewan Huskies in which Cam Prentice scored two goals, while Nick Hopewell and Steve McCauley tallied one each. The men then dropped a close 2-1 decision to the conference-leading Alberta Golden Bears on Sunday. UBC's Aaron Keay scored his fourth goal of the year for the Birds. UBC hits the road to end the regular season next weekend against Lethbridge and Calgary.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

The UBC men pummelled Regina to open their 1998-99 season this weekend. The T-Birds didn't drop a set, as they won 3-0 on both Friday (15-2, 15-13, 15-3) and Saturday (15-9, 15-8, 15-11). The Birds travel to Alberta next weekend. Mike Dalziel and Victoria transfer Jeff Orchard were stellar, combining for 59 total kills.❖



HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE: UBC tried to soar above the competition this weekend, but instead wound up falling to earth, as their undefeated season was broken. The Birds came away with a tie and a narrow loss in their final home weekend series. RICHARD LAM PHOTO

UBC women gear up for playoffs

by Vincent Lam

If frustration bred virtue, then every player on the UBC women's soccer team would have had halos over their heads this weekend.

Playing the Saskatchewan Huskies Saturday and the Alberta Pandas Sunday, UBC's work ethic and determination was reminiscent of elves on Christmas Eve—but their efforts yielded little more than a lump of coal. The Birds came out of their final homestand with a 1-1 tie with Saskatchewan and their first loss of the year to first-place Alberta. The Birds are now 2-1-5 and in third place in the Canada West.

But even though UBC was not able to earn a win this weekend, head coach Dick Mosher is confident in his team's ability going into the playoffs.

"Our players know that we can compete. There is nobody better in this league that is better than us," he said. "I think that you're going to see a different team in the playoffs.

On Saturday, the Birds were in top form. As a result of early pressure, the Birds drew first blood and opened the scoring thanks to the smart play of Kim Spencer. However, Spencer's goals would prove to be the only UBC goal all day. With only two minutes left in the first half, the Huskies tied the game up, and the Birds and Huskies played to a 1-1 tie.

UBC did have excellent scoring chances, including a free kick by striker Ros Hicks that deflected off the crossbar with two minutes left in the game, but bad bounces and questionable refereeing prevented UBC from chalking up a point in the win column.

"It felt like it was twelve players on eleven with [the referee] on their team," said a frustrated Hicks.

Sunday was just as exasperating. Alberta opened the scoring with a blistering shot from point blank range, and Birds goalie Sian Bagshawe had no chance. And while the Birds exerted some excellent offensive pressure late in the game, their effort was not enough to put the ball between the pipes in the 1-0 loss.

The T-Birds travel to Lethbridge and Calgary next weekend to end the regular season. And hopefully, those halos will start to translate into some wins.❖

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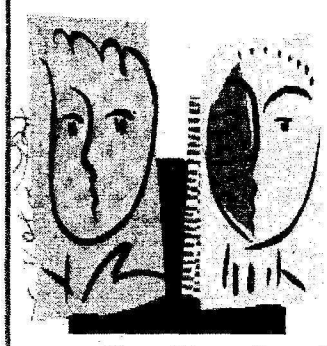

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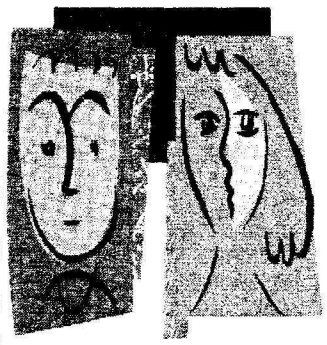

