THE UBYSSEY

Inside:
Page Friday
pg. 6 - 7

Students say, "no way, Strangway!"

Catwoman joins fight against tuition hike.

HARVEY CHEUNG PHOTO

By Greg Davis

"Ten percent?" was the question.

"Bullshit!" was the answer according to Scott Kent, Engineering second vice-president, one of several speakers to arouse a mass of about 1,000 fed-up UBC students Wednesday.

The students were protesting the proposed 10 percent tuition fee hike and the rally marked "the largest, strongest, most spontaneous demonstration" the campus has seen since 1983, Graduate Student Society president Robert Beynon told the crowd.

The throng of concerned students chanted "Hell no – we won't pay!" as Arts president and rally co-organizer Mike Lee said everyone must help send a strong message to UBC president Strangway and Victoria.

When the number of signatures on the petition opposing the 10 percent was announced to be 5,000, the crowd cheered.

AMS president Tim Bird told the mob and the media that the responsibility for the hikes lies "between the province and the university. The cost of tuition is not as strong a priority as it should be."

Bird said there is a large misconception in government and the province about the student standard of living, saying that while student expenses have risen considerably in the last ten years, student wages have not kept pace.

Vanessa Geary, co-organizer of Students Opposed to Tuition Fee Hikes, said students need to take action.

"We don't need barriers, we need an open and successful education system. We should send a clear message to B.C. that we want accessible education," shouted Geary.

Science president Todd Ablett told students they were being "sold short"."We can't be a Third World province," he said.

To the tune of "Revolution" the students then marched off to the Old Administration building, while some cried out "Burn it! Burn it!" in good humored spirit. They brandished signs with slogans such as "Education for all", "BoG Take a hike", and "Stop tuition robbery".

"I think it's a struggle for those who care to show that we're not all apathetic," said rallier Gustavo Escobedo, Arts 2.

"I'm pleased with the turnout. It's much higher than I expected. It shows students are concerned," said Paul Rimsted, secretary of the T.A. Union.

The procession marched up and banged on the doors of the old Administration building, and eventually made its way in to confront president Strangway, but he was not there.

"Strangway's not here. He's out to lunch," someone shouted amidst cheers and laughter from the crowd. After a short period of time, the gathering dispersed and the rally was over in time for 1:30 class.

The idea for the rally was conceived by third year engineers Craig Louie and Allen Dong.

"We decided to have a rally to show our indignation and protest the tuition fee hike. We got the ball rolling and hooked up with SOTFH and it just took off from there," said Dong.

SOTFH already had planned the January 26 protest but held a prelude to the main event, enabling students to get some more co verage from the media and spread awareness on campus.

"I'm really happy," said Geary, referring to the enthusiastic turnout. "I was involved in a petition campaign a couple of years ago and it was like pulling teeth. This (event) was really wonderful."

Students urge AMS to reconsider referendum

By Laura J. May

Students would not have voted for the Recreation Facility if they had known tuition fees might rise 10 percent next year, according to two students challenging the November referendum.

"When people made their decision for the recreation facility, most people were unaware of the 10 percent tuition fee increase. So, essentially, I'm urging the (Alma Mater Society) to have a referendum to guage student acceptance of the facility in light of new circumstances," said Bruce Charlish, a fourth-year student in Commerce.

"(It's) very, very bad policy to have a referendum and then a couple of months later to propose a 10 percent increase in tuition fees," Charlish said.

In November, UBC students voted in favour of a $30 fee increase per student in order to build a recreation facility.

Charlish and Robin Piercey, Arts 2, are circulating a petition calling for another referendum on RecFac. They must collect 1000 signatures for another referendum to be called. It is unclear whether there can be two referenda on the same issue in one year, according to Alma Mater Society President Tim Bird.

Charlish and Piercey want the matching funds the government will spend on RecFac to be used to keep tuition fees down instead: "If the government is willing to contribute money to RecFac, they should be willing to spend the same money—in the absence of RecFac—to keep our tuition fees down," Charlish said.

But Bird said the government will not give UBC the $5 million unless it's spent on RecFac: "It's far easier to get money for capital projects (like RecFac) from the government than for increasing operating expenses because the government can dictate the specifics (for capital projects). I think it's kind of chintzy (of the government) but if UBC didn't get that capital money, it would have gone elsewhere."

It is not inconsistent to support RecFac and oppose tuition fee increases, according to Bird. "I'm fundamentally opposed to increasing educational expenses of any kind, including these incidental fees (for RecFac)," Bird said.

But the only way students can determine how they want their money spent—instead of the government or the administration deciding how to spend students' money—is by a referendum, according to Bird. The administration may have chosen to build a bio-sciences research centre rather than a recreation facility if the students hadn't supported RecFac, according to Bird.

Charlish and Piercey don't want RecFac to be built unless tuition fees are under control. "No one's denying that the Recreation Facility would improve conditions, but at what cost? It's too large a sacrifice. If tuition fees are going up, I can't afford that $30," Charlish said.

Piercey was distressed that the University would spend $3 million in matching funds on RecFac when the libraries are underfunded and classes are overcrowded: "If there were upgrades in the University, you'd think they'd be of an academic nature."

Bob Seeman, Student Representative to the Board of Governors, said the $30 RecFac fee is part of the University's overall capital campaign which includes a new library, scholarships and professorships. (The capital campaign officially begins in March; UBC will be seeking $132 million from corporations and the government for these projects.)

"All this money (including Rec Fac fees) is going into this same campaign. It doesn't matter really what it was for when you look at the big picture," Seeman said.

The capital campaign will not lower UBC's tuition since none of the money goes towards operating expenses. But "we'll be getting a better university for our tuitions," Seeman said.

The Alma Mater Society held the RecFac referendum before the proposed 10 percent increase in tuition fees was announced because the capital campaign organizers needed the referendum results before November 30, according to Seeman. "(The Alma Mater Society) didn't set these dates. If we did not pass that referendum before November 30, we would not have had a recreation facility on the (capital campaign) list," he said.

Capital campaign organizers wanted student support for the referendum before they launched the campaign in March because corporations would be more likely to give money if the students had already committed money, according to Seeman.

JOE ALTWASSER PHOTO

Steamed students storm SUB seeking sordid speakers' spiels

Classifieds

Rates: AMS Card Holders - 3 lines, $3.00, additional lines 60 cents, commercial -3 lines, $5.00, additional lines 75 cents. (10% Discount on 25 issues or more) Classified ads payable in advance. Deadline 4:00 p.m,. two days before publication. Room 266, SUB, UBC, Van., B.C. V6T 2A7

05 - COMING EVENTS

!!DANCE!!
AGGIES PRESENT
AGAINST THE GRAIN
WITH CO2
SAT. JAN. 21
SUB BALLROOM 730-1230
Happy Hour 7:00 - 8:00
Tickets $5.00
SUB Box Office

11 - FOR SALE

HONDA MOTORCYCLE 400 cc. CB400T 1979, lady driven 7600 km, garage stored $550 OBO. Leave Message 261-3351.

VANCOUVER TO SASKATOON Airfare April 25th $120 OBO. 420-7186

20 - HOUSING

VISITING TORONTO? Bed & Breakfast in our restored home minutes to the University of Toronto and downtown. Rates from $40.00. Ashleigh Heritage Home (416) 535-4000.

30 - JOBS

STUDENT WITH GOOD SALES ABILITY required immediately for p/t work at Community Sports. Resumes to 3355 West Broadway.

SUMMER JOBS!
Looking for treeplanters. Experience an asset, but not necessary. Make good money, interested. 731-3760 3-9 pm.

HELP! I need 6 FT & 10 PT people to help with my business. Full training provided. Start now! Call 874-1754.

DOOR TO DOOR WORK No selling involved. Near UBC. $7/hr. Call Chris, 224-5468.

35 - LOST

LOST: GOLD GUCCI WATCH with black dial at Sedgewick or SUB. Reward. Sentimental value. 224-1327.

REWARD FOR SILVER CHAIN and pendant with Indian carving of eagle. Sentimental value. Laurie: 688-5877.

LOST - Gold rimmed glasses at the SUB Ballroom Sat. Jan. 14 Law Dance. Call Thomas 263-7636 or 266-2671.

40 - MESSAGES

DESPERATELY SEEKING SHAHENOOR
Love Johnny Depp

MESSAGE OF ISLAM 13: Muslims Believe that a person is free from sin until he commits sin. He is also free to do things according to his plans on his own responsibility.

TALL SLIM GENTLEMAN wishes F. to share positive happy times & poss. relationship. I'm in my 30's - your age unimportant if sincere. All answd. G. Degan, Box 67789, Van. V5W 3Z5.

CHRISTINE GRAVES Call Karl 737-2518.

BE HAPPY and help someone else not worry by volunteering anywhere in the Lower Mainland or right here on campus. Check it out at Volunteer Connections, Brock Hall 200, 228-3811.

50 - RENTALS

MUSIC MASTER D.J. SERVICE
HIGHEST QUALITY DIGITAL SOUND
* FOR ANY OCCASION *
5 HOURS IN SUB! ONLY $189
322-6571

70 - SERVICES

HANDY HELPERS: Prof., reliable cleaning. 7 days a wk. 7am - 10pm. 325-4486. Any location - Bonded and Insur.

75 - WANTED

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Healthy Caucasian male (20 - 40 yrs) Smokers (1 pack/d) are needed for a study involving drug(s) intake and blood sampling (4 weeks). $210 will be paid for the complete study. For detailed info. call Grace UBC 228-6772.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Healthy males (19-25 yrs) are needed for a drug study involving a single dose of an antiarrhythmic drug followed by blood collections. A $75 gratitude will be paid at completion of study. Details phone DAVID 228-5838 UBC Pharmacy.

ATTENTION: CHINESE PERSONS. If you are at least 18 years old and have lived in Canada for more than one year; we ask you to share your experiences with us by participating in a study on the changes of perceptions, and values of Chinese Immigrants and Chinese-Canadians. This will give you a better understanding of yourself as a person and as a member of your community. Project supervised by Dept. of Counselling Psychology, UBC. Please contact: Natacha at 430-3657.

DO YOU HAVE ASTHMA?
If so ... and if you're 16-26 years of age, your help is needed to investigate breathing tests that will improve the assessment of asthma. As a participant, you will have the opportunity to learn about lung function testing and your performance in these tests. Please contact Jocelyn Ross, School of Rehabilitation Medicine at 228-7708.

80 - TUTORING

ENGLISH - A QUALIFIED UBC GRAD would like to help you with writing, proofreading, or conversation. Dan 874-4499.

85 - TYPING

PROFESSIONAL TYPIST, 30 years exp., word proc. & IBM typewriter. Student rates. Dorothy Martinson 228-8346.

TYPING EDITING RESEARCH. No notice required resumes (same day service). Tapes transcribed. 224-2310 (24 hrs).

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Specialists in scientific texts, graphs, grammar correction and style polishing. 253-0899. Free pickup & delivery on campus.

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PROFESSIONAL TYPING DONE 261-6176, Kerrisdale Arena.

HOT FLASH

OIL DRILLING IN THE QUEEN CHARLOTTES

While most Canadians think South Moresby is safe and sound, our government is spending millions of $ assessing the hydrocarbon potential of the proposed marine park area on South Moresby. The Charlottes are threatened by two very active fault routes and surrounded by extremely rough waters.

