UBC Archives Serial

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THE SUMMER UBYSSEY

July 15, 1987 Vol. 6 No. 1

Aid program neglects recent grads

By JENNIFER LYALL

A lot of students are going to get hurt as they fall between the cracks in the new student aid program, says the president of UBC's Alma Mater Society.

Rebecca Nevraumont is angry that the program does nothing for the hundreds of students who have accumulated debts of over $20,000 in the years since the provincial government dismantled the grant program in 1984.

The program reduces loan debts to $12,000 for students who successfully complete a degree, but it is not retroactive for those who have already graduated.

"If the government is now recognising the problem with the system why can't they accept the problem of a few years ago?" asked Nevraumont. "There's no recourse for those people (with high debt loads)," she said. "What the hell's supposed to happen to them?"

The average debt load for 1986 graduates with loans was $15,000, up from $3,000 in 1984, and the loan default rate was almost 20 per cent.

Minister of advanced education, Stan Hagen said his ministry couldn't offer past graduates any assistance.

" I don't think there are enough funds in the program (to cover retroactive remissioin) and if we were to do that it would have to have an impact on the people in schoolow school now , " he said.

UBC director of awards and financial aid Byron Hender said the new program represents such a great improvement over recent years that it is unreasonable to complan.

"I think it would hve been nice if the provincecould have made it retroactive but things don't always work out that way," he said.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Graduates will be eligible for loan remissions only if they fulfill a `personal responsibility' requirement by either working, volunteering or taking full-time classes during the summer.

"It's the only province in which to get a loan you have to prove your worth on a moral basis as well as on a financial basis," said Nevraumont.

Although she thinks that volunteer work is a "great" option for those who cannot find work, Nevraumont said, "I'm not sure it's a judicial call (the government) should be making."

But Hagen disagreed. "I don't think it's a moral question at all," he said.

"Education doesn't only benefit the individual who's getting it, it benefits the society as a whole and is paid for by society as a whole," said Hagen.

Since taxpayers subsidize students with loans they should expect students to try to earn money towards the cost, he said.

FIVE YEAR DEGREE LIMIT

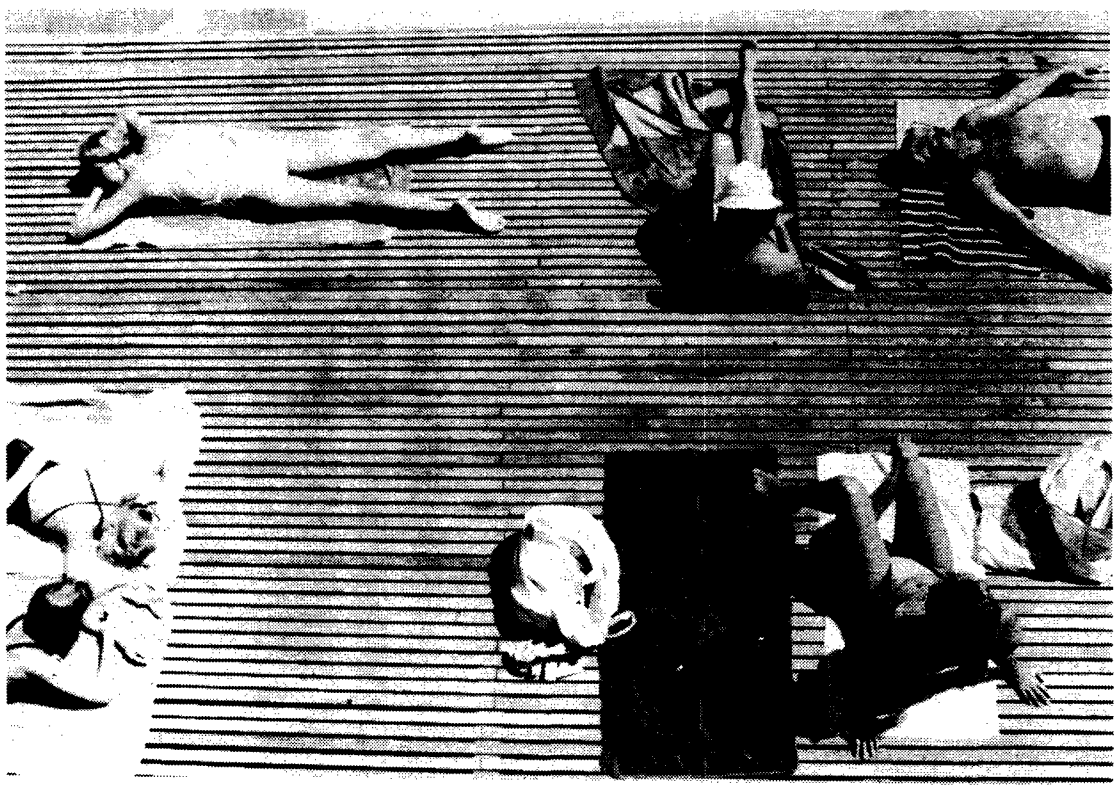
Nevraumont said the five year time limit to complete a degree is "another big problem" because there are no no exceptions made for single parents or students who get involved in extra-curricular activities like student service organisations and student council.

"They've denied you that opportunity to broaden your experience," she said, adding that such initiatives should be encouraged as an important and fulfilling part of an education.

Students who fail to complete their degrees within five years become ineligible for remission upon graduation.

Hender said the time limit is necessary to prevent abuse of the aid system by students who enjoy the good life at university: "The tendency is to stick around as long as you can, but if the government is picking up the tab"

Hagen said his minsitry is "not unsympathetic to individual cases" but he didn't see the value of extending a degree to allow time for extra-curricular activities.



Summ..Summ..Summertime... and the living is choice. J.LYALL.

Condom battle heats up

By JENNIFER LYALL

"A lot of people are embarrassed to stand in a line-up in front of a cashier with condoms in their hand. So that's why I thought it was a good idea," says Dave Verma, manager of Can-Am Protect Ltd.

His is one of two condom delivery services launched recently to save shy Vancouver residents from the humiliation of drugstore line-ups.

The second, Safetel Delivery Services, started up just last week and offers the convenience of the city's only 24 hour service.

Safetel manager Laurel Radley said she opened the business "in response to increased sales and to people's tendency to buy what's most convenient these days."

"Sometimes its inconvenient to leave your house," she explained.

Both services offer a wide variety of condoms, at competitive prices, delivered to your door in a plain brown paper bag by an unmarked vehicle. Can-Am Protect charges one dollar for immediate delivery, but Safetel delivery charges can run up to $10 on a rush order.