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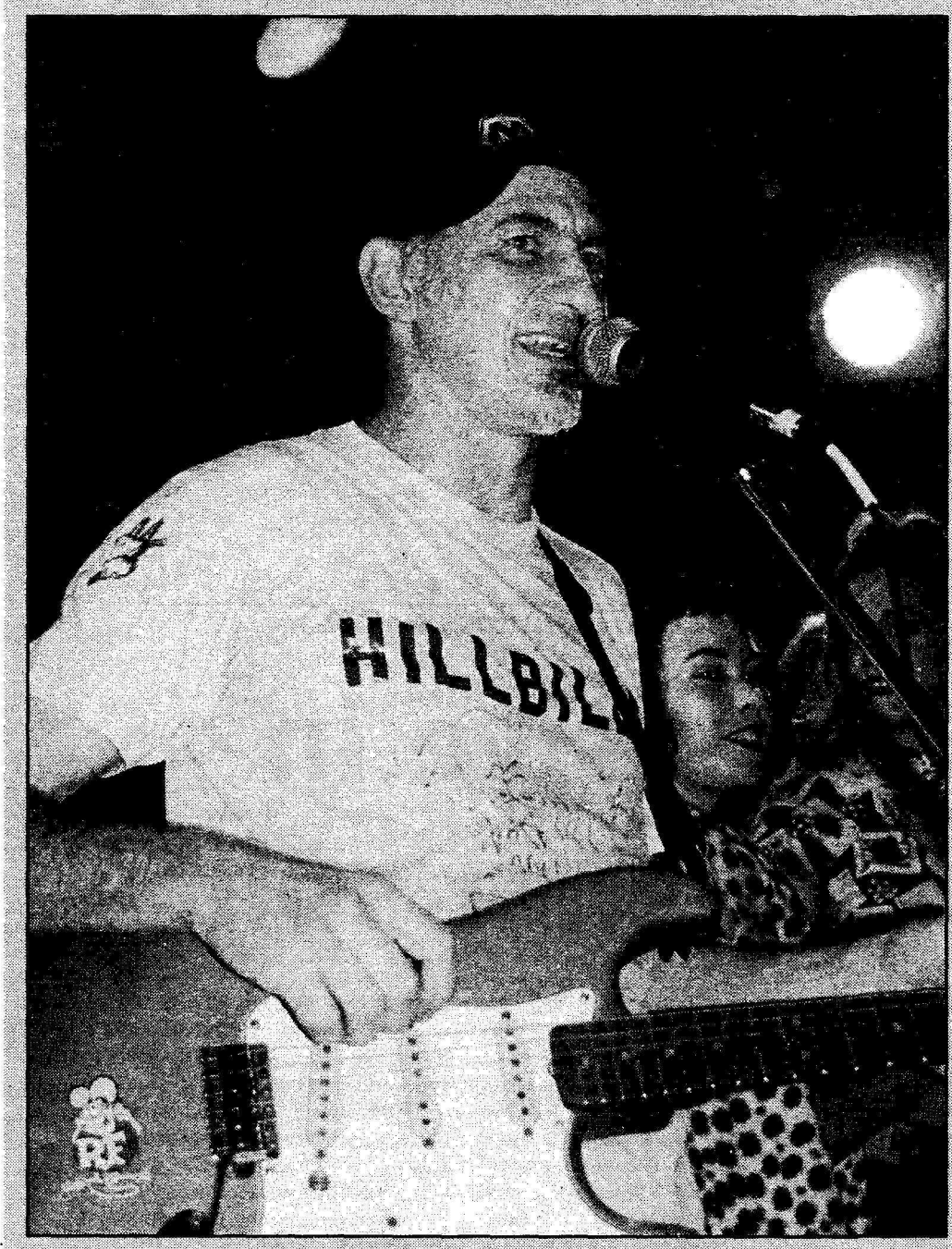


HILLBILLIES: There ain't nothing closer to fried chicken than this band. ALI THOM PHOTO

SOUTHERN CULTURE ON THE SKIDS
At the Starfish Room
Oct 24

by Ronald Nurwisah

If punk rock and country music ever had an illegitimate child, it would probably look like Southern Culture on the Skids. Not a very pretty sight, but great to listen to. If you've never seen SCOTS, think of three of the most stereotypical hicks and off you go!

Drummer Dave Hartman's about as close as you can get to *King of the Hill's* Frank Hill without being sued by Fox, while guitarist Rick Miller could probably be an extra on a *Dukes of Hazzard* special.

Saturday's show started off with Cloverdale's very own El Caminos, who played a boring and feedback-filled set which felt thrown together. Then, after their performance finally ended, there was another 45 excruciating minutes of the sound crew poking and prodding. But soon after, SCOTS finally came on the stage and began to shake it up, and by their second song they had the crowd bopping along to their catchy guitar riffs and downright humorous lyrics.

SCOTS blazed through their set, throwing song after song at what was clearly a happy audience. They played crowd favourites like "Banana Puddin'" and "40 Miles to Vegas" and threw in some surprises. There was a song dedicated to fried chicken (what would a SCOTS show be without fried chicken?) and, complete with Mexican wrestling mask, a musical dedication to wrestling star Santos.