PRESENTATION:
- Underwater video narrated by Dr. D. Suzuki
- Up to date info. by native Haida ???
- Brief Slideshow by M. Roland

Feb. 6, 8 pm, Robson Square Media Centre
Admission: $4, $3 (Student, low income)

Kin ya spel? Kin ya tipe? Duz ya no how to take a pichure? Kin ya draw? Wanna lirn layout? Wanna be like us?

241 K , The Ubyssey, Come up and see us sumtime...

Between Classes

Note: "Noon" = 12:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Amnesty International
Urgent Action Letter Writing, 12:30 - 1:30, SUB Concourse.

UBC Personal Computer Club
IBM Meeting, Noon, SUB 125.

International Development Club
Bake Sale, 12:30 - 2:30, SUB Concourse.

Gays and Lesbians of UBC
Beer Garden, 3:30-7:00, SUB 205.

UBC New Democrats
4 party Bzzr Garden held by the UBC NDP, Liberals, Tories and Socreds. Svend Robinson will be by. 3:30 pm to 8:00 pm, SUB 215.

UBC New Democrats
"All-party, post-Model Parliament, Beer Garden", 3:30 pm-8 pm, SUB 215.

International House
Dance/Beer Garden. Free Admission/Meet International Students! 4:30 pm, International House (upper lounge).

Graduate Student Society
G.S.S. Bzzr Garden, 4:30 - 7:30, Fireside Lounge, Graduate Student Centre.

Graduate Student Society
Darts Tournament: Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. 7:30, Fireside Lounge, Graduate Student Centre.

Lutheran Student Movement
Retreat, 7:30 pm, Lutheran Campus Centre.

Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity
Party. Alpha Delta Phi presents the Something Wild! bash with the Dayglo Abortions. Tix at door or phone 224-9866. 8:00 pm onward, Alpha Delta Phi House, 2270 Wesbrook Mall.

Students Concerned About Tuition Fee Hikes
Strategy Meeting for tuition fee protest, all welcome!!
4:30 TA Union's office (second floor of the Armories

SATURDAY

Lutheran Student Movement
Retreat. 7:30 pm, Lutheran Campus Centre.

Institute of Asian Research
Jan. 21 - 31, 1989, Exhibition of paintings by SHAO Fei. Ms. Shao (b. 1954, Beijing), is one of many artists from China whose work and artistic concerns are creating new directions in modern Chinese painting. Monday to Friday 10 am - 4:30 pm, Saturday and Sunday 12-5 pm, Asian Centre Auditorium.

Orthodox Christian Mission
Vespers, 6 pm, St. Peter's Church, 4580 Waldon (Main & 30th) 275-2985.

International Development Club
Free Film Night: Three Films on "Third World Urbanization". 7 pm, International House.

International Development Club
Film Night, 7:00 pm, International House.

UBC Film Society/SUB Films
Film: 'Who Framed Roger Rabbit", 7:00 and 9:30 pm, SUB Theatre.

SUNDAY

Orthodox Christian Mission
Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am, St. Peter's Church, 4580 Waldon (Main & 30th), 275-2985.

Lutheran Student Movement
Communion Service, 10:00 am, Lutheran Campus Centre.

UBC Sailing Club
Frostbite Regatta. Two classes of boats to be raced, Lasers and Laser IIs. 11:00 am Skipper's Meeting, Race 1 at 12:00 pm. Jericho Sailing Centre.

UBC Film Society/SUB Films
Film: "Who Framed Roger Rabbit", 7:00 and 9:30 pm, SUB Theatre.

MONDAY

AMS Concerts
General Meeting, Noon, Rm. 224, SUB.

UBC Sailing Club
Club sweatshirt for sale. $40 members, $45 non-members. Design - includes club crest, race flags/signal flags, white heavy cotton sweatshirt. 12:30 - 1:30 pm, UBC Sailing Club Rm. 58, SUB.

UBC Astronomy and Aerospace Club Penticton field-trip planning; bring $5 deposit if interested. 5:30 pm, Geophysics and Astronomy 142.

UBC Personal Computer Club
IBM Meeting, Noon, SUB 213.

Graduate Student Society
Ballroom Dance Lessons. Beginners & Intermediate. 7:30 Beg. & 8:30 Inter., Ballroom, Graduate Student Centre.

UBC Film Society
Film Showing - Alfred Hitchcock's "Frenzy", 7:00 and 9:30 pm, SUB Aud., SUB.

UBC Law Union
Lecture by Barbara Jackman, Immigration Lawyer, "C-55: Canada's Way of dealing with Refugees" Noon - 12:30pm
Faculty of Law, Rm 169

TUESDAY

P.F.L.
Election executive organization, usual time, Clocktower, usual spot.

International Development Club
General Mtng. Noon, Angus 413.

UBC Pre-Medical Society
Lecture: General Surgery by Dr. Erik Skarsgard. Noon, IRC #1.

Jewish Students Association/ Hillel
Famous Hot Lunch - Celebration of Trees, 12:30, Hillel House.

Students for Forestry Awareness
Clay Perry, IWA, speaking on "Forestry from a Labour Perspective", 12:30 - 1:30 pm, MacMillan 166.

UBC Sailing Club
Club sweatshirt for sale. $40 members, $45 non-members. Design - includes club crest, race and signal flags, white heavy cotton sweatshirt. 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm. For more detail and preview of design, come to office, Rm. 58, SUB.

Law Students Legal Advice Program
Clinic, every Tuesday, 12:30 to 2:00 pm, SUB Rm. 213 to 215.

Lutheran Student Movement
Co-op Supper, 6:00 pm, Lutheran Campus Centre.

UBC Personal Computer Club
AMIGA Meeting, 11:30 - 1:30, SUB 111, APPLE Meeting, Noon, SUB 125.

NEWSCRAPS

Anarchists

The anarchists have risen from the dead. The UBC Social Anarchists Club is attempting to reform after its inexplicable demise last year.

Paul Dayson, one of the self-appointed but non-hierarchical organizers, says the club will be both self-educational as well as educate the public about anarchist ideas.

What exactly is anarchy? "It's a belief in ability of people to run their own lives in a non-hierarchical structure on the basis of consensus or some kind of mutual aid," says Dayson.

Though Dayson says it is impossible for him to predict the mandate of the club as that will be determined by the club members themselves, he does expect it will provide a forum for discussion and debate. "Anarchists don't believe that we're all the same—people are less sure of the fact that everyone should think the same way as they do."

Dayson can be reached through the Ubyssey office as the club is in fact not a club yet and does not have a room.

Architecture

The AMS art gallery is featuring works from the UBC School of Architecture next week.

The school, one of UBC's smallest, faced the cutback's axe last year but is now back on its feet and producing remarkable student projects.

Sail Away

The UBC sailing club will be having the Frostbite Regatta on Jan. 22 at Jericho Sailing Centre. The classes to be raced will be Lasers and Laser II's. No spinnakers will be allowed.

This is a good opportunity for those who are interested in the Bronze IV lessons to race against some of the better sailors in the club. Registration is at 11 a.m. and the skippers' meeting at noon. For more information contact Fleet Captain Alison Urqkhart or Ken Ou at 228-4231 or Rm. 58 SUB, 12:30-1:30.

Tape-A-Mania

CiTR's Sparky Magneto and his Ionic Alternatives bring you the totally legal home-taping project, Thursday, Feb. 15.

Listeners can tape a local band off the airwaves and won't infringe on anyone's copyright laws. And it's an easy way for the bands to distribute their music.

The live recording taped off CiTR together with the cassette cover available in vaious magazines and newspapers including the February 1989 issue of Discorder Magazine, combine to make Tape-A-Mania the complete do-it-yourself album project.

Future Tape-A-Mania projects are already in the planning for the rest of 1989, the year in which CiTR 101.9 fm goes High Power.

Friday is the last day to vote in Student Board of Governors and Senate Elections.

Breathe easy – fee date extended

By Stephen Lazenby

Students will not have to loot their bank accounts quite as early this year, thanks to a UBC Senate decision on Wednesday night to move the tuition fee due date from August 31 to the day after Labour Day.

But even though students won't be asked to pay before classes start, they will have to pay one hundred dollars more, making the deposit $200 next year.

The student senators conceded to the $100 increase in the face of opposition on behalf of the Registrar's Office, which did not want to move the date back for fear of unconfirmed telereg usage, and people backing out after using the system, taking away registration time and space.

The proposal was a result of student Senators' concerns that some students might not have adequate time to collect money from employers in time to meet the early date.

The Senate caucus first voiced its concern over the issue last year but they were unprepared to make an effective stand against the issue when it was voted on. This year they were determined to do better.

This year, 840 students were de-registered by Telereg for non-payment of fees, half of whom had to re-register during the first week of classes.

In an effort to be prepared to offer constructive suggestions on the improvement of Telereg, the student Senators set up a table in SUB at the beginning of the year to get feedback on the system from students.

The early date for fee payment was one of the major complaints, especially from tree-planters who often do not receive their wages until the end of the summer.

The Senators reported these complaints to the Senate last semester, but had to wait until the issue came up on the agenda before they could attempt to rectify the problem.

The issue finally came up last month and Alex Speers, Senator-at-Large, proposed an amendment to change the date tuition fees are due in the first semester. But a vote on the issue was postponed this month to allow both sides in the issue to gather their facts.

A representative of the project advisory committee said earlier payment would give the Registrar's Office time to de-register unpaid students before late Telereg opens the day after Labour Day, making the un-paid students' seats available to other students. Adding the early installment date would allow the Registrar's Office to give professors an accurate enrolment figure on the first day of classes.

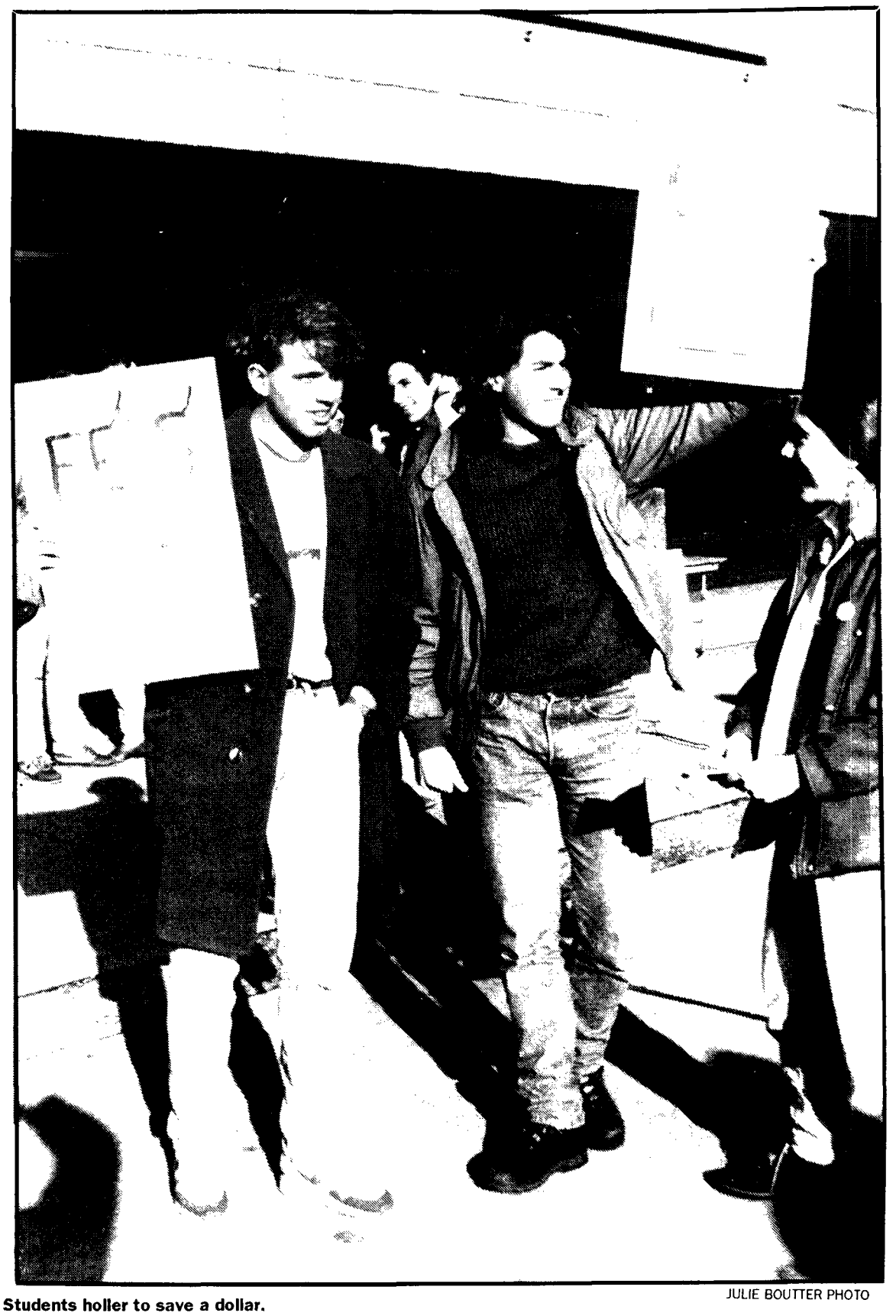
Bob Seeman, student Board of Governors representative told AMS student council Wednesday night "(The Registrar's Office is) screwing students because the office is too busy. They want to get it all out of the way over the long weekend, and that's the only reason."