Verma doesn't expect his business to be threatened by Safetel: "They have a very hefty delivery charge, so I don't think there's any competition."

But Radley thinks the convenience of round the clock deliveries will attract customers at any price: "In order to provide that kind of service its a little more expensive."

Can-Am Protect delivers only until midnight.

Registrar will be missed

Kenneth Gordon Young, University of British Columbia Registrar,, died May 2nd.

Born in Edmonton in 1938, Mr. Young earned degrees in Art and Commerce from the University of Alberta.

He joined UBC as assistant registrar in 1965 and in 1980 succeeded Jack Parnell as UBC Registrar.

Mr. Young also served as a member of the Board of St. Paul's Hospital Foundation from 1985 to 1987.

Mr. Young will be remembered warmly by the university com-

Report urges AMS to take over intramurals

By CORINNE BJORGE

Management of UBC's athletic facilities is "fragmented" and must be better structured to ensure equitable funding of facilities and groups, according to a University Athletics Council report released Wednesday.

A special review committee of the UAC drafted the recommendations in an effort to streamline athletics management structures and address inconsistencies in funding.

"It is necessary to have a common management system," said K. D. Srivistava, vice president student and academic services and chair of the committee.

Rebecca Nevraumont, AMS president and member of the UAC is concerned that bringing all the facilities under one management board could result in user fees being paid by students for facilities that were previously freely available.

"Not only are students kicking in the first time (in the form of athletic fees), but they're also paying high participation and user fees," she said.

But Nevraumont said programs such as intramurals will continue to receive little funding and poor facilities until a more impartial management structure is created to establish facility priorities.

The Task Force report recommends the AMS take over full administrative and financial control of the intramurals program.

Nevraumont said taking control of intramurals would be possible only if all the recommendations in the draft are accepted. Although she would like to see the AMS take over the intramurals program, she said unless the recommendations are accepted it would be too much of a strain on AMS time and resources.

Earmarking a percentage of the $5.50 athletic fee increase for intramurals would be another way to ensure adequate funding, said Nevraumont.

But Srivastava said earmarking specific funds would allow other departments to say "you already have your share" and would likely be a detriment to intramurals.

The report also urges equitable funding for the Men's Athletic Committee (MAC) and the Women's Athletic Committee (WAC), but it does not address what form the funding should take.

Srivistava said differences in funding between men's and women's teams reflects the greater number of male students participating. "If there were greater demands for women's teams, the UAC would have to consider more funding," he said.

Currently men's athletics fields 15 teams while women's athletics fields 12.

Nevraumont agreed that the funding reflected the number of teams, but said funding for other items in athletics was inequitable. "The women's teams weren't getting the same for meal vouchers or travel expense allowances," she said.

Student reacts to tuition waiver for faculty kids

By KURT PREINSPERG

Two students, Carole and Ted, are having a chat over coffee. "Without a minor miracle," says Carole, "I won't be back at UBC in the fall. The expense is killing me. Tuition alone is now $1500, and I'm up to my ears in debt. I'm thinking that university may just not be worth it."

Ted smiles sympathetically. "Poor thing! I'm glad I don't have your worries. My dad teaches at UBC, so I don't have to pay tuition, although my parents could probably afford it. I'm going strong, and my folks expect me to get a PhD."

Such a conversation is likely if the UBC Faculty's current bargaining demand is met: "that tuition fees be waived for members' dependent children and spouses enrolled in undergraduate courses at the University."

And why not? Airlines give their employees free flights and breweries theirs free beer. So why should UBC not give its faculty (and surely its support staff as well) free education for their offspring?

Why not? Because a university education isn't like beer or airline flights: it is a major gateway to self-development, desirable jobs, social status and self-respect. It's because higher education constitutes a strategic good in a person's life that access to it should be scrupulously fair. Waiving tuition fees for children of a professional group like academics (whose average salary is $50,000 a year), while students from poor families face serious financial barriers, is an incredibly ugly example of unfairness.

Several considerations will be advanced against this argument: first, that it's purely a collective bargaining issue in what form academics take their pay increase; second, that giving it to them in the form of tuition waivers has the advantage to the university of adding only marginal costs; third, that unequal financial barriers in higher education are not unfair as long as academic standards are applied equally; and fourth, that the root of unequal access to higher education is to be found, and must therefore be remedied, at the level of unequally distributed wealth in our society.

It can be convincingly argued (although only at some length) that these considerations involve confused thinking and do not stand up as objections to the conclusion that tuition waivers for children of academics are unjust. It violates the principle of equality of educational opportunity to discriminate in favor of a group of students, not on grounds of special need or merit, but for no better reason than that their parents have some special relation with UBC. Children of academics, with their fortunate background, already attend university in vastly disproportionate numbers and are the last group to require preferential treatment. If other universities have chosen to be unfair, so much the worse; it certainly isn't a good reason for UBC to do the same.

It's a sad truism that a person's life chances in our society depend greatly on family background. Higher education is becoming unaffordable for many children of impoverished groups like welfare mothers or the unemployed, and good jobs tend to go to the well-connected. The fact that elected governments preside over such injustice doesn't make it any less unjust. No wonder young people who lose out in this rigged distribution of social goods feel betrayed by society, alienated and ready to betray in turn: to steal, lie, cheat and exploit fellow citizens wherever they can. By giving tuition waivers to an already privileged group like spouses and offspring of academics, UBC will only contribute to a widespread feeling that there is little justice in our society.

Kurt Preinsperg is a fair minded philosophy grad student with a fondness for dialogue.

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SUMMER SCENE

VOL. 16 NO. 1

Hello and welcome to Summer Session '87

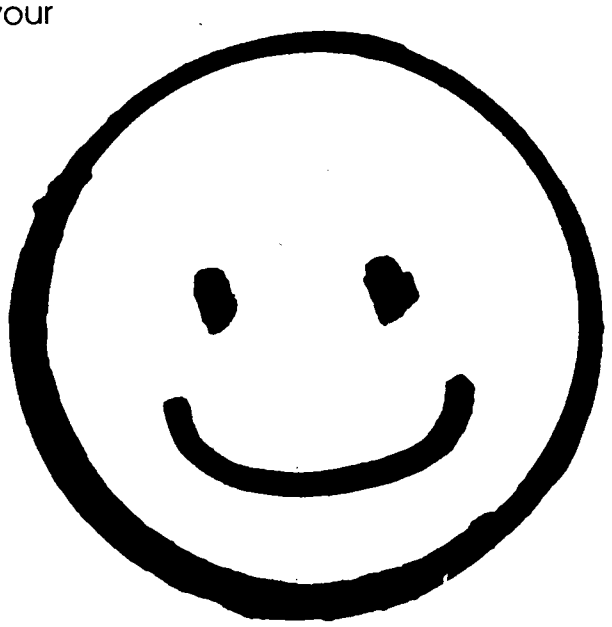
Summer Session Association

The Summer Session Association is the student organization of Summer Session; if you have any problems, concerns or suggestions, please drop by our office - main floor of SUB, opposite the candy counter. We are there Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Phone 228 - 4846

SUMMER SOUNDS

FREE, noon-hour concerts. Bring your lunch and a friend.