Clearly SCOTS revel in being over the top. Everything from their costumes to their songs had more cheese than a Kraft dinner. And it worked, although half the time I couldn't figure out whether to laugh or to dance. But by the end of the night I left the show with a big smirk on my face and a craving for fried chicken.❖

Cotton Patch Jesus hits the South

COTTON PATCH GOSPEL
At the Pacific Theatre
Runs Oct 23 to Nov 21, Wednesdays to Saturdays

by Megan Quek

What if Jesus had descended to humanity but instead of Bethlehem, landed in the deep South? *Cotton Patch Gospel* takes up this query, and what results is a down-to-earth, hokey play.

The play does not preach the story of Jesus, nor does it have the intention of recruiting new Christians. What *Cotton Patch Gospel* does is tell a story about Jesus the Messiah in a modern and humorous manner, in a way that will appeal to ordinary people. It is a good production with a toe-tapping, hand-clapping, head-bopping musical score, as well as wonderfully harmonised voices and instrumentation.

However, throughout the play, I found that my experience greatly contrasted with the rest of my theatre companions. Punch lines such as "Baptists are always attracted to new buildings" moved most of the audience to uninhibited laughter, while I sat puzzled. As I looked around throughout the duration of the play, I saw an audience that was transfixed by the performance. They were laughing loudly, extremely animated, and energetically clapping their hands along with the music while I sat bored and, at times, bewildered.

It was as if I was in Sunday school and *Cotton Patch Gospel* had been put on for us kids to learn about Jesus. It isn't that the play is too preachy, it's just there wasn't any enlightenment or new insight. If a new slant on the life of Jesus is of interest, than this energetic and intelligent modern adaptation is worth catching. But, all *Cotton Patch Gospel* held for me was the same old story in a different package.❖

Last Night's chaos

LAST NIGHT
Now Playing at Fifth Avenue

by John Zaozirny

With Last Night, there are several things to be thankful for. There's the fact that writer/director/star Don McKellar is a brilliant filmmaker. There's the fact that he hasn't fled the Canadian film scene for the warmer climes of Hollywood. And then there's the fact he has a sense of humour. If there's anything all those end-of-the-world films needed, it was the ability to tell a joke or two.

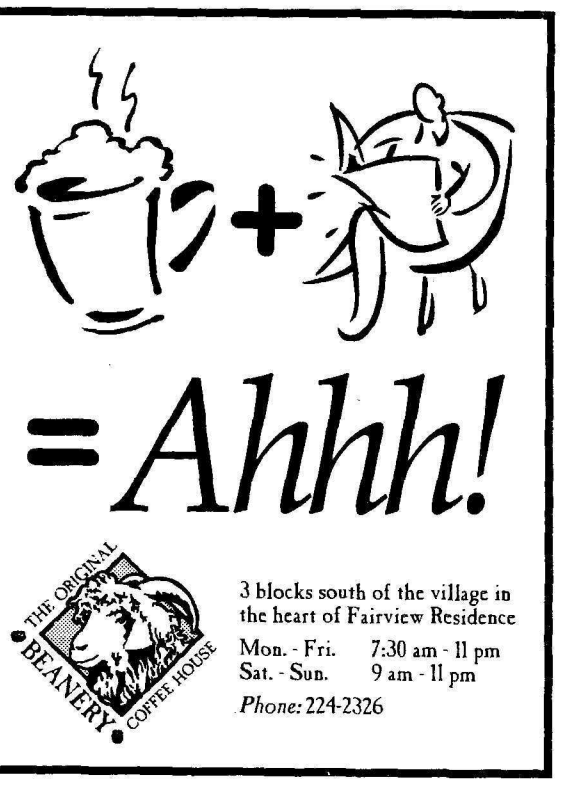
Part of the Haunt et Court "2000, Seen by..." series of films (which also included Hal Hartley's disappointing *Book of Life*), *Last Night* is the Canadian look at the *end of the world: all dark humour, indecision, and bittersweet memories.* What, exactly, the end of the world constitutes isn't the point. All we're ever told is that at midnight, the world is going to end and that's that.