Student Senators pointed out that if the Registrar's Office priority was to de-register unpaid students, then perhaps it should re-evaluate its priority. As for the issue of accurate class lists, the fact that Telereg is open during the first two weeks of school guarantees they will be inaccurate after the first day, according to student Senators.

When a representative of the Awards Office claimed students could always apply for a deferral of fee payment if they could not meet the August deadline, a student Senator correctly pointed out that deferrals are only available to students receiving funds from student loans, scholarships, or a recognized third party.

The student Senators received valuable support from several deans, particularly the Dean of Arts, Robert Will, who had previously opposed a later date for fee payment.

One student senator said he hoped future Senators would work to have the tuition fee due date moved back to the middle of September.



Students holler to save a dollar.

JULIE BOUTTER PHOTO

Computers open library access

Next Monday UBC undergraduate students with home computers will be able to access university library files.

Although files have been available to graduate and disabled undergraduate students since November 1987, concern over tying up computer lines has caused the library to delay access to other students.

"We didn't want so many (users) as to make the response time bad," said assistant university librarian Bill Watson.

Files available for access include journals, periodicals, newspapers, in-process files—everything that is currently catalogued on micro-fiche files. The computer also lists the latest books and journal issues.

Watson emphasized that the system would be "user-friendly".

"As soon as (a student) has a library card with a number on it he can access the system," said Watson.

Funding for the new computer system came from part of a $250,000 grant from the Ministry of Advanced Education in December of 1987 which was distributed between the three universities.

"There are similar systems scattered throughout Canada and the U.S.," said Watson. Simon Fraser has a system and UVic is currently in the process of developing one.

But while technological leaps are being made in access to computers, other areas of the system, including circulation, are badly out of date, according to Watson.

"Our computer circulation system was put into play in 1965," he said. "(We) need money to develop a new system."

Watson said improvements in the system would come from more grants from the province and the university's new fundraising campaign.

"The university will be in a position to make definite allocations by 1990," said Watson.

Students who don't have home computers can access the files from other library terminals on campus.

Oil spill clean-up crews still need volunteer aid

By Katherine Monk and Roberta Cenedese

Though Vancouver beaches are safe, the oil spill saga is far from over—despite recent reports indicating the spill was ebbing and volunteers were no longer needed, according to Tofino clamdigger Janet Bate.

"The oil keeps washing up, and we still need at least fifty poeple a day to help in the clean-up—this week and the week after," said Bate, an active member of Friends of Clayoquot Sound, a volunteer organization which has taken on the task of feeding and billeting volunteers.

The federal and provincial governments stepped in to help with the clean-up, and contracted Spray Away, a private company.

But as far as any visible results, the contractors' contribution has been minimal, according to Friends of Clayoquat Sound. And some people have charged the contractors with stalling on the clean-up to keep the job going a little longer, said Peter Leuthard of FOCS.

But Janet Bate just wants the job done. "We're doing as much as we can, but the definite feeling here is that it's the volunteers and the residents doing the work, while the officials are in meetings."

"Our newspaper ran a story about how inaproppriate it was for volunteers to come up here, saying there was no place for them to stay—but we've been working like crazy to get billets, and we've just set up a soup kitchen," said Bate. "We're having to combat the misinformation about volunteering."

Dean Monterey, of the Provincial Emergency Program said he could not make a formal request for volunteers, but if people are self-contained, and can find their own accommodation, the Coast Guard could keep them busy.

"We've had people come up and there's no oil—they expect to see a line of oil on the beach, but the beaches re-oil themselves, and it's scattered everywhere," said Monterey, adding he had heard a lot of complaints about the contractors, but nobody spoke to them.

When the contractors were contacted yesterday a spokesperson was unavailable.

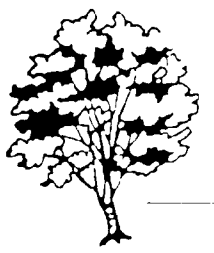
For now, the backbreaking work is being handled by about twenty people a day, said Fiona McCallum, of FOCS. "Cleaning the beach is a daily mission, but as long we're getting it off he beaches, it won't go back into the ocean."

And according to Silvaine Zimmerman, a North Pacific Campaigner for Greenpeace, their efforts have paid off—Vancouver is no longer at risk of being polluted, unless the currents change.

But even though we are not directly threatened, we may face problems further down the line. She quoted the latest number of dead sea birds at 7,000, but that doesn't include the many birds that sink and open ocean birds which are too far out to float onto shore. These birds, she says, will settle onto the ocean floor and be eaten by fish, which will affect our food chain.

When asked how long we would be feeling the affects of the oil spill, Zimmerman said it depended on whether the oil was pure or contained impurities. She stressed that all oil is different and "the government shouldn't wait and see the effects but should act right away".

HILLEL HIGHLIGHTS



HILLELLS FAMOUS HOT LUNCH
featuring Tu B-Shevat
Celebration of Trees!
Tuesday, Jan. 24, 12:30 pm

Jewish Studies Discussion Group
Wednesday, Jan. 25, 12:30 pm

Israeli Dancing
Thursday, Jan. 26, 7pm SUB Rm 207/209

and...

Watch the Ubyssey for more details for a
PARTY!
Saturday, Jan. 28, 8pm

For more info: 224-4748
Hillel is located behind brock Hall

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UBC AWARDS

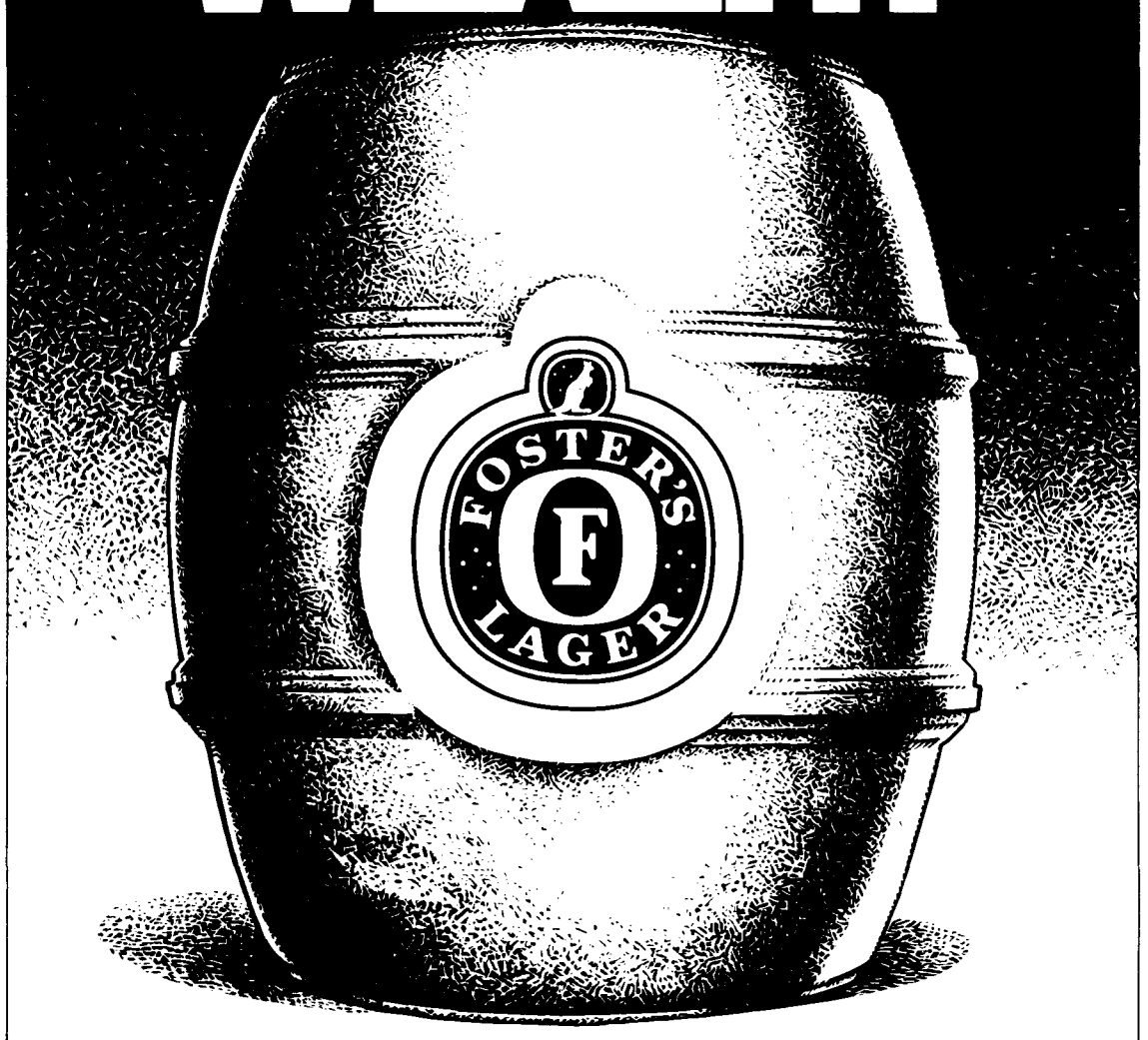
WILLIAM G. BLACK MEMORIAL PRIZE

William G. Black Memorial Prize - a prize in the amount of approximately $1,600 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 in undergraduate programs 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.