Wednesday, July 15:
Gary Keenan Quartet, SUB
Friday, July 17:
Phoenix Jazzers, SUB
Monday, July 20:
TBA, SUB
Wednesday, July 22:
Horns R Us SUB



MUSIC FOR A SUMMER EVENING

FREE, Music Building Recital Hall, 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 16
Kathleen Rudolph, flute
Rita Costanzi, harp
Thursday, July 23
Michael Strutt, guitar
Lynne Pining, flute

SUMMER SCREEN

All films are FREE to everyone! 7:30 p.m., IRC, Lecture Hall #2.

Friday, July 17: The Colour of Money: Academy Award winning performance by Paul Newman sparks this dramatic story of two generations of pool hustlers.
Tuesday, July 21: The Color Purple: This moving story of the growth of a young woman stars Whoopi Goldberg & Oprah Winfrey.

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

The Annual UBC Summer Session Blood Donor Clinic will be held Wednesday and Thursday, July 22 & 23, in the Scarfe Building Lounge from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Please give - the Red Cross needs our help.

Computers rear ugly heads in news office

By ROSS MCLAREN

The AMS director of finance has purchased new computer equipment to produce AMS publications.

Don Isaak said the $20,000 investment would save money producing The Ubyssey, Inside UBC, and other in-house AMS publications.

"It is difficult to ascertain how much money will be saved, but it will be enough to make it worth while," said Isaak.

Most Ubyssey staffers considered the new equipment an improvement over past systems.

"We've been working with medieval equipment - we've used the same production system for 70 years," said Ubyssey editor Corinne Bjorge.

"Having the Macintosh will bring The Ubyssey into the twentieth century and make us more flexible in terms of layout and typestyle," she said.

But others at The Ubyssey thought Isaak should have purchased high quality typesetting equipment at a higher price.

"You get a higher resolution and better quality with real equipment," said photographer Malcolm Pearson.

The problem with the Macintosh, Pearson said, "is that there are a lot of things you can't do on the Mac screen, such as turn copy upside down."

Isaak said he was not opposed to purchasing the new typesetter, but that it would depend on the cost. "The system Malcolm wants costs around $40,000," Isaak said. "We would have to test the enterprise we have now and see which system would save more money."

"Anything that saves money for Rebecca's students is worth it," he added.

Besides typesetting The Ubyssey, Isaak hopes to use the Macintosh on a commercial basis, providing typesetting copy for books and academic publications as well as for advertising purposes.

The Student Administrative Commission will also benefit from the new equipment: SAC chair Tim Bird said that a new constituency newsletter will be printed on the Macintosh.

The $20,000 purchase included five IBM compatible computers, one Macintosh SE, one big screen for layout, one laser writer, one dot matrix printer, and software and disks.

Broken campaign promise angers club members

By CORINNE BJORGE

The AMS Director of Finance is breaking a campaign promise he made in January by not putting club interest straight back into club accounts, according to Filmsoc member Dusan Milatovik.

"I stood up and asked Don (Isaak) if he would be willing to deposit the interest money back into the projection booth account, and Don said yes", said Milatovik.

The AMS business office currently administers all club, constituent and business operation funds through a single account. The interest is then directed into a general account which supplements several AMS funds.

Isaak said he didn't fully understand the issue before he got into office and he now feels the current accounting system is a good one for the AMS.

"I suppose I feel disconcerted (about the campaign promise)", said Isaak, but said the general fund is used as "an instrument to facilitate growth within the AMS."

Isaak said interest from the clubs is put toward the SUB replacement fund, service organizations such as CITR, and the subsidiary loan fund.

Spreading the money between the clubs, constituencies and business operations is more in keeping with the AMS philosophy, said Isaak.

However, Milatovik said that clubs that earn the money are entitled to benefit from the interest gained on their accounts.

"When a film is run, the money goes into the projection booth account. There is roughly $24,000 in the account currently, $4,200 of which FilmSoc paid last year", said Milatovik. He said that FilmSoc would like the interest from their account to go towards buying new projectors.

But past Director of Finance, James Collins, who has also faced pressure from clubs and constitutencies to change the accounting system, said that subsidizing small clubs and other organizations was the price that large clubs had to pay in order to be equitable.

All Clubs, constituencies and business have benefitted from the system, including FilmSoc, said Collins, referring to the interest-free loans FilmSoc has held with the AMS in the past.

"Although the AMS does not pay out interest on accounts, it also does not charge interest on loans to clubs and constituencies", said Collins. And clubs dont't pay administrative charges for processing cheques and statements", he said.

Hagen gives $16.4 million for new chemistry building

by CORINNE BJORGE

Chemistry students and faculty at UBC can now breathe easily.

A new $16.4 million chemistry/physics building will end years of crowded classrooms and poorly ventilated laboratories.

Last Thursday minister of advanced education and job training Stan Hagan announced a funding grant to the university for the construction of the new building.

"It will herald a new thrust for science and technology", said Hagen of the 80,000 square foot facility which will be constructed beside the old chemistry building. It will also mean that UBC's chemistry department will no longer have to lose potential research contracts.

"There's a number of projects that we could not carry out because of inadequate facilities", said Dr. Larry Weiler, chemistry, department head.

Weiler said that the new facilities will include equipment for laser research, very modern facilities for preparative chemistry and a state of the art plant tissue culture facility which can produce "very unusual and very valuable chemicals".