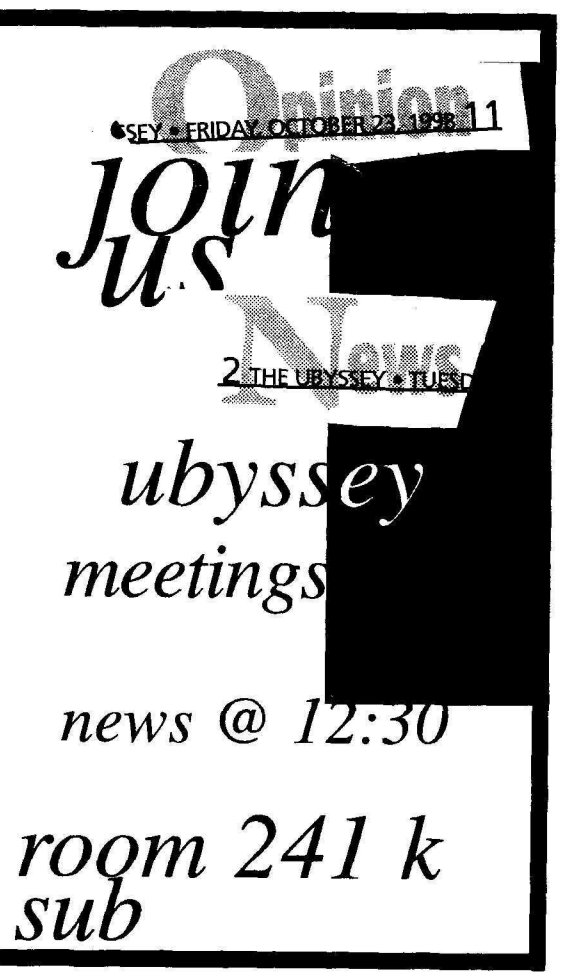
In *Last Night,* each character has their own unique take on the apocalypse. There's Patrick (McKellar), who's intending to spend the evening in quiet, solitary contemplation. There's Craig (Callum Keith Rennie, his usual edgy self), who's decided to have as many different sexual experiences as possible before the apocalypse. There's Sandra (Sandra Oh in wide-eyed, panic-stricken mode), who's trying to get home to commit double suicide with her husband, and then there's Patrick's sister Jennifer (Sarah Polley), who's partying like it's December 31, 1999. Which it is.

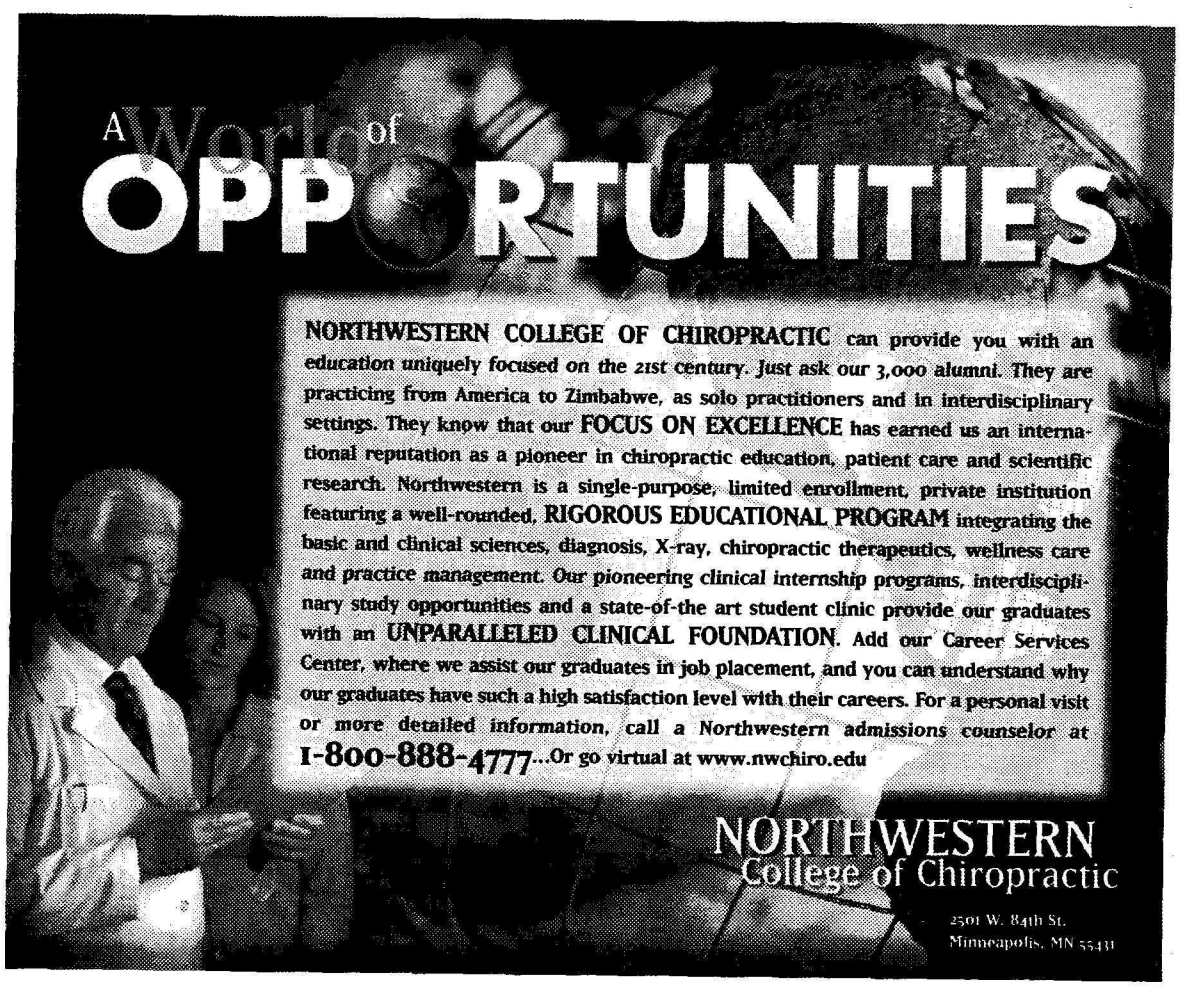
So chaos descends and everybody's fending for themselves. As the film progresses, the characters criss-cross each other's paths, knowingly and unknowingly, each attempting to get the most out of their personal finale as possible. Nothing's ever too serious for McKellar to take a run at, whether it's Sandra's commitment to killing herself before the end, Craig's sexual ferocity, or Patrick's personal tragedy. And that's the charm. *Last Night* never pushes itself as a big movie and so it comes off without the requisite, self-conscious 'arty-ness' of so many other films. It slides on by, and when the end does come, you can't help but wish they'd just had a little more time. Because, when the end of the world arrives, nobody's boring anymore. ◆