Time and Place:
Saturday, February 4, 1989
10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon
BUCHANAN A 106

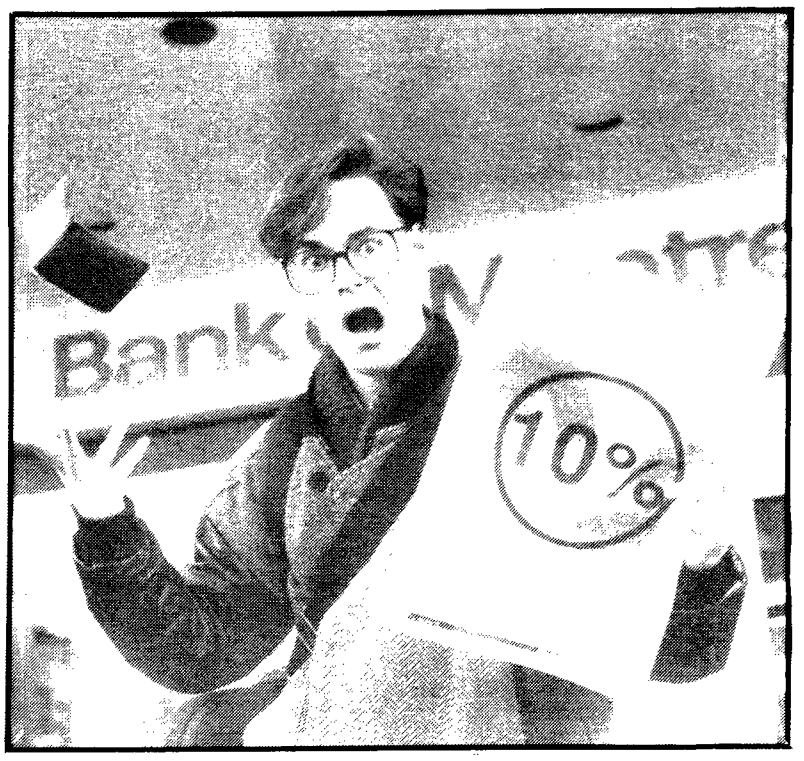
Awards & Financial Aid • Room 50, General Services Admin. Bldg. • Phone: 228-5111

UNTAPPED WEALTH



THE GOLDEN THROAT CHARMER, NOW ON DRAUGHT.

NEWS



K. MONK PHOTO

Joe Average (a.k.a. Ken MacDonald) finally gets off his butt.

You too, can start a revolution

By Katherine Monk

Ken MacDonald was just eating his lunch when he found himself at the front of a protest march, speaking to a horde of television cameras and pen-toting reporters.

"I was quite surprised to be at the front of the march, and then BCTV came at me with a camera," a breathless MacDonald said after the noon hour protest on Wednesday. "I started gibbering like an idiot."

MacDonald happened to be one of the first students to enter the administration building where the mob finished its cross campus march to call on UBC president David Strangway and deliver its message "no way we won't pay!"

Because he was first one in the building, MacDonald said he spoke to president Strangway's secretary, and she told him the president was not in.

But in spite of the fact he did not get to speak with the president first-hand, MacDonald was not disillusioned by the march.

"This was my first demonstration," the fourth year music student said, and he would also likely be at the next protest scheduled for Jan. 26, in front of the faculty club, when the Board of Governors will decide on the fate of tuition increases.

Like most of the students present at the demonstration, MacDonald said he was encouraged by the hundreds of people who found the proposed ten percent tuition increase outrageous enough to protest against it.

"I've had to pay for everything myself, and I owe $4500. It's hard enough to get into university as it is—besides, I don't think the measure of how good a university is should depend on how many people it has to turn away."

Attention

Candidates for AMS executive elections: Please come by the Ubyssey office today (Friday) for an interview. We know you don't want to but you have to.

Poor lose out at Expo site

By Joe Altwasser

Housing, not racism, is the major concern of most citizens' action groups about the Expo land deal, according to alderman Libby Davies.

"Sure there is racism in Vancouver, however the issue is of speculative investment—not a question of race," said Davies.

Originally, the Expo site was to be developed with one-third of the houses labelled as low-income, one-third moderate, and one-third would be offered at whatever the market can pay, according to Davies.

Also, fifty percent of the housing was to be left for families—a move which Davies says is "crucial" to a livable environment.

The densities for families is much lower than single dwellings because there is a need for more ground floor suites and green spaces.

The entire proposal was shelved when city council defeated the motion in favour of a formula which allowed for twenty percent social housing and twenty-five percent for families.

Concord Pacific, the developer of the site, was firmly against the proposal allocating fifty percent family and one-third low income housing, said Davies.

Jim Green of the Downtown East-side Resident's Association says the mayor and city council are oversupportive of Concord, paying little attention to social housing.

Green complains that DERA has not even had an opportunity to express its concerns on the development of the site. And when a public hearing was held, "DERA was given only five minutes to speak, five minutes to cram eight years of planning and expertise," Green said.

But Green's concerns stretch beyond the Expo site—many existing lots near the site will be affected by what he calls "domino development," where the building up of the Expo site will have ripple effects throughout the Downtown East-side, spurning new development that could threaten existing social housing.

The face of downtown will change immeasurably in the next ten years, according to Green. "Remember in addition to the Concord development, silently, Marathon Realty is also developing a huge tract of downtown Vancouver."

And added the accusations of racism labelled towards the developer is clouding the real issue of housing and what is being done about it by the developers and the city, Green said.

David Laing of the Tenants' Rights Coalition agrees with Green, and said the handling of the Expo deal was unprecedented.

"Never has city-hall given free-reign to a developer," said Laing. "Usually the city tells a developer what to do, but here it is being done backwards where the developer gave city-hall a proposal, Campbell looks it over and approves it."

Laing said Concord is getting paid to build the low-cost housing with funds from both the provincial and federal government.

The only gain would be by the developer who would receive money from the government to build the social housing, according to Laing.

"Concord itself, should be under a legal obligation to build and fund social housing as it will be the only way Vancouver will gain," said Laing.

And Jim Green adds that this should be done without taking money from existing programs.

With eighty per cent of the site housing going to the higher income market and the city apparently doing nothing, Laing is very concerned that the public's needs will not be served.

"Market housing will not give housing to the low income and working people of Vancouver," said Laing.

As for racism, Laing thinks it may be a motivation of some but the issue only fogs more important issues. "Tenants Rights would be equally outraged if it was an American or local Pattison or Toigo if they are just after a buck."

Atrocities targeted

By Cathy Lu

People must promote human rights in more than an abstract way, urged student human rights activist Horacio de la Cueva, after citing various human rights violations in Central Latin America.

"Amnesty International is necessary but not sufficient .... It's fairly simple to come here to UBC or go home to write a letter—it takes twenty minutes—and it's good, but it's different to know the people," said de la Cueva in a discussion Wednesday noon sponsored by Amnesty International.

De la Cueva recounted his experience at an Amnesty International conference in the United States, where American psychologists had the chance to interview and apply a stress test to newly-arrived Central American refugees.

Anyone scoring close to 500 points on the stress test is considered to be "in really bad shape," he said.

"The prisoners of conscience that had been released and were at that point in the U.S. scored no less than 2000. That's what the psychologists were afraid of—that they were talking to the survivors, those people so strong who could resist being persecuted, imprisoned, tortured, and last long enough to make it out of prison," said de la Cueva.

The essential facts are often hidden behind euphemisms, a game of words that all governments play, he said.

Disappearances are "systematic politically-motivated kidnappings" and extra-judicial killings "is a nice way of saying systematic politically-motivated assassinations," de la Cueva said.

He cited the distinction the U.S. State Department has made in the past between "authoritarian" governments—Panama, Nicaragua, Chile and Guatamala—and "totalitarian" governments, which now include those same countries.

"The U.S. was playing games with words to harass politically some country...that was not aligned with them, and, by changing the word to 'authoritarian', to provide money to those countries that supported their policies," he said.

De la Cueva said Amnesty International's goal is not to topple governments, "but to firmly persuade them to change their ways." But he expressed fears that governments would just think of different ways of repressing the people.

Peter Kerr, who has worked with the Christian Task Force on Central America, and the Trade Union Group, criticized the Canadian government for resuming bilateral, or government-to-government, aid to Guatemala and El Salvador as those countries still frequently violate human rights. Kerr said by doing this, Canada is sending out the message that human rights violations are okay.

He quoted a Salvadoran peasant speaking in a film by Dr. Charles Clements called, "Witness to War: An American Doctor in El Salvador."

"I worked on the hacienda over there, and I would have to feed the dogs bowls of meat or bowls of milk every morning, and I could never put those on the table for my own children. When my children were ill, they died with a nod of sympathy from the landlord. But when those dogs were ill, I took them to the veterinarian in Suchitoto."

"You will never understand violence or non-violence until you understand the violence to the spirit that happens from watching your children die of malnutrition."

"This is what is happening in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and other places in Central America," Kerr said, citing that 72 percent of the land in Guatemala is controlled by 2 percent of the population.

"A lot of people just do not have the land to work," he said.

However, anyone openly dissenting with the government faces bleak prospects for a long life. Kerr noted a non-partisan Canadian organization called Peace Brigades International has its members assigned to which-profile labour leaders, church leaders or human rights activists "to be in the area as a witness in case anything happens—actually, to try to prevent anything from happening."

Amnesty International lobbies to free student

By Cathy Lu

A young man in Czechoslovakia spends four years in prison for circulating a petition. "He was simply asking for better conditions in his country," says Keir Simons, the chair of Amnesty International on campus.

Most people probably know of the international human rights organization by the recent benefit rock concerts featuring well-known musicians such as Sting, Tracy Chapman and Peter Gabriel.

"A couple of years ago, everybody thought we were a communist organization. Now they know who we are, and that's something positive that's come from the rock concerts," says Simons in a recent interview.

"We are simply an organization of individuals, almost a million, working on behalf of other individuals in the world who are being persecuted for their beliefs, their ethnic origin, their race, their religion—things that we in Canada take largely for granted," Simons says of Amnesty International.

The organization works to free prisoners of conscience and raise awareness of the state of human rights in the world. Prisoners of conscience are persons who are imprisoned for expressing their beliefs without advocating violence. Once they espouse violence, they become political prisoners.

"Our mandate is three-fold: we work for the immediate unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience, for the abolition of the death penalty and use of torture, on the grounds that it's cruel and inhuman punishment and protected by Article 5 by the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, and for the fair trial of all political prisoners," says Simons.

He stresses that abuse of one's rights does not only happen to "radicals, or dangerous people."

Basile Legba, a medical student in the western African country, Benin, disappeared last February. "He was made to disappear simply because he was a member of the student union," says Simons. The UBC Amnesty group is solely responsible for working for Legba's release, through letter-writing campaigns.

Simons dismisses criticisms that letter-writing is ineffective. "The fact is five prisoners of conscience are freed everyday from letter-writing," he says. "A government tries to silence somebody, to create a conspiracy of silence, and we create the conspiracy of hope to break it down."

Letter-writing occurs on two levels: one group writes to the government while another writes to the prisoner. "One is to tell the prisoners, 'Keep heart. We know the government has wrongfully imprisoned or tortured you. We are thinking about you, we have people working for you—don't give up,'" says Simons. "The other aspect is to lobby the government in question and say, 'We know about this person and we want him out.'"

Amnesty International's actions are protected by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by almost all countries of the world in December 1948. "We are in fact a non-violent army, enforcing the UN Declaration," he says. "The governments are all bound by this Declaration, so we are simply saying, 'you promised.'"

UBC Amnesty Chair Kier Simons

MANDEL NGAN PHOTO

Page Friday

Dead up = big laughs

by Rick Hiebert

Usually the life of a press secretary to the U.S. Vice President is about as exciting as watching molasses flow downhill, or so would argue Frank Lee, the hero of The Body Politic.