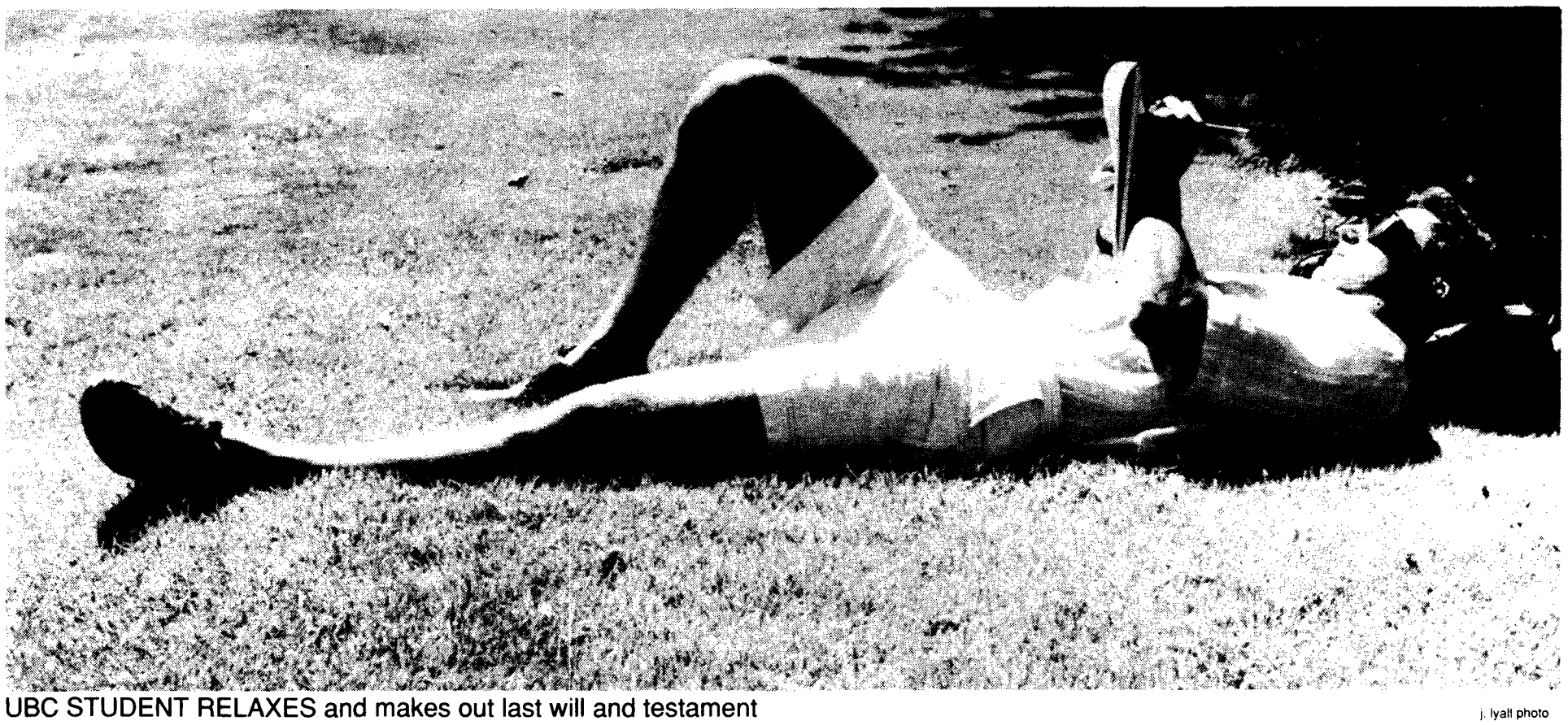
In the old chemistry building the lack of a controlled environment in dealing with hazardous chemicals makes work difficult, said Weiler. Some of the equipment is poorly and inappropriately housed, he added.

But the old chemistry building won't be pushed to the side without a fight. There are those who have a vision for its continued use.

"It should be regarded as a heritage bulding," said Dr. Charles McDowell, university professor emeritus, who has been with the Chemistry department since 1955.

McDowell suggested that the old chemistry building be used to house a chemistry/physics library, simple social facilities, administrative rooms, small seminar rooms, and rooms with study carrols for students.

"It could stimulate interest in this side of campus", said McDowell.



UBC STUDENT RELAXES and makes out last will and testament

j. lyall photo

CINEPLEX LEAVES WESTSIDE

By LAURA BUSHEIKIN

On June 18th two movie theatres went dark: the Varsity on Tenth Avenue, and the Dunbar on Dunbar and Thirty Second. On June 19th, the 7 screen Granville Cineplex opened. There is a connection between these two events: the Cineplex Odeon Corporation holds the leases (until next year) on the Varsity and the Dunbar.

The closures have been met with dismay by west side movie goers, whose choice of movies in their neighborhoods will now be severely limited.

"Now someone who wants to walk to a movie has to go all the way downtown," says Dean Harkema (Arts 3), "I don't like the centralization. they already have the Royal Centre Cineplex downtown." David Mitchell, UBC Filmsoc chairman, agrees: "It's sad that I have to go downtown to see a feature film."

Harkema also feels that the closures are "a loss because the Varsity used to get lots of small independent films." However, according to a source at the Cineplex head office in Toronto, one of the objectives of the corporation is to be able to show independant, foreign, and 'art' films which, because they only attract a small audience, may not be commercially viable for many movie houses. Because the Cineplexes contain, within one complex, a variety of theatres of various sizes, they can put big Hollywood blockbusters in their big theatres, and independent, 'art' films in the small theatres, and still fill most of their seats. They've had as few as six people in to see a movie, and still not had to drop the movie. Their vast overall size gives them the power to bid for any movie they want, and they kcan keep movies playing even as their popularity wanes, by moving them from a big theatre to a smaller one. Ideally, then, they are broadening the choices for movie-goers, and supporting alternative movies. The Chairman of Cineplex Odeaon, Garth Drabinsky, has won numerous awards from film festivals and societies for his contribution to maintaining high standards in the film industry.

Mitchell, who works at the new Granville Cinemas, says that Cineplex do appear to have a committment to showing independent and 'art' films.

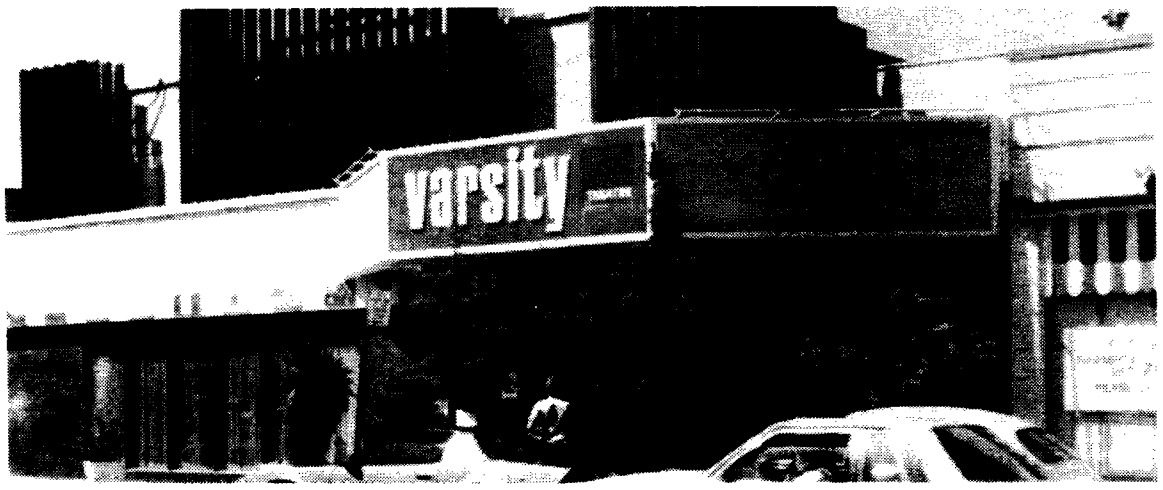
"when we opened we had Swimming to Cambodia and Hollywood Shuffle," he says, "Also, The Royal Centre has shown some really good--and unusual-- movies."