UNTIL THE END OF THE WORLD: *Last Night,* which stars Sandra Oh and Don McKellar, takes a bittersweet and humour-filled look at the terror, fear and desperate love of the final night on Earth

Screening room







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Alex Bustos was taking a bath, when Daliah Merzaban came in and said she had to pee. Nick Bradley was washing his hands, while Cynthia Lee sat on the laundry hamper and watched Richard Lam shave. Bruce Arthur was brushing his teeth and Sarah Newham flossed and gargled. Vincent Lam was smelling up the place and John Zaozirny wouldn't turn down the radio. Ronald Nurwisah was blow dryng his coffee and watching Megan Quek shave her armpits. Ali Thom and Dale Lum were whipping each other with wet towels, and Federico Barahona couldn't stop them. Tom Peacock stayed out of the bathroom, but Duncan McHugh couldn't help checking out the commotion. When Todd Silver opened the door, Sarah Galashan spilled some water. Of course, Douglas Quan slipped and shattered his elbow.

Canadian University Press

Let the MAI's carcass rot

The MAI is dead. Long live the MAI. Well, not really. After four years of on-again, off-again, largely secret negotiations, the 29 member countries ended their talks in Paris, saying that it couldn't be done.

The Multilateral Agreement on Investment, if you haven't heard, is a free trade pact that would empower large corporations but could have the potential to cripple the ability of countries to enforce things like environmental regulations to protect local culture from the American monolith or labour standards.

Unfortunately, silly things like social programs or a clean environment seem to matter less to Ottawa than the gross domestic product. Even though talks for the moment are dead, Canada is working hard to expand the power of the MAI. By moving talks to the World Trade Organisation, as Trade Minister Sergio Marchi suggests, the deal would involve the 138 countries of the WTO, including many developing nations.

The prospect of huge US corporations suddenly having expanded access to these countries isn't good. What developing nations need is locally-based economic development, not invading Nike sweatshops or US fast food joints.

So why is Canada supporting this deal?

Perhaps our national sense of global insecurity is flaring up again. We just can't handle the fact that our big brother to the south has all the really cool toys, while all we have are clean water and plenty o' wood.

Most Canadian companies have never had the ability to compete on a global scale. We just don't have the economic resources to keep up with the big boys from the States. So we tag along with big brother, embracing big trade deals like the FTA and NAFTA.

Maybe the government hasn't learned that Canadians don't want free trade. In wake of the APEC fiasco, that shouldn't have to be explained. Unfortunately, the media has distorted the message of the APEC protests. It wasn't about pepper spray. It really wasn't even just about human rights violators.