PRINT
The Body Politic
By Victor Gold and Lynne Cheney
St. Martin's Press

It is Lee's job to ensure good press for Vice-President Stewart "Bully" Vandercleve, an over bearing, loud and florid political hack, who spends his time in crucial activities like officiating at the East Passaic Young Republican Pasta Festival. The Vice-President is doing such a good job that the President, embroiled in a bitter fight for his party's nomination, drops him from the ticket.

If that isn't enough, Lee gets a call late one night to go to Vandercleve's townhouse, where he finds his boss dead. Lee is about to announce the Vice-President's demise when the President's chief-of-staff asks him for a small favour: keep the VP "alive" for a few days, so the President can strategically offer the Vice Presidential nomination to someone else. Surely Lee, as a good PR man can manage that...and it's only for a few days...

This is the essential plot of a wild new satire of political life south of the border, The Body Politic, by Washington journalist Victor Gold and the director of the American National Endowment for the Humanities, Lynne Cheney.

The Body Politic takes a cockeyed look at life in the media crazy Washington D.C. of today. Gold and Cheney concoct transcripts, TV interviews and letters to add to the reminisces of the ingratiatingly sneaky and cold blooded protagonist Frank Lee. This gives a wacky account of the rapidly snowballing and farcical conspiracy to keep a dead Vice-President alive in the public eye.

The authors, who both live and work in Washington, do a magnificent job in satirizing Washington personalities and politics, and life in the American capital. An added level of humour is there for those who are familiar with today's American politics and media as the authors have obviously modelled many of the satire's characters on nationally prominent figures (the character of the Vice-President brings to mind former New York Governor and Vice President Nelson Rockefeller).

Even if you aren't a political animal, the hilariously offbeat characters in The Body Politic, and Lee's rapidly worsening plight make this wonderfully amusing reading for everyone. Gold and Cheney have created a satirical novel that is funny from any perspective.

The Vice President's adventures and exploits after death are almost as funny as American politics are in real life.

Big comedy lacks big comedy

by Jonathan Treichel

The January Man, starring Kevin Kline, Susan Sarandon, and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio is simple fare at best. It is mildly entertaining as a tongue-in-cheek cop thriller, but any real substance is lost in a maze of sub-plots which fail to be resolved into any really profound conclusion.

FILM
The January Man
Now playing at the Capitol 6

The movie is set up as a story of corruption. What type of corruption, however, is obscure. There are references to a mysterious "cheque", but any real significance about pay-offs and high level corruption in the New York city mayor's office is downplayed and the "corruption" plot is lost. The main problem is that the movie charges along at a frenetic pace and the sub-plots pile up on each other so quickly that the viewer is left breathless, and a little lost.

The story twists around the main group of characters. Nick Starkey (Kline), is a good guy in a bad world. Corruption, crime, even fires which threaten the lives of little girls, all seem to be the main realities of his life. He is brilliant but unorthodox, which puts him in conflict with such "establishment" figures as his brother Frank the police commissioner (Harvey Keitel), the mayor (Rod Steiger), and his police captain (Danny Aiello). The "beatnik vs. establishment" joke, however, is tired and cliched. With all of the film's jokes it seems as if they are begun, but never finished. The audience spends a lot of time waiting for "the big laugh". It never comes.

The film is further hindered by several tense scenes which seem out of place in a movie which claims to be a comedy, even black comedy. At an early point in the movie the audience is shocked into silence by a brutal and coarse tirade delivered by Rod Steiger—one even a marine drill sergeant might be jealous of.

Ultimately the film does not satisfactorily resolve itself into either comedy or drama. It is a film which sits squarely on the fence, and for all of its promise there is very little pay-off. Watching the film is an exercise in futility, as the viewer is treated to a stimulating array of camera work; the music by Marvin Hamlisch is fantastic; and the actors are all very competent. Unfortunately, all these positives add up to a negative...but the music really is great.

Kevin Kline ponders the meaning of the January Man... unsuccessfully

Yerma

by Keith Damsell

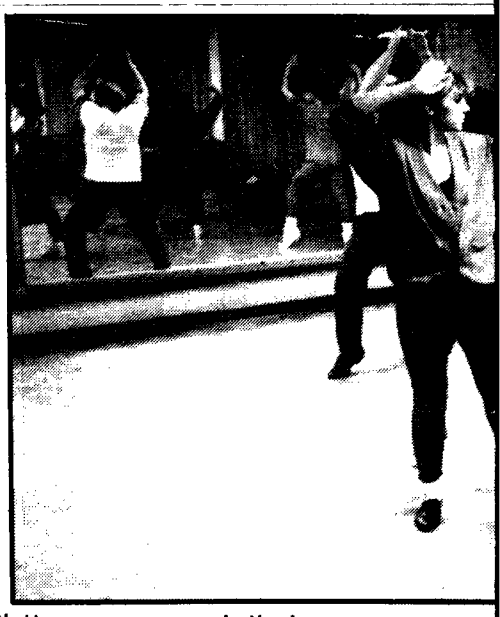
Something's wrong here: a man is reviewing a play written by another man about a woman's barren womb. Talk about phallocentricity!

During his lifetime, playwright/poet Federico Garcia Lorca was not afraid to explore other points of view. His play Yerma gives us a male perspective on the definitive woman's issue: birthright. Catherine Caines' production at the Freddy Wood Theatre is equally daring; under her deft direction, the play becomes a dark, ritualistic poem.

THEATRE
Yerma
Frederic Wood Theatre
Until January 21

Underneath a golden sun, the play unfolds. Yerma is the young wife of Juan, a peasant farmer. All is not happy in their Spanish household. The couple has been married for several months but remains childless. In their simple village, having children comprises the purpose of a woman's life. Years pass and Yerma is still without a child. She flirts with the idea of an affair and seeks several mothers' advice, all to no avail. In the final act, she slips over the edge of sanity and comes to a tragic decision.

The weighted language and prose of Lorca get mixed results from the large cast. Juan could easily be interpreted as the villain of the play, but thanks to Jason Smith's patient read-



Nutty, crazy, goony, rhythmic..

Those nu

Those crazy kids are at it again. It seems that John and Sara were sitting around one Sunday afternoon, and Sara said "Let's put on a show." John responded, "Yea, my dad has a barn and your Mom can make costumes and..."

Actually there are more than two crazy kids. There's a whole organization of them called the UBC Musical Theatre Society. As you will recall from previous Ubyssey articles, MUSSOC had to be jumpstarted in the fall after it had gone into cardiac arrest.

As seen above, these hardworking guys and gals are getting ready to do another show. This year it's called "The Best of MUSSOC: A Celebration!" Tickets have been on sale all this week in SUB

Page Friday ate a lot of cookies this week - about 20 each day, and has now discovered the truth about cookies: THEY ALL TASTE THE SAME.

rocks

ing, he becomes a sympathetic character. Similarly, Susan C. Bertoia sparkles in the role of Miranda, an old woman. Her maternal pride shines as she relaxes near a stream, contentedly stroking her belly. Barbara Cormack is able to bring an intensity to Lorca's overwrought lead. But Cormack, so memorable earlier this season in Ayckbourn's Just Between Ourselves, becomes trapped in Yerma's initial despair. As a result, there is nowhere for her to go dramatically in Act Two.

The creative ensemble work in this production provides the real pleasure. There is a simple, honesty in the laundresses' song at the close of Act One that is very stirring. Later, Yerma gives Victor, her prospective lover, a tense goodbye beneath the watchful eyes of her sisters-in-law. These two women, dressed in black and projecting huge shadows against the stark white set, move like silent chess pieces. Their constant presence provides a needed foreboding atmosphere. Finally, the fertility ritual that closes the play, complete with masks and fire, is a bizarre piece of theatre that you're not likely to see very often.

This is what makes Caines' Yerma worth seeing. This is the kind of demanding drama that seldom passes through Vancouver's consumerized market. It makes for a disturbing evening.

Remember, this is just a man's opinion.

Close, Malkovich and Pfeiffer take love, war & revolution in stride.

Lurid liaisons lovely

by Thomas Long

Dangerous Liaisons takes the battle of the sexes back into the bedroom and those who enter do so at their own risk.

FILM
Dangerous Liaisons
Now playing at Oakridge

Christopher Hampton's screen adaptation of his hit play Les Liaisons Dangereuses, based on the classic French novel, takes aim at the French aristocracy just before the revolution. This period, renowned for its decadence, is personified by the Marquise de Merteuil (Glenn Close) and the Vicomte de Valmont (John Malkovich). These former lovers delight not only in witnessing, but by causing the downfall of anyone they feel has it coming to them.

One such unfortunate soul is the most recent lover of the Marquise, who has abandoned her to marry a young virgin. Merteuil enlists the aid of Valmont to see that the girl does not meet all the requirements. Valmont however, has other plans. He wants to seduce the very beautiful and very married Madame de Tourvel (Michelle Pfeiffer), who is conveniently residing at this aunt's country estate.

Valmont's plans so move Merteuil that she decides to offer herself for an evening of entertainment should he succeed in his conquest. As to her own plans, Merteuil quickly arranges for the girl to be sent to the very same estate on the pretext that it is for her "protection". Of course she knows full well Valmont could never resist a temptation even when his hands are full.

The clever twists which ensue, leading up to the shocking final scene, make for great cinema. Director Stephen Frears, whose previous work includes My Beautiful Laundrette and Prick Up Your Ears, is certainly capable of dealing with the subject matter.

And as for the costumes, designer James Acheson deserves a medal at the very least for his brilliant contribution. The opening sequence provides just a hint of what he must have been up against as we see the lead characters each being assisted into their elaborate costumes. It seems ironic that most if not all the time on the screen is spent trying desperately to coax one another out of them.

While all the major players give fine performances, the film truly belongs to John Malkovich. He gives Valmont an arrogant swagger that would have done the author proud.

For Glenn Close, Dangerous Liaisons puts to rest any doubts as to whether she can handle the bitch roles. However, it would be a mistake to consider this film as a time-warped re-hash of her character from Fatal Attraction. The demands upon Close are far greater here, and she holds her own.

With such a fine script and powerful performances, Dangerous Liaisons succeeds in showing us a world where men were men, women were women, and all was fair in love, war, and revolutions.

tty kids!

and will continue to be sold at the SUB ticket centre and from club members.

The show opens February 1st and runs to the 4th in the Old Auditorium. Never heard of the place? Neither has Page Friday. Apparently its located very close to the President's office in the Old Administration Building. Never been there? Okay. First you go to the Math Building. Remember from Math 100? Now face west and turn left. Don't go to Yum Yums, that's downstairs and they don't serve Chinese food after two o'clock. Stay on the main floor. There it is. Go on February 1st and about 8 p.m. Watch the show. Oh, and say "hi" to John and Sara. There the ones singing "There's no business like show business."

Fresh fellows fairly fab

Svetozar Kontic

Anyone looking for a real live definition of the term avant-garde might have been lucky enough to witness the Young Fresh Fellows act at the Town Pump Sunday night.

One of the funniest, craziest and quirkiest bands around crossed the border from Seattle to entertain a full house with a blend of music that can best be described as indescribable. Perhaps the greatest compliment one can pay the band is to fail to categorize their music into any of the usual genres.

YFF draws from just about every possible musical genre, mixing together with a fast punk beat what might be considered totally incompatible music. The great attraction of the band lies in it's very ability to do the musically unthinkable and create a symphony out of discordant notes. It's reminiscent of the genius in some of Tom Waits' recent work.

