THE UBYSSEY

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Unemployed help each other

By ELENA MILLER

Unemployment: opinion polls show that most Canadians consider it our most urgent national problem, but what is being done about it by all levels of government, business and labor? The problem, especially in our own province, does not seem to be going away — particularly for the young and for those looking for work in professional, technical or "white-collar" fields.

Combine youth and would-be professionals and you have the average university graduate. Aspiring teachers, lawyers, engineers, scientists and business majors —just about any career you care to think of — are having a tough time finding work in their field. Some period of unemployment or underemployment seems the destiny of most of us these days.

What does this mean in human terms? A 1983 report by the Canadian Mental Health Association entitled Unemployment Its Impact on body and Soul concluded that increases in the rates of almost every imaginable personal and social ill: depression, anxiety, spouse and child abuse, suicide, mental hospital admissions, homicides and rapes, drug and alcohol abuse, infant mortality and heart disease, to name but a few.

In the face of these grim facts, and given the unwillingness or inability of others to help, unemployed people are getting together to try help alleviate some of the stress and isolation of being unemployed. A number of these groups of unemployed are helping themselves by helping each other exist in Vancouver.

Their newsletter is called "The New Minority" and they call themselves the "non-traditional unemployed".

They are unemployed technical, professional and white-collar workers, and they belong to a non-profit society run for and by themselves, the Centre for the Non-Traditional Unemployed.

Joan Vincent, present director and founder of the C.N.T.U., explains the idea for the Centre came when she began noticing unemployed professionals showing up in the Food Bank lines, where she worked as a volunteer. That was two and a half years ago, and "the problem is still with us," she says.

They are "non-traditional" because most of the unemployed have been non-professional "blue-collar" workers in the past They call themselves a minority, but Vincent estimates there are presently 20,000 unemployed professionals in Metro Vancouver alone, 36,000 in the province.

Only 120 belong to the C.N.T.U., which has no budget to publicize its existence beyond its newsletter. Still, Vincent says a fair cross-section of professions are represented in the membership — including, engineers, architects, computer operators, graphic artists, accountants, librarians, nurses and journalists.

All members, including Vincent, work as volunteers. Office space at 609 Terminal Avenue is donated by the company which owns the building. Anyone can drop in on their Thursday morning meetings which begin at 10 a.m. But, Vincent warns, the C.N.T.U. is not really a drop-in centre, a place for drinking coffee and airing grievances.

Members are expected to contribute their skills to the organization by helping out with projects like the news letter and a planned conference for the fall. This is a way of keeping people sharp and "alive", Vincent says, and of keeping their professional skills intact while they are not using them for paid work.

"We have a philosophy of helping yourself in an environment of ideas and energy," she adds.

Laurence Lyse is a civil engineer and technician who belongs to the C.N.T.U. He joined six months ago and says he finds it "helpful and interesting.

"It's better than sitting around the house and moping all day," he says.

The Centre operates on a cooperative model, with every member having equal input.

"It's the old story of you get out of it what you put in," Vincent says.

The multi-disciplined nature of the Centre allows professionals to "tap into each other" and test out ideas. In addition, recent University graduates can "plug into the profession" by meeting and talking with people in the field.

Presently, more male than female professionals belong to the C.N.T.U. Vincent puts this down to more professional women choosing or being forced to take non-professional jobs as a way out of unemployment. She calls this phenomon "underemployment" (an example would be an engineer working as a taxi driver or a teacher working as a waitress).

That women are more likely to end up underemployed than men is a "product of tradition", Vincent says, adding underemployment can be as serious a problem for the professional worker as unemployment.

"It's not an elitist or snob thing," she says. "Professionals working a 'joe-job' may tend to overwork and be perceived as a threat by other workers."

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The C.N.T.U. is not the only support centre for unemployed people. The B.C. Teacher's Federation sponsors an Unemployed Teachers Action Centre from its offices at 2235 Burrard Street, and the B.C. Federation of Labor sponsors 28 Unemployed Action Centres throughout the province.