However, Roy Mainland, manager of the Ridge Theatre, says that the Cineplex Corporation simply "pays lip service to their philosophy. Sure, they have brought in some foreign and independent films, but they just throw them up on the screen and wait for an audience. They have no real committment to their movies." He beleives that a market for several small single-screen cinemas does exist on the west side, if the cinemas are willing to "work hard to promote their films--as we do at the ridge. i make enough money to feed myself and my family. As a matter of fact, I've just renewed the lease into the 1990's."

"Cineplex Odeon has a big monopoly. They're the largest chain in North America. They can force things and manipulate the market. It's important that the small independent theatres survive to keep the big guys in check," says Mainland.

"They've done a hell of a disservice to the movie industry. Our enemy is not each other--we have a common enemy: Video. There's a whole bunch of movie fans on the west side. What if they don't want to go downtown? They'll rent a video."

A Cineplex Odeon Spokesperson said that the corporation was considerin Vancouver's west side as a possible site for a new Cineplex.



THE NEW AND

By ROSS McLAREN

Alternative galleries are places to see the new and the weird. Galleries like Pitt International, Contemporary Art, and Grunt show young artists, artists unknown and commercially unmarketable.

"We want galleries to get off a high pedestal", says Grunt's publicist Jennifer Sinclair. " We want to feature young artists, artists on the fringe".

The Pitt, one of Vancouver's better known galleries, also promotes the avant-garde. "We want to facilitate young emerging artists", says the Pitt's Daav MacNab. "We give them a space to exhibit works, works made to express something".

These works are often strange: Ron Huebner's installation show, Who's afraid of the Big Bad Wolf, at Contemporary, scattered realistic bones across the gallery. Wolves, surrounded by forests, stared from the walls. I felt as if I had stumbled into another world. Images of Auswitchz and Birkenau entered my mind. The effect was strong.

Another off-the-wall show was Ken Gerberick's Brakelight. Gerberick pieced together car tail lens, and chrome and plastic pieces into odd, sculptered shapes. After placing lights behind his creations, Gerberick showed them off in a dark room in the Pitt's downstairs gallery. The effect again was stunning.

Summer Stock: student run theatre

By ROSS McLAREN

Ever think the inmates would gain control? Well, they did, at UBC Summer Stock.

Summer Stock, a theatre department project since 1964, gives sixteen students hands-on experience in all areas of theatre. Students act, build sets, run lights, and sell tickets. They promote their own plays and choose their directors.

The workload, however, is intense. SS's four plays in a ten week schedule leaves little time for rehearsal. As Wright says, "in winter, rehearsal time is four to five weeks. In SS we have a twelve day rehearsal period."

Shorter rehearsal periods means the company must work hard. Eight to fourteen hours a day they are at the theatre, sometimes ten days in a row, always six days out of seven.

These time constraints develop skills not forced in a longer rehearsal period. "You learn to trust yourself," says Wright, a two year SS veteran. "You learn to be confident making decisions."

SS also enlarges an actor's appreciation of the theatre's technical operations. Each actor and actress spends one or two shows working at the box office or as a technician.

SS actor Jason Smith, for example, is a stage lighting hand in Bonjour, la,Bonjour. He says the technical experience, "opened up a whole side of theatre I didn't know."

For others, the technical experience was career changing. Bruce Dow, professional director and SS graduate says, "SS was great. I learned so much doing it, and I wouldn't have gone into directing without that experience."

Other professional actors who passed through SS include some of the great names in Canadian theatre. John Grey, Brent Carver, Eric Peterson, Morris Panych and Larry Lillo studied at SS during the 1960's.

Then, as Professor Norman Young remembers, "the students organized everything, including meals. The star would be doing dishes right before the show. As students did it for nothing, they would divide box office profits between the cast and crew. It was really a communal approach to theatre."

In some ways that communal approach has changed. In the 1970's, youth and student grants were introduced. This year the company receives Challenge '87 grants. However, the closeness that can only come from working together day and night remains.

"It's like having a family of sixteen," Wright says. "We fight like mad, then have fun. Relating on stage, though, is something the SS company has been doing well this year.

Large audiences or small, however, are not proper tools to judge Summer Stock's success. Summer Stock is a learning experience. And as actor Jason Smith says, "every show I progress one step towards being a better actor. Summer Stock will help later in the professional world."

Summer Stock perform

THE WEIRD

effect again was stunning.

These shows, however, would almost never find their way into Vancouver's mainstream art galleries. Installation shows are one shot affairs; they cannot be sold. Young artists are not big names, not marketable. Hence they rarely find their way into galleries.

"Big galleries have to make money", Sinclair says. "They can't afford to have weird shows or take risks on artists. We can do anything, like installations, but you don't make money off it".

Lack of money is a common problem for the Pitt, Contemporary and Grunt. All are non-profit societies. The Pitt receives most of their money from Canada Council grants, and Vancouver civic fund grants, while the Contemporary gallery receives Canada Council grants, B.C. Cultural Fund grants, and Vancouver civic fund grants.

"We have a good relationship with Canada Council and B.C. Cultural", says Suzanne Klassen, publicist for the Contemporary. :We usually apply for money for every show, and we have received a lot of support from these agencies".

The Grunt, however, is in a financially abysmal state. Grunt receives no money from Canada Council or B.C. Cultural but gets a $1,000 grant every year from Vancouver's civic fund.

Grunt's financial instability, however, is not an indication of the galleries vitality. "Once you are involved, you realize how lively thing are", says Sinclair. "There are a large number of people involved with the gallery".

While financial instability is a drawback to running an alternative gallery, the benefit is freedom of artistic vision. Would anyone but an alternative gallery, as the Pitt now is, show Chilean Arpillera's, or burlap wall hangings that depict political or social scenes peculiar to the poor of Santiago, Chile. Probably not.