It was also about globalisation. US interests helped put Suharto in power, remember, and the impetus behind that was to protect the interests of US corporations.

Let the MAI crawl away and die in peace. Instead, maybe the Canadian government could spend some time taking care of its people. Taking care of international business interests instead just isn't enough.❖

Letters

No funds for APEC terrorists

Because of the federal government's refusal to fund UBC violent APEC terrorists: and, the public's refusal to voluntarily fund them as well, NDP's Svend Robinson goes on another of his silly childish tirades.

The demonstrators should ask their communist affiliates—the NDP and the mob media for help. Everyone should put their money where their mouth is, eh Svend?!

Or, better still why don't UBC "career students" do something useful for a change like going out and getting a job to pay their own bills like everyone else has to do instead of expecting government to keep them until they die. Enough! It's time to sweep universities of all parasites—that includes demented profs also. The saving would balance our budget!

Everyone but crazy old Svend Robinson knows that pepper spraying isn't as bad as being hit with a baseball bat.

The NDP serve no useful puporse in today's society. All they do is waste taxpayers money with crazy schemes like backing human rights because the dictators at the United Nations say so. The last time we looked, Ottawa, not the sewer Capital of the world New York, was the Capital of Canada. Out!

Rights aren't human when you're told—24 hours a day what we must think, say and do—that's called COMMUNISM. Wake up Canada and give the UN who are responsible for the mess the world is in today the boots, along with their leftist supporters.

The NDP are dippy as well. Now they want us to believe the Dick Procter story. You know that NDP character who heard voices on the airplane. It sounds like he was on a trip—all of his own!

Mary Prinz
Vancouver

Vendettas are not misconduct

Ah vendettas are so interesting. First Sheri Tanaka claims that a professor has plagiarised her work. An investigation ensues, and the charges are found to be groundless. Then the student comes up with a new complaint, that the professor was unethical in doing reserach. Again, this charge is investigated and found to be groundless. Not satisfied, the student takes the complaint to the funding agency, which will almost certainly again find the charges groundless.

As part of this vendetta, the student gets her lover *cum* husband to misrepresent himself and the university to a research subject, in questionable ethics here? Ethical behaviour is a two-way street. Graduate students are expected to conduct themselves ethically as well. Ms. Tanaka was acting as a translator. If she was assisting a professor whose "command of the Japanese language is extremely limited" did Ms. Tanaka then fail in her duties as a translator? She had to know that research was being conducted since it was funded, and she is not denying that she knew that. Why did Ms. Tanaka not convey to Mr. Kaizawa the nature of the encounter, if she believed he did not know it? Was she not ethically obligated to do so?

Since she didn't, why make such a fuss now? The answer is simple: this is about personal feelings, not about professional misconduct.

David C. Ryniker
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APEC book points us away from the obvious dictators

by Arnab Guha

PERSPECTIVE
OPINION

Former American ambassador James Blanchard's book, *Behind the embassy door: Canada, Clinton, and Quebec*, could not have been made available to Canadian readers at a time more tortured by emotion, rhetoric, political opportunism and confusion about the state of the Canadian nation.

At a time when the RCMP's response to anti-APEC students at the University of British Columbia has resulted in such an easy coupling of the words "third world", and even "Asian", with "dictatorship", one may hope for some restoration of perspective from Mr. Blanchard's account of the American security agents' mistrust of "clumsy" RCMP officers during the U.S. Presidential visit to Ottawa in 1995.

While the Canadian media remains only too eager to publish letters from Indonesian security officials seeking to know if they might be allowed to shoot Canadian protesters, Mr. Blanchard's book quite clearly documents how it was a presidential visit from the world's loudest democracy, and Canada's largest trading partner, that resulted in an RCMP policy which subsequently made it possible for foreign agents to bring arms into Canada and, indeed, to question the adequacy of Canadian security forces when it came to protecting visiting dignitaries.

While the Indonesians, with their terrible record in East Timor, may have been characteristically callous and blunt, Mr. Blanchard's account suggests that the Americans, in 1995, were simply unresponsive and forceful. Indeed, while the RCMP did set clear restrictions on the Indonesians during APEC, and even deported a couple of their guards when they were found attempting to mingle with the protesters, Mr. Blanchard, an American, remembers how, in 1995, the "whole of Ottawa felt like it was being invaded by U.S. Forces". Moreover, he clearly outlines an incident when the Americans were so intractable in their demands that one crucial planning meeting between the RCMP and the American officials simply ended bitter and unresolved.