And trying to pick out the different types of music involved in every song is no easy chore either. Somewhere in the background you swear that you're listening to a bizarre takeoff from the Beach Boys and then maybe a little Chuck Berry or the haunting psychedelic throb of a Jimi Hendrix guitar. It's all wonderfully meshed with a fast modern punk beat, weird, lyrics and the strange voice of Chuck Carroll.

After opening the show with a standard set of songs including Big House and My Friend Ringo, the band shifted into overdrive in the second set with some of their favourite loud tunes.

Rock and Roll Pest Control, a loud, raunchy hard rock thriller set off the usual slam dancing spree as did Good Times Bad Times. One of the funniest songs of the evening was an ode to Christian gospel singer Amy Grant, a mind warping psychedelic tune which sounded like Jimi Hendrix had arisen from his grave and gone punk. Much to the delight of the crowd the inevitable kazoo ballad was played, especially for that virtuous young woman of every boy's dreams.

The night could not be lost without at least one rendition of the Young Fresh Fellows Theme song which in its peaceful, melodic quirkiness is closest to Jonathan Richman.

One specific influence which can be attributed to the band is the Beatles and a stirring rendition of Hey Jude was played in their honor. The Bee Gees' I Started a Joke brought more than a few howls from the crowd.

The band members themselves make generous contributions to the aura as Carroll showed up wearing a purple jacket of the type similarly seen on circus clowns. Drummer Tad Hutchison looked like a true Beatle, sporting a suit, tie, white shirt, mop top haircut and of course—the shades man.

Carroll informed the crowd before the show began that Hutchison was an artist of great integrity and would stop playing his drums if a song was deemed unworthy. The pauses were few.

Perhaps uncanilly, the joke served as a statement of principles for an ingenious, lively, intelligent and above all fun band which never gives itself much opportunity to forsake the I word.

Bereft from the hackneyed political innuendos which bog down so many bands YFF strikes a chord for good old fashioned rock and roll with its far fetched style. After all, the music was designed so that people could have fun.

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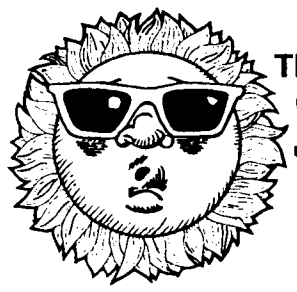
AMS Executive Elections

ALL CANDIDATES MEETING !

SUB Conversation Pit
Monday, January 23rd, 1989
12:30pm



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NEWS

Council Briefs

Cookie caper rages on

Students are "confused" as to the future availablity of gourmet cookies in the student union building according to student council and the AMS now intends to educate the masses on AMS plans.

"I think we all are sitting here knowing the facts and what the AMS is doing is best for students," said Bob Seeman, student Board of Governors representative and seconder of the Wednesday night motion. "We are doing it in their best interest."

The motion included suggestions of a detailed press release and a display case in SUB to be drawn up by AMS general manager Charles Redden and president Tim Bird.

Although he supported the motion, Bird warned against a full-scale campaign: "I don't want students to get the impression that the AMS is spending a lot of money with a flashy campaign because we've been accused of that once already."

Only one council member spoke against the motion. Jay Carroll from Architecture said she thought students were not that uninformed. "I think that if you think Duke's is a pure image question than I think you're missing the point," said Carroll.

The AMS is still questioning the legitimacy of the petition supporting Duke's with over 2,000 signatures.

The AMS wants to operate their own cookie store to bring the profits back into the AMS. Bursaries have been suggested as a possible target of those profits.

But Library and Archival Studies representative Noel McFerron said he did not like the AMS talking about bursaries because "We are really awful at giving out bursaries. We have all kinds...but they're not being distributed right now."

A campaign to advertise the current AMS bursaries available is now underway.

Fence-sitting motion aborted

They didn't take a stand—but they did decide against not taking a stand.

The issue was a possible UBC abortion clinic and student council voted heavily against a motion that would see them sit on the fence on the issue.

Library and Archival studies representative Noel McFerron moved that "Student council take no stand on the issue of access to abortion on this campus" with further recommendations that the AMS's service organizations serve as a forum for debate on the issue.

"This motion is not about whether or not the AMS supports or opposes [an abortion clinic on campus]," said McFerron, adding that he would like to see more debate and did not feel any decision made by student council could be reflective of the "diverse" student population at this time.

Opposition came from External Affairs Co-ordinator Lisa Eckman who said, "as an AMS council, we can take a stand."

However, Eckman said she felt it was an issue the incoming student council should make.

AMS Executive Elections Poll Clerks Needed ($4.00/hour)

January 25th, 26th and 27th
Sign up in the SAC Office,
SUB Room, 246

Ballroom Dancing At The Grad Centre

Introductory and intermediate classes in ballroom dancing will be held again this term at the Grad Centre Ballroom. The set of eight lessons **begins on Monday, January 23**, introductory class at 7:30 pm, the intermediate class at 8:30 pm. The fee is $25 a term for one set of classes or $20 a term, if you register early.

The beginners class includes the Rock & Roll Jive, the Cha Cha and the Social Foxtrot. The intermediate class includes the Mambo, the English Jive and the Viennese Waltz. Everyone is welcome.

McGill
Faculty of Management

MBA
Information Session

Thursday, 26 January
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Student Union Building
Room 209

French practice safe art

by Kathy Chung

The exhibit currently at the Fine Arts Gallery contains the works of nineteen students from L'Ecole des Beaux-Arts de Paris, one of the most famous art schools of the world.

FINE ARTS
L'Ecole des Beaux-Arts de Paris
UBC Fine Arts Gallery
Until February 4

Francois Wehrlin, the director of the school, writes that the collection is "proof of the variety of tendencies among the school's teachers and of the complete freedom of expression accorded to the young artists." Certainly, this fact is substantiated. These student artists are aware of and seem to be working from established traditions.

... no one is taking risks ...

On one wall of the Fine Arts Gallery are four delicate pencil studies entitled, "Le Grand-pere", by Nathalie Gautier. In each, the grandfather is reclining and the artist has concentrated on his upper body, especially the face and hands, leaving the rest of his figure to fade into the surroundings. The pencil lines are beautiful and carefully expressive. The drawings convey a depth of feeling which Gautier seems to hold for her model. What is unusual is that while all four pieces have the same atmosphere and appear to have been made at the same time, their dates span three years. I wonder at the lack of change in Gautier's work.

In contrast to Gautier's controlled, realistic sketches, Angie Stavrinaki's "Le Musee" and "L'Animal" clearly show a more expressionistic approach. Distorted figures and objects drawn in charcol are animated with rough lines and dashes of bright colour. Elsewhere, there are soft-focused, impressionistic pencil drawings of a garden by Damien Cabanes and figures by Francois Mendras.

These are recent drawings from students, many of whom are in their late 20's. Because of this, I had expected the show to be exciting and provocative. I was sadly disappointed.

... there is little intensity of experience or emotion ...

In general, what I see is safe, polite art. There is little intensity of experience or emotion in the pieces. No one is taking risks, nor does anyone seem to be saying anything with conviction. They are working with knowledge of a certain tradition but fail to explore and test its limits.

Wehrlin writes that "for the time being, the most important thing is to see what there is to be seen. . . .As for criticism, that will be the task of historians, when enough time has passed to enable an objective view." The first part of his statement is valid. One of the values of this show is that it allows us to see what students are producing in other schools, in other countries.

However, it is a cop-out to say that criticism should be left to historians. Perhaps the two hundred year tradition of the Beaux-Arts and its academic tradition is stronger than Wehrlin knows. The students in this show are skillful and competent artists, and what they need to do is use their skill to explore beneath surface appearances, to enquire and to express with energy and intensity the results of their inquiry.

Gautier: safe, polite art.

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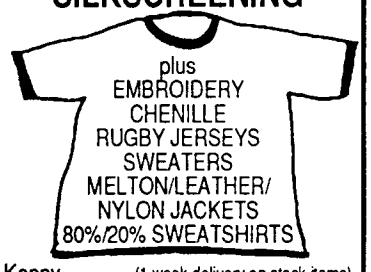

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Editorial

Going out with a bang: A less than flattering tribute to an outgoing student council.

We wish we could be kinder—it started off so well.

Wednesday's demonstration against tuition fee hikes did not have official AMS support or endorsement. The next one does. That change of heart came Wednesday night—after the first demonstration was an overwhelming success.

Next week we elect new AMS executives and shortly afterwards, constituency reps who will sit on student council. This time let's not make the mistake of electing a group of people who are so out of touch with the student population that they didn't realize that what the students obviously wanted in response to proposed tuition fee hikes was action.

It took a groundswell of discontented students to organize the rally on Wednesday—a rally that got the issue of university funding into the mainstream media and into the public. Students wanted to yell and a group of dedicated people made that possible. The support).

The AMS consists of people elected by you and for you. They are supposed to be in touch with students and have a feel for what kind of action they should take on behalf of students.

The AMS's low key efforts thus far are admirable and appreciated. But they were obviously not enough. Students wanted more but the AMS did not take the risk that a rally was too sixty-ish for this previously apathetic campus. And now that the AMS has seen what the students want, they jumped on the bandwagon and are providing support.

Duke's

The hesitation of the AMS to demonstrate is only one visible symptom of a larger affliction.

Wednesday night also saw student council basically pass a motion that said students didn't know what they were doing when they signed AMS feels compelled to educate the students to convince them that the AMS is doing what's best for them.

For some students the decision to sign the Duke's petition was an emotional one based on gut (literally) reaction to the thought of another AMS-run food outlet. But to assume that all or most students didn't know the issues when they signed is patronizing.

So far the AMS is ignoring those 2,600 signatures, dismissing them as ill-informed and "confused."

Rec Fac

Students voted in favour of a recreation facility. But not without a massive pro-RecFac, AMS backed and run campaign. The current AMS wanted to leave behind a monument of their time here, and they did just about everything possible to get it passed, including bus ads.

If the AMS were acting on students' behalves, reflecting what they felt students wanted, they wouldn't have had to put on the big push. Instead, the AMS got what THEY wanted by spending big bucks to get it.

The AMS had a mandate to hold a referendum on RecFac. They did not have a mandate to go all out and spend, spend, spend to convince students that this was a good tion without bias. They chose not to.

The Ubyssey

And last, but not least, there is our outgoing council's consistently paternalistic and unthinking attitude towards The Ubyssey—a publication that some council members seem to think exists solely as an organ of their propaganda.

They didn't like our stand against RecFac. It wasn't a nice thing to do to your publisher. Some of them don't want us to publish the annual "queer" issue this year because they say it's not relevant. They have frequently shown distrust of us, once demanding us to print a retraction for a story that had already been checked by two lawyers. But the AMS knows best. (The next day saw the AMS lawyer dispel their fears of a libel suit and the retraction never appeared.)

The quick and easy solution to communication problems between the AMS and the student population is to publish it in The Ubyssey. The Ubyssey is a service organization. We provide you with information. But our biggest service is to train journalists—critical journalists who do not merely reprint the ramblings of politicians but who question and criticize them.

Student journalists the AMS becomes more active and interesting, most of The Ubyssey's volunteers will continue to find more interesting topics elsewhere. We feel a responsibility to cover campus issues. We only wish the AMS would make the issue, not us.

"This must have been a really bad council. Everybody wants to get in and change it," Engineering rep on AMS council, Wednesday, Jan. 18, in reference to the large number of people running in next week's election.