Because they reject the marketplace, alternative galleries remain poor and underfunded. But they are also lively places where you can only find the new and weird.

Chrissy and Big All Royce hang out

Boom Boom come up to my room

By LAURA BUSHEIKIN

The Vancouver Conservatory of Theatrical Arts' production of David Rabe's In The Boom Boom Room, playing at the Firehall Theatre, is a showcase for a group of remarkably talented actors. Unfortunately they are battling with a difficult play which, in spite of the actors' spirited efforts, bogs down dismally, especially in the second act. Rabe's play, about a group of Sixties' lowlife characters, inspires little sympathy for its characters, and sympathy is exactly what is needed to make this play work.

In The Boom Boom Room tells the story of Chrissy, a young, naive girl who gets a job as a go-go dancer and dreams of being the greatest dancer in the world. But Chrissy, played by Mickey Brazeau, is maladjusted and misbegotten. and she has neither the emotional nor the intellectual wherewithal to cope with her own growing confusion, which is only exacerbated by the confusions of her environment.

The play is set in the sixties, but its not filled with love-ins and flower-power. Rather, the play exposes the darker side of the sixties. The word 'sordid' might have been invented to describe Chrissy's world. The play is populated by the sort of characters who you wouldn't want to sit next to on a bus. Chrissy's lover Al, played by William Croft, is an in-and-out-of jail truck driver. His companion Ralphie (Gerry Rousseau) is a scruffy, menacing psycho who uses drugs to enhance his natural mania. Chrissy's neighbor, Guy (Larry Bettiol), is a flamboyant homosexual who likes to visit her to share his 'screamers'--his word for a REALLY bad day. Her other companions are Eric (Gregory Kramer), a maladjusted loser going through therapy, and the other go-go dancers from the club.

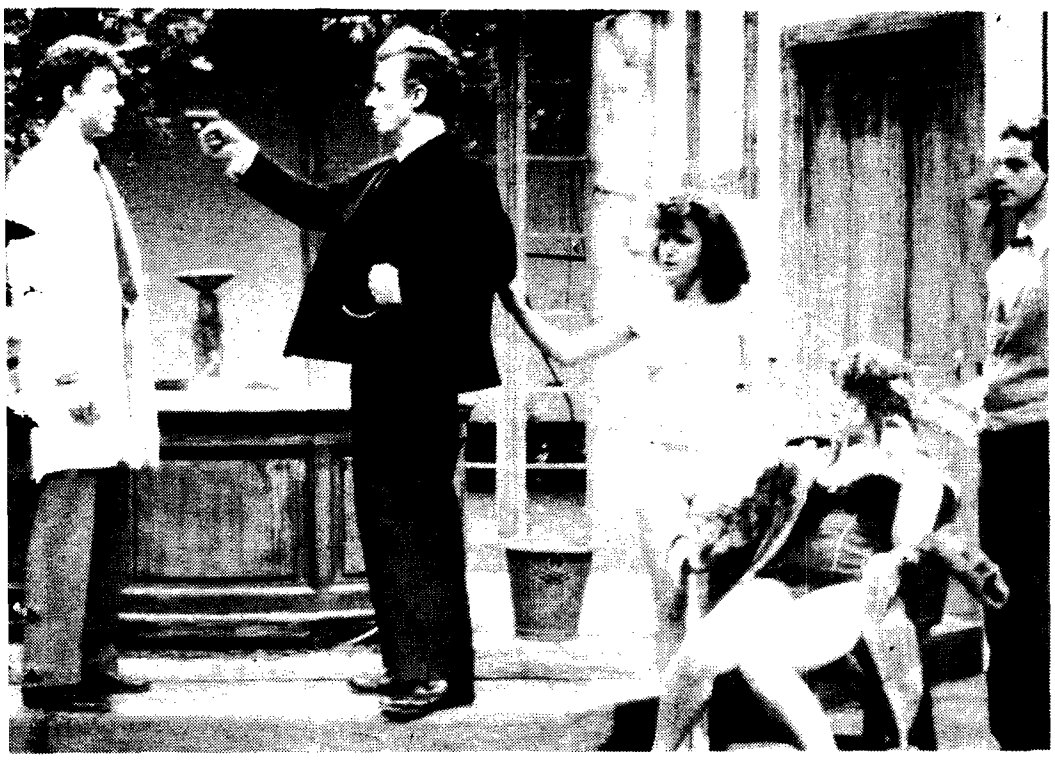
Poor Chrissy never had much going for her. Her mother wanted her to be an abortion, and her father beat and sexually molested her. The breakdown of norms and values that marked the sixties bewilders her. She doesn't know who she is or what she wants--so she turns blindly, and pathetically, to astrology to guide her. Also, she is confused about her sexuality--she is unable to have a successful relationship with a man, so she considers lesbianism,but eventually degenerates into a state of confusion so deep that she wonders whether she is a man or a woman.

The play records Chrissy's disintegration, through a series of scenes with the other characters, and long, intense monologues. These monologues, though, are TOO long, TOO intense, and too repetetive. Again and again we watch Chrissy break down completely and scream and shout and wail. The intensity eventually undermines itself and becomes numbing. I found myself, half way through the second act, wondering when Chrissy would reach her ultimate downfall and stop screaming--in other words, when this play was going to end.

Another problem with the play is that Chrissy is simply too stupid and insensitive to command our sympathy. If we are going to care about the degeneration of a human being, we must have some sense of the potential value of that human life.

The problems with the play are equalled by the sweltering heat in the theatre. It's a shame to see actors working so hard when, because of the sauna-like atmosphere, you can't give them the attention they deserve.