The Unemployed Teacher Action Centre opened in April 1983 in response to the increasing number of unemployed teachers in the province, explains Terry Kellington, a volunteer at the Centre.

Kellington helped organize a hiring fair last month, bringing up representatives from school districts in Texas and California. 3,000 B.C. teachers came to be interviewed at the fair. Over 4500 unemployed teachers are registered with UTAC, and estimates of total number of unemployed teachers in the province run as high as 10,000.

"The people from the States said they had never seen such high quality professionals lined up for work," says Kellington, adding many B.C. teachers were hired.

As well as organizing hiring fairs, UTAC keeps up a regular job board, holds workshops to upgrade teachers' skills, and offers a number of counselling and other services to teachers. Kellington says "it is usually very alive down here," with up to 12 volunteers working on a given day.

One of these volunteers is Les Gallus, an artist and would-be art teacher. He says UTAC provides a "supportive work environment" which will make the transition to employment, when it comes, smoother. But he says prospects are grim for most teachers, and some are looking as far away as Africa to find work.

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The Unemployed Action Centres, although sponsored largely by the B.C. Federation of Labor, are open to "anybody who is unemployed, or who anticipates being unemployed," says Gerry Miner, coordinator for the Burnaby UAC.

The UACs have a general assistance program which provides debt counselling, life-skills counselling, referrals and other services. In addition, volunteers will act as advocates for people having to appear before tribunals in order to receive unemployment insurance or Guaranteed Annual Income for Need money.

Miner estimates almost half his Centre's work is spent in the advocacy role, while the rest is counselling. He is somewhat critical of the counselling offered at Canada Employment Centres, calling it "inadequate".

Since opening in October, 1983, the Burnaby UAC has tripled its clientele volume from 60 per month to 200 recently. Miner feels that with proper advertising this number could easily triple or quadruple. Yet in February of this year the federal Tory government withdrew its funding of UAC coordinators which it and the previous liberal government had undertaken up to that time. Since then the provincial labor movement has vowed to keep the UACs going.

Whether sponsored, as in the case of the Unemployed Teacher Action Centre and the Unemployed Action Centre, or independent, as in the case of the Centre for the Non-Traditional Unemployed no one seems to doubt that these support centres provide a valuable service for the unemployed.

Vista

Music

The Return of Hot Spit Dancers with special guests Slow, NG3 and the Little Ratskulls, at Mason's Hall (4306 Victoria and Kingsway), Aug. 9 at 8:30.
Mazaico Flamenco at the Classical Joint Coffee House (231 Carrall St. 689-0667) Aug. 9 and 10 at 8:30, Dave Quarin Jazz Quartet Aug. 11th.
Summer Relief Beat 85, Poisoned, Brilliant Orange and **Redemption at the Commodore Ballroom (870 Granville 681-7838)**
Tape release party for Celebrity Drunks and the Dilletantes at John Barley's (23 W. Cordova) Aug. 8th.

Movies

AMS Summer Film Series(SUB Auditorium 228-3679), **Oxford Blues** Aug. 8 - 10, 7:30 and 9:45.
Vancouver East Cinema (7th and Commercial Drive 253-5455), two films by **Margarethe Von Trotta**, Aug. 5 - 11; **Sheer Madness** and **The Second Awakening of Christa Klages**, 7:30 and 9:30.
The Ridge (16th and Arbutus 738-6311), **Cold Feet**, 7:30 and 9:30.
Pacific Cinematheque at Robson Square (800 Robson 732-6119), Mozart on film series, **The Abduction From the Seraglio** Aug. 9 at 7:30 and **The Marriage of Figaro** Aug. 10 at 7:30.