THE UBYSSEY

January 20, 1989

The Ubyssey is published Tuesdays and Fridays throughout the academic year by the Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia. Editorial opinions are those of the staff and not necessarily those of the university administration, or of the sponsor. The Ubyssey is published with the proud support of the Alumni Association. The Ubyssey is a member of Canadian University Press. The editorial office is Rm. 241k of the Student Union Building. Editorial Department, phone 228-2301; advertising, 228-3977; FAX# 228-6093

The war drums were sounding at at the offices of the Ubyssey. Robert Groberman gnashed his teeth and screamed for blood. Katherine Monk and Deanne Fisher, dressed only in combat fatigues fingered the triggers of their automatic weapons and joked about "Blowing away Pigs." Michael Vaney produced a bomb from the inside pocket of his Cuban Combat Coat (CCC)... he had kept it as a souvenir after his year of fighting in Angola. Olivia Zanger cried out for everyone to stop and consider their actions. Laura J. May and Stephen Laazenby grabbed her and slapped her until she regained her senses. Jon Treichel, Robin Meulebach, Joe Altwasser, and Ernest Stelzer claimed they were superior because they were "Aryans". They hung up a picture of Arnold Swarzenegger and goosestepped around the room singing "Danke schön, darling, danke schön..." Greg Davis plotted the downfall of the western capitalist nations with Svetozar Kontic (who was drunk and didn't follow anything he said). "At any rate," said Ted Aussem, "we can't cause the total downfall of the imperialist, capitalist-scumpigs until my IBM stock goes a little higher." Barb Wilson and Keith Damsell painted Maoist slogans on the windows using the blood of an unfortunate janitor who had pointed out that it was no longer fashionable to be either socially conscious or radically left-wing. He had been bludgeoned to death with a rolled-up copy of the UBC Informant by Catherine Lu and Roberta Cenedese. Meanwhile, Thomas Long and Cathy Chung sipped tea and discussed things of no importance, such as Fantasy Gardens ("Wouldn't that be a nice place to blow-up some day?"). Harvey Cheung and Hai Le made jewlery from the dismembered body parts of AMS staffers. Julie Boulter, Mandel Ngan photographed the whole event for posterity and to make propoganda leaflets. Rick Hiebert got carried away and said "Gee, this is sure neat!" Corinne Bjorge and Stacy Newcombe simply sighed and said softly... "We're not in Kansas anymore Toto..." Little did they know that George Bush had already sent in the Marines to prevent communist expansion in North America.(In just seven days, he can make you a man!)

news: Deanne Fisher
entertainment: Robert Groberman
city desk: Katherine Monk

AMS tactics deplorable

What a perverse juxtaposition of values! Entering into the SUB concourse Monday, one was presented with a contrast which is symptomatic of our times and of our society. The week of January 16th to 20th is Amnesty International week at UBC. With large sign board displays, a symbolic prisoner of conscience in a cage and a video presentation of the Human Rights Now! concert series, the members of Amnesty are trying to make students aware of the deplorable situation of human rights globally.

Yet, abutting this display, which visually dominates the concourse, is a booth offering a complimentary taste of a new cookie recipe. The AMS, in a desperate bid to legitimize its corporate cannibalism, has taken steps to win student approval and give credibility to its desire for a monopoly on all revenue-raising outlets in SUB.

Amnesty, which had booked the entirety of the concourse in conformance with all AMS guidelines and procedures, was never informed about the "cookie-caper" and was surprized and irate at this move; for not only had the AMS not informed Amnesty but it has also breached the very guidelines and procedures it had instituted to govern such bookings. To be plain, the AMS contravened its own policies for its benefit and political expediency.

This is the central issue. If the student government cannot abide by its own rules, can it expect anyone else to? Does the AMS seriously expect to merit respect or credibility from students, the university or the community, if it appears to be so wantonly corrupt? This conflict of interest is so blatant as to appear laughable.

The reputation of the AMS was already tarnished over the controversy before the silly display on Monday. However, there is something further to the spectacle. The line-ups for free cookies far-exceeded the number of people genuinely concerned with learning more about how human beings are being tortured, arbitrarily arrested, "disappeared" and extrajudicially executed. Are students so blasé or apathetic as to not be concerned? Or, do they know about the abuses and are not willing to do something constructive, such as signing a petition, writing a letter, making a small donation? Either way, Monday's lunch hour starkly made evident the fundamental values of our society: greed and the desire for something for nothing over the willingness to assist "the Conspiracy of Hope" overcome "the Conspiracy of Silence."

Tom Andrews
Unclassified 5

Aggie drool shames UBC

Hats off to the organizers of the Wednesday rally. The students of UBC finally stirred themselves to life. Did it make a difference? Damn' rights. It would have been a perfect success had it not been for one detracting factor: just a few yards away, the aggies were holding a boat race. It's hard not to point fingers here, but someone screwed things.

The fact that the Aggies held the boat race the same day as the rally at the same time showed simple one-upmanship. They were trying to steal some of the spotlight from the rally by acting like the ignorant blowhards that would do such a mindless thing.

Holding a boat race during the rally was not only irresponsible, it detracted from the seriousness of the protest. There was no reason why the boat race couldn't wait until after the rally. Picture this: the news hour. Hundreds of thousands are watching the report on the tuition protest. They see concerned students voicing their opinions. They realize how important this issue is to us. Now the camera pans and focuses. The viewers see a group of students having beer drinking races. Poof! There goes our image. Now we're just a bunch of loud obnoxious kids. In one fell swoop you kicked a hole in the purpose of the rally.

Hey, Aggies. Tuition is going up 10%. Hadn't you heard? Maybe an explanation could be found from one Aggy who said, "I'm graduating this year. Why should I care?" Then he wiped drool off his chin.

Here's to the aggies, acting like spoiled children who want attention. Your actions were ignorant, immature and inexcusable. What do you have planned for the Jan. 26 rally at the Faculty Club? A cowflop throwing contest?

Aaron Drake
Physics 4

Cultures provide valuable resource

Towards the end of last November, a frightening thing occurred in the Ubyssey...

The Doll brothers began voicing their beliefs of the "truths" behind Native Indian cultures in Canada.

Despite the fact that both Michael and Alex Doll's opinions were entirely ignorant, ethnocentric and absurd, they did serve us some purpose: we now know that a fine learning establishment such as UBC does accept students that are entirely ignorant, ethnocentric and absurd—and proud of it.

From the Dolls we have learned some interesting facts (all verified by personal experience of course) about Native Indians in Canada:

– they have too many languages

– their languages are inferior

– they are still in the "culture shock" from the rapid transition from the "hunter/gatherer age" to the "atomic age" when Europeans arrived on our shores with nuclear technology over 400 years ago (right!)

– most Native Indians don't care about their culture

Did anyone know UBC was accepting transcripts from Planet Doll?

As the Doll brothers have pointed out, they believe Native Indian culture should be either abolished or assimilated. It doesn't serve us any good, after all, and we're much better off with our own "superior" culture.

Give us a break, boys, and think for once. Just because your childhood experiences with a few individuals were ungratifying, is that a basis to judge all Canadian Native Indians with everywhere? Thank God some Arts students don't judge all Engineers on your shining examples of intelligence.

Because history is static here on Planet Earth, we should be able to look back and learn something from it. In the 1830's, Michael and Alex weren't around, neither was anyone else from the Planet Doll. But the Hudson Bay Company's Fort Simpson was, and so were the Gitskan Indians. The two accepted the other's presence, and actually benefitted from it. The Gitskan provided Fort Simpson with furs, the fort offered goods in return. It was a system of exchange.

The answer now isn't to forget Native Indian culture in favour of something more "technological" or popular, but to engage in a little "cultural exchange". Who knows, we might learn something from it.

Mark Alexander, James Hutchinson, Michael Hanslip, Lora-Lynn Oxenbury, Miles Lavkulich, Chriss Spinder,
Arts 3

Native cultures burdensome

In response to D. Nyce's charges that I am mining on lands "borrowed" from the Indians, I would like to mention something about the Gitksan system of establishing land rights. If one came across a piece of land that was unoccupied, the man (not woman) erected a crest pole proclaiming a territory of undetermined size belonging to the discoverer and his heirs. The land then belonged to the man until he was removed from the land by force by someone else. This is similar to feudal Europe where land (and women) were prizes of battle. I cite the Birds of K'san series on these points. As such, my mining company can legally (by the Gitksan system) acquire land by going to war with the present owner.

With respect to your charge of living off the Indians in my area, I wish to inform you that 70% of the Indian population in my high school does not mean that the total population is 70% Indian. If somebody were to read you the 1981 census, you will see that the Kitimat-Stikine Regional District (KSRD) is only 16.2% Indian. Also, the average Indian wage is 44% less than non-Indians. So, the reverse of your charge is true (CND81B41 G2, SDN81B31 I12).

It appears that the unnamed Indian reserve to which you referred is in the Vancouver area. As such, I can assume that it has been in full contact with the White Man for about 100 years. The Kitwancool (or Gitanyow) reserve near my hometown has had total contact (ie. cars, TV) for less than 15 years. The culture shock is severe, and unlike anything that has happened down here for over 50 years. These people do need help adjusting to the twentieth century, but giving them a vast empire to rule (ie. land claims) is not the answer.

The Kitwancool reserve is trying to get a small logging firm operating, and it is costing the taxpayers plenty. However, industry on the reserve is more valuable than additional reserve land since Indians hunt and trap about as much as non-Indians.

Private industry normally avoids reserves because of the jurisdictional disputes that tend to arise, so it will have to be either governments or the reserves themselves that create employment for Indians. The most preferable combination would see the former aiding the latter in some endeavour (like the Kitwancool logging outfit) while the Indians gain experience and confidence. Before this can happen, more Indians are going to need a university education. Now, even with massive monetary subsidies, only 0.37% of Indians in the KSRD have a university degree (SDN81B31 B13).

Alex Doll
Mining Engineering 2

Racist scrawlings disgust

As in most of the washrooms on this campus, the Women's in Sedgewick Library has masses of graffiti scrawled all over the walls. In the stall furthest from the door, someone has drawn a sizeable portrait of an Oriental woman. Beside this drawing are scratched racist comments too offensive to quote here.

I wish to address the authors of these comments:
My dear friends,

Racism and bigotry are not only out of vogue, but they are dangerous to the health of both you and society as a whole. How do you suppose we got ourselves into violent and oppressive situations such as those in South Africa, Northern Ireland and various locations in Native Canada? Lack of understanding, lack of compassion, ignorance, selfishness, fear.

I suggest that you try to relieve yourselves (and us) of your intolerant arrogance. Perhaps you should get to know some Oriental people; maybe nose through the library at the Asian Centre; go to a Koto recital; hang out in Chinatown; read Joy Kogawa'a Obassan.

People are people – we simply have different ways of seeing the same things. So get off you supremacist asses and educate yourselves! Isn't that why you're here?

Peace on Earth; good will toward ALL!

Paula Pryce
Arts 3

AMS escapade shameful

What is the AMS doing now? This week the AMS has staged a cookie tasting contest, but for what purpose .... to liberate Duke's employees who are content to work for that capitalist "swine" Mr. Markus? No. The AMS says it will end the cookie issue, but do they mean for this week only? Nothing has been said that Duke's lease will be renewed if the student body chooses Duke's cookies over the AMS cookies. Is the AMS assuming that it will win the contest?