Neither can one relegate arbitrariness or brutality to "third-world", "Asian" or any other chosen brand of "dictators" alone. For we do not need Mr. Blanchard's book to remind us of numerous instances when American security forces have not hesitated to eliminate individuals or groups, either surreptitiously or with characteristic free-world rhetoric and military flamboyance, whenever the preferred world order has seemed somewhat threatened. The cruise missiles fired so recently into Afghanistan and Sudan were not the result of any American negotiation with any other security agency. What makes matters even more ludicrous and distasteful is the instant support shown to America by its traditional Western allies, including Canada, and the United Nations' refusal to respond favourably to Sudan's repeated pleas for an independent international assessment of its alleged chemical weapons facility.

While I remain vehemently opposed to guns, especially foreign guns, on Canadian soil, I realise that policies which allow foreign security agencies to bring arms into Canada shall continue to be in place as long as so-called "non-violent" protesters tear down security fences, or threaten to commit citizens' arrest on visiting heads of states who, however despicable, are protected by international treaties which Canada, along with most other nations in the world, is obliged to respect. Such acts on the part of Canadians only lead to situations where powerful bodies, such as the American security forces, will continue to find a legitimate excuse to undermine the jurisdiction of the RCMP. And while I join the protesters in their condemnation of former Indonesian president Suharto and of genocide in East Timor, may I use this occasion to urge Canadians and my fellow members of the UBC community to think twice before apportioning quick blame to the more dramatic, obvious and, therefore, easy targets alone. ❖

Arnab Guha is a member of APEC University Forum at UBC.

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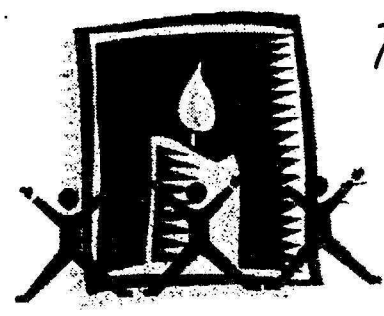

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William G. Black Memorial Prize Essay Competition

William G. Black Memorial Prize — a prize in the amount of approximately $1,200 has been made available by the late Dr. William G. Black. The topic for the essay will be designed to attract students from all disciplines. The competition is open to students who are enrolled full-time at UBC and who do not already possess a graduate degree. A single topic of general nature related to Canadian citizenship will be presented to students at the time of the competition. Duration of the competition will be two hours. Candidates should bring their student card for identification.

The competition will be held at:

DATE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1998
TIME: 10:00AM - 12:00 NOON
PLACE: ANGUS 110

Relevant review

Blues Explosion back in town

THE JON SPENCER BLUES EXPLOSION
at the Rage
October 27

by John Zaozirny

Who are they?

The band consists of guitarist Judah Bauer, drummer Russell Simmins vocalist (Jon Spencer). Basically, they rip shit up, old-style. Guitars and drums, no bass. Jon Spencer howls, Judah Bauer wails away, and Russell Simmins pounds the skins.

What are they like?

Well, after fronting the seminal Pussy Galore (whose album titles, such as *Dial `M' for Motherfucker,* speak volumes about their sound), Jon Spencer decided to get back to his roots. And so the Blues Explosion began, first as a joke (there's nothing bluesy about their early, speaker-destroying, noise-for-the-sake-of-noise albums) and then more as a reality, when Spencer began to dabble in the blues and work with old-time legends. Imagine the arrogance of Jerry Lee Lewis, the vocal bravado of James Brown and the sexy drawl of Mick Jagger, and you're halfway to Jon Spencer. Toss in riffer supreme Judah Bauer and the hardest working drummer around, Russell Simmins (who also plays with Butter 08 and Cibo Matto), and you've got one hell of an act.

How's the new release?