Despite the problems the play is well worth seeing. Just remember to wear shorts.



rs in What the Butler Saw

arts

dream on

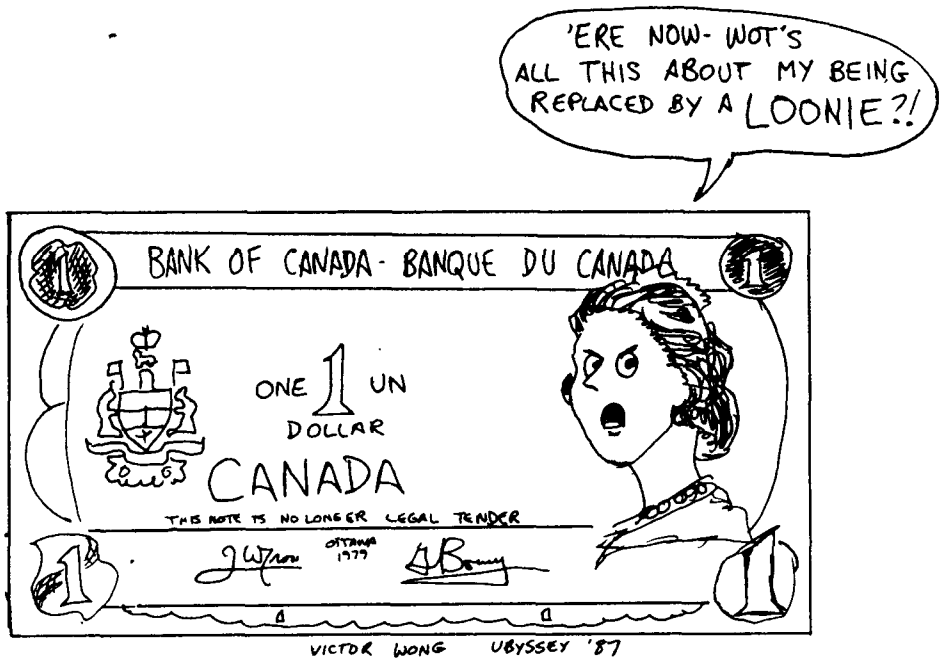
UBC administrators have developed a plan to make more money: they propose to build faculty and market housing on approximately 115 hectares of the 680 hectare University Endowment Lands' forest. Property sales are expected to net the university a bundle.

The big problem is that the UEL is not university land to develop; it is crown land, administered by the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

President Strangway claims a "moral" right to the UEL, based on the public perception equating the Lands with the university. But in 1987, as our city continues to expand, the importance of that perceived right pales when measured against the priceless value of an unspoiled park and teaching area for the future.

The money gained from the project would be quickly spent: the facilities at Physical Plant, for instance, need upgrading to the tune of $100 million, the estimated revenue from the proposed land sales. Would we then proceed to destroy the rest of the natural parklands for similar schemes?

Better to stick to more traditional fundraisers like pressuring the provincial government to start funding post-secondary education adequately.



Freewheeling promiscuity is a chilling prospect

By KURT PREINSPERG

I'm still in a daze after a talk with my doctor. Within a decade, he said, half the world's population may well carry the sexually transmitted AIDS virus - a prospect to chill any rational person's promiscuous ardor.

perspective

It was hard enough before the AIDS scare to persuade many women of the delights of casual sex. Now events have taken such a bizarre turn that a man had better think twice about the favors of easily persuaded women. The dilemma that safe sex is no longer easy and easy sex is no longer safe takes the fun out of frequenting pickup places and has a general estranging effect on dealings between the sexes. Sexual frustrations are destined to reach new and perhaps explosive heights. It's a grim situation and grist for the mill of both secular and religious prudes.

What is the most responsible attitude for a sex-loving hedonist in the face of the AIDS epidemic? Celibacy or prolonged monogamy are obviously counsels of despair rather than palatable alternatives. Fiddling around with condoms, always a lust-damper, may be a necessary nuisance sometimes, but condoms aren't failsafe and of dubious use in case of oral sex.

What I've decided is this. When I'm ready to sleep with someone new, I make it a habit to have an AIDS test and ask the other person to do the same. The fact that current tests will detect anti-bodies which only develop six to ten weeks after infection isn't a crucial problem in practice because few people change sex partners within less than 10 weeks. If neither my potential partner nor I have slept with anyone new for at least 10 weeks and both of us test negative, chances are overwhelming that we are virus-free. Of course, we need to trust each other's information. We also need to agree to sleep only with each other for a period or else with a small circle of trustworthy friends who observe similar precautions.

Try saying something like this: "If we were to become sexually involved, let's clear up one fear I'm sure both of us have. Let's head over to Student Health together and get an AIDS test, what do you think?"

In fact, I went to Student Health myself the other day. They're a terrific team of medical wizards, but - two minor criticisms for good measure. First,they could do more to encourage worried students to get tested for AIDS. Second, they could speed up the turnaround time for these tests. When people feel a sense of sexual urgency, a 2 1/2 week wait is too long.

AIDS has clearly put the ideal of freewheeling promiscuity in limbo. But given intelligent precautions, it's not at all clear to me that a responsible person needs to kiss sexual variety goodbye.

Kurt Preinsperg is a perennial philosophy graduate student who changes sexual partners frequently and likes to read books on social eauity while lying in a hamok

Protest US militarism

letters

Thirteen warships are scheduled to arrive in Vancouver during the annual Sea Festival this weekend. The people of Vancouver who are opposed to these instruments of aggression on a world scale will stage protest actions against them on July 17 and 18.

The two superpowers are stepping up their arms race and widely dispersing their navies in contention for world domination. By using Vancouver Harbour as a base from which to launch its aggressions, the U.S. has been stationing nuclear capable warships here on a regular basis. The Canadian government collaborates completely in these militarist schemes owing to the astronomical profits it shares with the US monopolies in all war-related industries.

Just recently, the Canadian government released its "White Paper" on defence in which it flatly states that it will spend $180 billion for a new military-industrial complex in order to "share the burden of defence" with the US. Clearly, the government is militarising the economy (and all aspects of life) in full participation in the aggressive militarist policies of the U.S., thereby draining the public purse of social services and education funding, increasing the tax burden on the people, and contributing to a volatile world situation.

The militarisation of Canada by the U.S. with the consent and aid of the Canadian government takes place in the social and cultural spheres as well. By holding such activities as the U.S. Navy's "Dial-a-Sailor" program, and by giving the U.S. Navy a high profile at the Sea Festival, the U.S. imperialists are attempting to subvert Canadian culture and traditions in order to de-sensitize the people in regards to the U.S. military presence and render them passive to the war preparations.

But, just as the world's peoples are struggling against the war preparations of both superpowers and for their national liberation, the people of B.C. have also been making a greater practical contribution to peace. They have been staging spirited demonstrations against the U.S. warships, as well as against the Cruise missile tests and the Nanoose Bay testing range.

It is absolutely necessary for all peace-loving Canadians to take up this struggle against the two superpowers. Come and join the actions against the 13 U.S. warships on July 18 at 12:30 at Robson Square, then at 2:00 at Ballantyne Pier the same day. Flotilla and dockside actions the day the ships arrive will be announced when further information is available.

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Death penalty debate was just a show

By MICHAEL GROBERMAN

Perspective

Brian Mulroney's spectacular, flawlessly choreographed "capital punishment" show was a triumph of theatre, rivalling even the stunning Cats.