The AMS tactics are not justified because they are giving away the same product that Duke's sells, right outside his storefront, and the cost of this bakeoff is being brought to you by the students while the dispute is actually between Duke's and the AMS board. Is it not short of illegal for a landlord to charge for shopspace and then to steal the tenants business by giving his product, or a substitute product, away in front of his store? The AMS could have introduced their "gourmet" cookie in either the Subway or Snack Attack outlets. Furthermore, the Amnesty International display that had been booked in the SUB foyer for weeks has been forced to share its audience with the AMS.

The AMS is using the student's money to finance this little escapade. They bought cookies from George's, Patti's, and Duke's, as well as coming up with their own cookie recipe at the expense of a chef consultant. It should also be noted that the AMS is paying staff wages of at least $7/hour to man this cookie booth. In order to poll 100 students, 100 cookies have to be purchased, and if a 10% quarum were to be established, the cost would exceed the average tuition.

Meanwhile, across the foyer, a small table has been set up to gather signatures to petition the 10% increase in tuition fees. I think the AMS should get its priorities straight and funnel money into issues that are of more concern to the majority of students, For example, the expenditure of the cookie question could be used to make a genuine campaign for halting the increase in tuition.

The time and money that has been wasted on this issue so far is getting to the point of rediculous. Do you not think that the AMS has better things to do than railroad legitimate bussinesses off campus? I certainly do!

Owen C. Davies
Arts 4

Cookies 'n confusion

There seems to be some confusion regarding Duke's Cookies and the future availability of cookies and cappuccinos in SUB. I can assure you that gourmet cookies and specialty coffees are here to stay. The only thing that is expiring is the lease agreement between Duke's Cookies and the AMS.

Over two years ago, the AMS decided to replace this operation with a similar one where all the revenue would remain in the society and be used to enhance and expand the AMS services provided to the undergraduate societies, constituted clubs, service organizations, and student population as a whole. The UBC students employed by the AMS in the new cookie establishment will also receive a starting wage of $7.40 per hour as opposed to the $5.00 starting hourly wage offered by Duke's Cookies.

But can the AMS make a great cookie? That is for you to decide at the Great AMS Cookie Caper (the conclusion to the cookie confusion) to be held in SUB on January 16th to 20th. Choose your favorite cookie and find out who made it. Will it be from Duke's, Patti's, George's, or the AMS?

Leanne Jacobs
AMS
Director of Administration

Cappucinos 'n competion

One of the first articles printed in the Ubyssey on the Duke's issue, indicated AMS intentions to close Duke's and open their own effort in the 'Travel Cuts' location. Why not leave Duke's be, open an AMS cookie shop as well, and provide good competition as well as a choice for students?

Other printed remarks concern Mr. Markus' annual earnings, which are after all, the result of a legitimate business enterprise – shouldn't students take a long hard look at the AMS Business Manager's Salary which appears to equal that of Mr. Markus and is the result of student fees?

Ted Barker
Duke's employee.

Intelligent letter of the week

By the way Micheal Anthony is the greatest bass player in the world.

P.S. Don't let 'Zalm 'n the Strangeone finance me out of a vehicle. It's uncomfortable boinking on the back seat of a bus. ETC.

Douglas Bodrug
Psycho 3

Letters

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

The city's shame

Vancouver's Homeless: the problem that won't go away

For all the hue and cry about people sleeping on the street, Stephen Leary of Downtown Eastside Resident Association has one thing to say: "It's an American image. You don't see too many people living on the streets of Vancouver."

The image that people sleep under the bridge or in the park is a misperception that will not serve the plight of the people living in Vancouver Downtown Eastside, he says. We risk missing the real, but invisible, homeless people— those who live on the fringe of our society—who inhabit any of the 370 rundown hotels and rooming houses in the area if we do not change our ideas of what a homeless person is like.

Leary cites the United Nations definition of the homeless person as someone with no secure tenancy and says it applies to most of the people living on the Downtown Eastside.

"(The tenancy) is between you and your landlord. Your landlord has all the rights and can kick you out at any moment. So that's homelessness," he says. "There are 15,000 people living down here in any of 370 hotels."

Serg-Maj. Allan Johnston of the Salvation Army agrees, but he believes there are people equipped with tents, tarpaulins, and blankets sleeping under the Georgia Viaduct and at Stanley Park. Johnston believes that since Canada is a more caring society than the U.S.—Canada's universal medicare system, generous unemployment insurance and other government services prevent many poor Canadians from becoming homeless—far fewer Canadians than Americans slip through the social safety net.

For instance, anyone who suddenly finds him or herself without a roof overhead can obtain emergency relief from the provincial government: they have the option of spending the night at the government-run shelter on Cambie Street or at any of the hotels in Downtown Eastside with the rent paid for by Social Services.

The hotels in the area are symbols of the onslaught of exploding urban poverty, a cheap source of accommodation—and crime, says Staff-Sergeant Terry Roberts.

Under the Hotel-Innkeeper Act, there is no agreement between the tenant and the landlord. Residents are usually charged on a monthly basis. On the 31st day, the tenant either moves out or the hotel manager will charge him for that day, says Hairy Harry, a street veteran, who lives in a hotel when the weather turns cold, but spends most of the year outside.

Decay lurks beneath the veneer at most hotels. The typical room there is dimly lit. It is about 2 metres wide and 3 metres long. It has a bed, sink and some nails protruding from the wall.

"The place is filthy and a firetrap. Sometimes there is no electricity. Plumbing doesn't always work," says Harry.

The hallway of most hotels is strewn with lysol spray cans, rubbing alcohol bottles, shaving bottles and other wastes, says Booby Bob Booze, another street person.

The baths are so dirty no one feels safe using them, says BBB. "Nobody ever cleans in them. You never know with all these diseases going around, you don't want to take a chance on anything."

The elevator in some hotels does not always work and that poses an serious problem for the infirm and the aged living there. Climbing up and down the stairs to their place of exile or to visit their friends, they are physically spent, says one senior living in one of the hotels on Columbia street.

The 15 000 people living down here comprise a tiny fraction of an estimated half a million Canadians who live in sub-standard accommodation, according to the Canadian Council on Social Development.

Because the Residential Tenancy Act does not cover the hotels and the rooming houses that dot the Downtown Eastside, the hotel manager can throw the tenant out at the slightest infraction or for no reason at all.

Some of the popular methods of evictions, according to Booby Bob Booze, a former street veteran of 10 years, include putting a new lock on the tenant's door, removing the door's room so that the tenant has no choice but to move out, or simply, by word of mouth. Sometimes the eviction is justified, he says, but he wishes that they could have been more "tolerant."

Astonishingly, the majority of the evicted will move out with little more than a murmur of complaint. In 99 percent of all the cases, says Stephen Leary of DERA, the tenants do not get a refund.

He calls the practice a "rip-off" of the welfare system because the government will have to dole out more money to put the evicted in a hostel for the rest of the month. "Everyday people are being thrown out of the street," he says. "(The landlords) can do that once a day for 30 days so they can make thousands of dollars off the system."

Just over two years ago, at the height of the exposition, a rash of evictions hit the Downtown Eastside. Over 750 people lost rooms which they called home for many years. At least two suicides had been attributed to the stress caused by the eviction.

For years, DERA, an organization that also tries to cut through the bureaucratic sludge to help people get welfare or open a bank account, has been lobbying the provincial government to amend the Residential Tenancy Act to protect the people living in the hotels or rooming houses down there, but has been making little headway. For now, DERA sees no changes on the horizon.

Who lives on the Downtown Eastside? People of all ages and backgrounds, people with some form of disability, people who have lost a job and whose unemployment insurance has run out, and people with low incomes, says Leary.

Most people living down there are on welfare because most of them are disabled to some degree, says Mr. Leary, adding that people, including lawyers and teachers, are not immune to welfare, and that the reason one does not see many people sleeping on the street in any Canadian city is because "anyone who needs help can get welfare and there are shelters."

"The image that they are lazy, strong, able people and that they can work is not the case," he says. "The average employer will not hire an epileptic who has a paralyzed arm, paralyzed legs or is in a wheelchair."

The average single person on welfare gets $250 a month for shelter. That's the maximum the Social Ministry will give him, says a social worker who prefers to remain anomalous.

Stephen Leary agrees and says that if these people find a place that charges less than $250, for example $230, the Social Ministry will deduct $20 from their paycheque. "You don't gain anything by finding a cheaper place to live," he says. "If he rents a place that costs him more than $250, he takes money out of his food money (about $180 a month or $6 a day) to pay for the rent."

Those who have been on welfare face numerous obstacles of extricating themselves from the dependency cycle, says Stephen. For one thing, they need a haircut, shaving materials, clean clothes—these things cost money—and these people barely have enough money to last them through the month. In addition, a round-trip on the bus costs them $2.50. $2.50 could be the difference between the interview or the dinner.

"Tough decisions to make," says Hairy Harry, referring to the dilemma he once faced when deciding to look for a job. Hairy Harry is currently on welfare and is not actively looking for a job. Armed with the knowledge that his prospective employers would likely reject him because he had no phone and was on welfare, he nevertheless plunged ahead and went to many interviews before finally giving up.

"Maybe people don't like my beard," he says, shaking his head lightly to one side and then the other.

It is difficult to break out of welfare for many reasons, only one of which is alcohol. Serg-Major Allan Johnston supervises the detox center on East Cordova: "Many are unemployable because they can't hold out a job. A lot of alcoholics...get their first paycheck...five days later they are back to square one."

The way Staff-Sergeant Terry Roberts sees it, Vancouver's Downtown Eastside has approximately 60 percent of all the licenced premises in the city. Leary thinks the percentage is higher: 80 percent.

Such a large concentration of bars in such a small neighborhood affects the residents and according to Staff-Sergeant Terry Roberts the bars and other factors such as high unemployment, lack of recreation centers for the people living there, and the availability of street drugs may have spurred a dramatic jump in crimes in the Downtown Eastside.

For example, robbery cases in the area totaled 545—up 24 percent from 1987—compared to 181 for his section which is north of Broadway and runs from Cambell avenue to Commercial. Other statistics point to the same conclusion.

"Drinking is a major factor in many of the crimes committed down here," he says, adding that the violent drunkards often end up in jail, while the non-violent ones in the detox centre.

Admits Stephen Leary of DERA, "Any neighborhood like ours (Downtown Eastside) is going to have problems associated with bars," but he adds that "...a lot of people living down here don't go to bars."

According to Booby Bob Booze, bars are an ideal place where drugs change hand because "there are always people walking around and say 'hi,' 'hi,' 'hi,' and slip up (drugs)."

It is also a close-knit community. "In the bar everybody knows everybody and (when) a stranger comes in, they (drugs traffickers) know right away."

That means an undercover police officer trying to stanch the flow of drugs would pretend to be a tramp, an alcoholic, or whatever one calls him, says BBB and hangs around bars for weeks just to be recognized. He then makes a small buy, then a larger buy, before blowing his cover for a large drug bust.

For many people living on Downtown Eastside, skid-row life, whether intended to be temporary or permanent, seems designed to thwart their attempt at extricating themselves physically and financially from it.

Says BBB who spent 10 years living in one of the hotels, "On the street out there, there's nothing to do. There's one or two recreation centers...all sides you are bombarded by drugs, druggies, alcoholics - no matter what, you are not going to stay straight for too long."

Hidden inside all these complex issues of crimes, of drunkennes, of poverty, of the lack of affordable housing, is the issue of solving the causes of homelessness, of getting people living down there out of the rut they are in. Says Sergeant-Major Johnston, "If I knew the answer to the problem, I would be the Prime Minister of Canada."

By Hai V. Lê