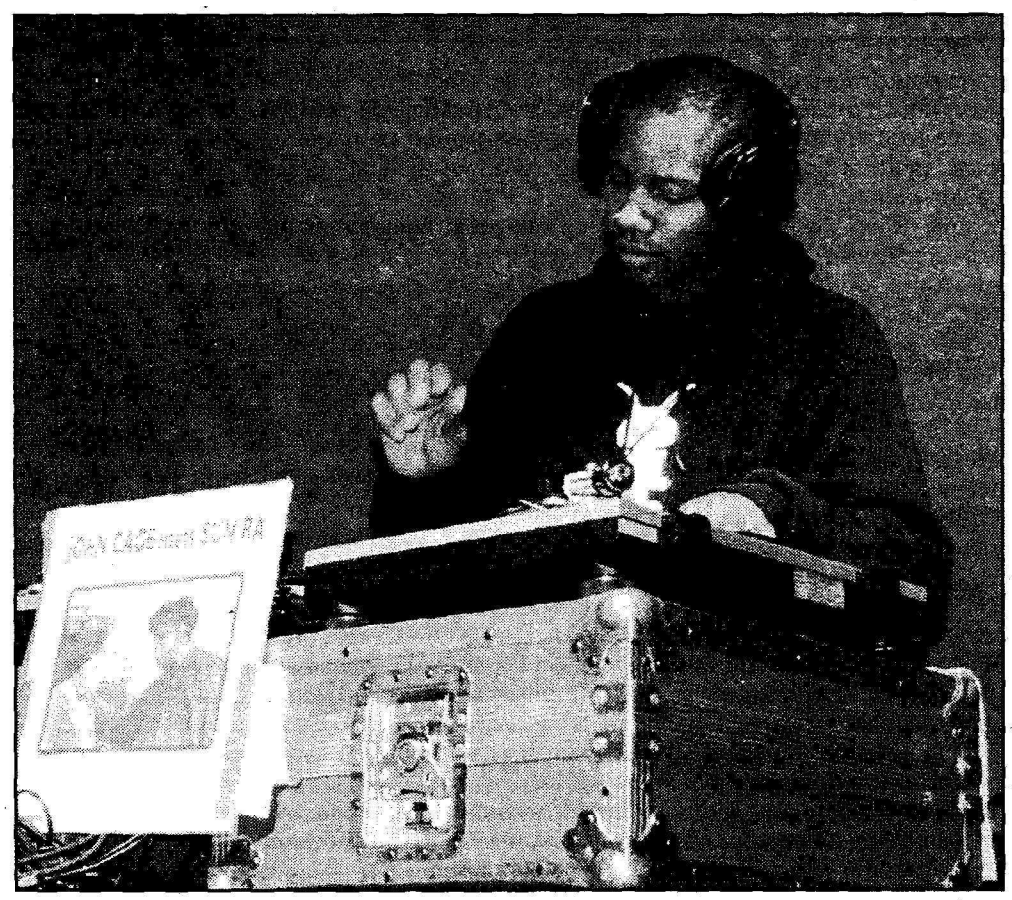
With each release, the Blues Explosion extends their sound a little further, and *Acme* is no different. In fact, it's probably the biggest departure so far, with samples, scratching and even an acoustic guitar! But, fret not, it's *still* the same good ol' Blues Explosion kick-ass. When Jon Spencer screams, "Blues is number one!", you can't help but agree.

Is it worth going to the show?

"The Blues Explosion stomped on everyone's ass, rocking shit down to its core again and again and just when I thought that it couldn't get any crazier, any more out of control, Spencer would lean back and magically activate his feedback device which screamed like some souped-up vacuum cleaner. They rocked with that thing howlin' away for another spat, further expanding the sonic threshold.

Crazy" -Herb Hitts, liner notes to the Blues Explosion's *Extra Width*❖

DJ Spooky spins it all out



ON THE WHEELS OF STEEL: Poet, academic, columnist and *artiste extraordinaire* DJ Spooky was in town at Sonar on Sunday in support of his latest hip-hop manifesto *Riddim Warfare*. Delivering his usual completely unusual set but minus his trademark dreadlocks, Spooky spread the music to the masses all throughout the night, which included stints on turntable, upright bass, and microphone. The recent weeks have been a boom time for the formerly distant and unlistenable artist. Spooky's album, which hosts cameos from people as electic as Kool Keith and Thurston Moore, has turned out to be one of the best of the year, while the film *Slam*, whose soundtrack he created, was released last weekend. ALI THOM PHOTO

BACK STAGE

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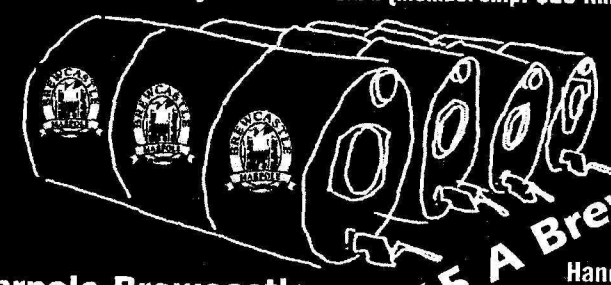

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