The recently defeated motion on the death penalty pretended to be substantive. The big "as promised in 1984" free vote. In reality, it was a motion carefully designed for failure, and its introduction provides a clear look into Brian Mulroney's amazing political savvy.

Back in 1984, when Brian would have promised just about anything if it would get a couple more votes, he noticed a poll that indicated a majority of Canadians enjoyed the idea of capital punishment. So, although he opposed the death penalty, he made a free vote an election promise, thereby astutely placing his principles in a blind trust. He got elected and carefully forgot the promise.

Then came trouble: the same polls that had told Brian more Canadians will vote Conservative if you promise a free death penalty vote now told him Canadians thought he stunk as prime minister. And so Brian got an idea. He dragged that old promise out of its inter-election mothballs, and staged a big, glitzy, eye-catching melodrama to capture, or rather redirect, the Canadian imagination.

His dilemma: how to appear to hold a free vote without actually risking a return to capital punishment.

First, the bill could not be a justice ministry bill to return the death penalty for specific crimes as detailed in the bill. That would be too clear a proposal to debate: keep it vague and philosophical was rule one.

So he introduced a vague, philosophical motion. Actually, he got Don Mazankowski to get Doug Lewis, a mere backbencher, to introduce the motion. Brian wasn't even in the house when it came up.

As planned, the bill was too vague for anyone to be certain what was being debated. The motion would approve a very violent governmental act but would not even mention the specific crimes to which it might be applied.

A committee would then be struck and given the macabre task of travelling the country all summer, asking Canadians who the state should kill, and how it should kill them.

The press coverage this committee would receive, as Brian rightly noted, would be sensational and revolting. After a summer of such coverage, a new bill would be introduced, full of specifics like "death by suffocation for armed robbery". Then the voting would start again: four free votes (three readings and a report stage) would follow, taking easily longer than the one year left before the next election. And even if the bill survived all this, Brian could certainly count on the Trudeau-Liberal dominated Senate never to allow its passage.

Brian could well have fought the next election self-righteously attacking the Senate. He may even have been hoping, secretly, for such and outcome.

So with five free votes and at least one travelling death squad between Brian and capital punishment, the show began. Tory Backbench lunatic Bill Domm, on the first day of debate, wailed about chain-saw murderers in Montreal. The Globe and Mail kept a running tally of which MP supported which side. Macleans gave it two covers. Police chiefs, Eddie Greenspan, victims' families all entered the stage. This was high drama indeed.

Brian cleverly saved himself for the grand finale, speaking in the last week of debate, condemning the barbaric practice of capital punishment in his best parliamentary speech to date.

The result: a 21 vote majority defeated the motion. The deciding factor all along was the Quebec Tory caucus, a caucus to which the prime minister belongs and to which he is particularly sensitive. He knew he had the bill defeated when he allowed closure to end debate.

And so Mulroney kept his promise to the people of Canada and had the big free vote. For political reasons he gambled with human lives (albeit with humanely loaded dice) and won. He kept a promise, and successfully redirected public attention from an unpopular government for three months.

Michael Groberman is a neurotic English student and ex-Ubyssey editor.

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Council Briefs

NOTES ON MAY 27TH
A telegram has been sent to the Provincial Government by students council to protest proposed changes to the Elections Act. Suggested changes include the removal of Section 80, used by students as last minute voting registration. The telegram urged the government not to take any action which would result in the disenfranchisement of students.

* * * * *

Student Council is having difficulty giving away awards again The Great Trekker Award had its nomination dates extended last year when students failed to respond to requests for nominations. The Award is annually given to a UBC Alumni who has contributed to the advancement of the University community. Nominations were to be open from June 4th to June 30th but have been extended pending student input on nominations.
NOTES FOR JUNE 3RD
The AMS has decided to formulate its own policy statement based on "the newest and most up-to-date facts on AIDS", according to Todd Ablett, science rep., and has offered to gather the information and make it available to students.
QUORUM WAS NOT REACXHED ON JUNE 17TH
NOTES ON JULY 8TH
Disabled Students Association may be given 'service organization' status on July 22nd. Although no formal outline of a service organization is written in the AMS constitution, AMS Vice President Jody Woodland said that 'it allows funding above what you can get in grants".

The Faculty Association's request for tuition waivers for children of academics prompted Students Council to send a letter of protest to the Association and to President Strangway. "It's fine if tuition is waived for need or merit," said Kurt Preinspurger, grad. students rep.,"but not for being somebody's offspring."

* * * * *

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
"Last year it was $35 and this year we're throwing in a pair of overalls."
- director of administration, Tim Bird on the $5 fee increase for the leadership Conference.

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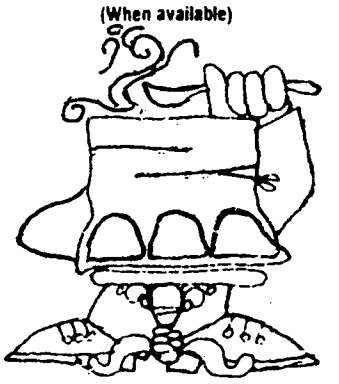

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Sexual harassment committee solicits suggestions

By RICK HIEBERT

A draft of the proposals of a presidential ad hoc committee has brought UBC one step closer to adopting a comprehensive sexual harassment policy.

The report recommends the formation of a permanent advisory committee on sexual harassment. The committee would appoint sexual harassment officers, organize panels to help resolve disputes and recommend disciplinary action, and oversee university sexual harassment policy.

Megan Ellis, a UBC law student who worked last year in the sexual harasssment clinic at the Women's Center, said the proposed sexual harassment advisory committee does not guarantee that all UBC constituencies will be represented.

Ellis is also concerned that the committee members might have insufficient knowledge of the subject. "Everybody thinks they know something about sexual harassment or rape, when actually they don't," she said. "There should be some kind of training or education process."

Ellis said it is "absolutely essential" that the university ensure the ability of the victim to safely complain. "It's not safe for women to talk about sexual harassment because often the harassers are in a position of power over the victim," as in a case of a professor harassing a student, she said.

Graduate student society programs co-ordinator John Dafoe stressed the necessity of allowing time for public input on the policies recommended in the report. Because several UBC organizations protested the June 30 deadline, a more complete report, to be released in September, will also be open to public debate.

Dafoe said that the society would wait until their executive meeting Thursday to formulate an official response to the report, but he anticipated problems with the makeup of the proposed committee, the qualifications of the sexual harassment officers and the question of whether they will be paid or volunteers.

"There are some things (in the report) that are better than we expected, but some are worse," he said.

Members of the ad-hoc committee were unwilling to comment on the report until they had responded to all the submitted comments and recommended preliminary changes in the report.

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Thank-you

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