Stage

Brigadoon, alternating with Damn Yankees, Theatre Under the Stars, Malkin Bowl (Stanley Park 280-4411), until Aug. 16th.
Much Ado About Nothing, Open Theatres Shakespeare is alive and well and playing in Kits. (732-7888 7th and Vine) Aug. 8 - 31.
Arts Club Theatres (687-5315) Granville Island, **Barnum**, until Aug, 10; Seymour St. Theatre, **Sex Tips for Modern Girls**, until Aug.10; Revue Theatre (280-4444) **Ain't Misbehavin'**, until Aug. 10.
James Cowan Theatre (6450 Gilpin St. Burnaby), The Actor's Guild presents **The Private Ear and the Public Eye**, until Aug. 17. (291-6864) **City Stage** (751 Thurlow 688-1436), noon hour theatre, **Village Wooing** by Shaw, Aug. 7, 14, 21 and 28. **The Lover** by Pinter, Aug. 9, 16, 23 and

Exhibits

AMS Art Gallery Summer Exhibitions (main concourse SUB) **Fabric Design** Aug. 5 - 9.
Vancouver Museum (1100 Chestnut St.) Judy's Chicago's **Birth Project**, until Sept. 28.
The Contemporary Art Gallery (555 Hamilton St. 687-1345) The photos of Jayce Salloum, until Aug. 17.
Arts, Science & Technology Centre (600 Granville St. 687-8414), Tom Noddy and his Bubble Magic, Aug. 8 - 11 at 8:00 pm.
Burnaby Art Gallery (6344 Gilpin St. 291-9441), Art and the Computer, over thirty international works that were made with the aid of computers, Aug. 8 - Sept. 8.

Etcetera

Vancouver's Third International Beer Festival, Firehall Theatre (280 E. Cordova St.) Aug. 9 and 10, 7 - 10 pm. 689-0926.
Gordon Southam Observatory (738-2855), an invitation to see the Perseid Meteor Shower at Cypress Bowl Aug. 11 from 9pm Sunday to 5 am Monday.

Festival of Strings Society (535-0676 in White Rock), Aug. 9 - 11 at 8:00 pm.
The Fort Gallery (9048 Glover Rd. in Fort Langley 888-3994), opening exhibition presents Salo, Doris and Nelson until August 11.

Clare Cunningham Dance Foundation (333 Chesterfield N. Van. 985-2215) Dance Instructor's Course Aug. 6 - 16.

Hot Flashes

Volunteer Help Line

For more information on these and other volunteer opportunities, drop into Brock Hall 200 or phone 228-3811 for an appointment.

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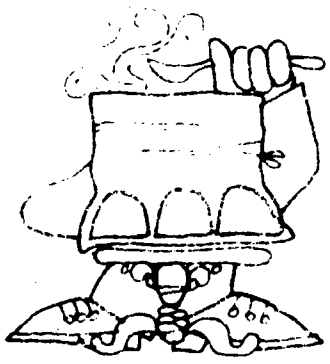
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Unions oppose efficiency review

By DEBBIE LO

UBC administration has ordered a professional efficiency review of the university's non-academic areas but campus unions are skeptical about the usefulness of the firm's recommendations.

"I don't think highly of it," said Ted Byrne, a member of the Association of University and College Employees.

Byrne said Ritchie and associates, the firm hired by the university to conduct the study does not "understand" the work on which they are making recommendations.

"They don't specialize in the area they are studying," he said. "They are only looking at the length of time and not at the kind of work."

He said the firm was conducting a "time and motion" study as part of their process, which includes timing washroom trips to improve efficiency.

"Many members are worried and don't feel they've been able to participate fully in the review," he added.

Byrne said the improved mail service two weeks ago was due to the return of the mail routine to its original method after a two week trial period of the efficiency recommendations.

"It is an expensive review," he added.

Byrne believes the money the university has spent on hiring the outside firm would have been better spent on increasing worker wages. "We could have used our own resources to conduct the review," he said.

Bill Kadey, business agent for the International Union of Operating Engineers, said they have been "left in the dark" about the results of many of the efficiency recommendations.

"We consider ourselves already shorthanded," said Kadey.

He said his department's work was limited to "breakdown maintenance" at the present time and there was no specific routine within the department on which to make efficiency recommendations.

Kadey added the money could be well used in other areas such as wages.

George McLaughlin, vice-president of local 116 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, said workers "can only do so much work."

"Buildings are not getting cleaned to the standards as they used to be," he said.

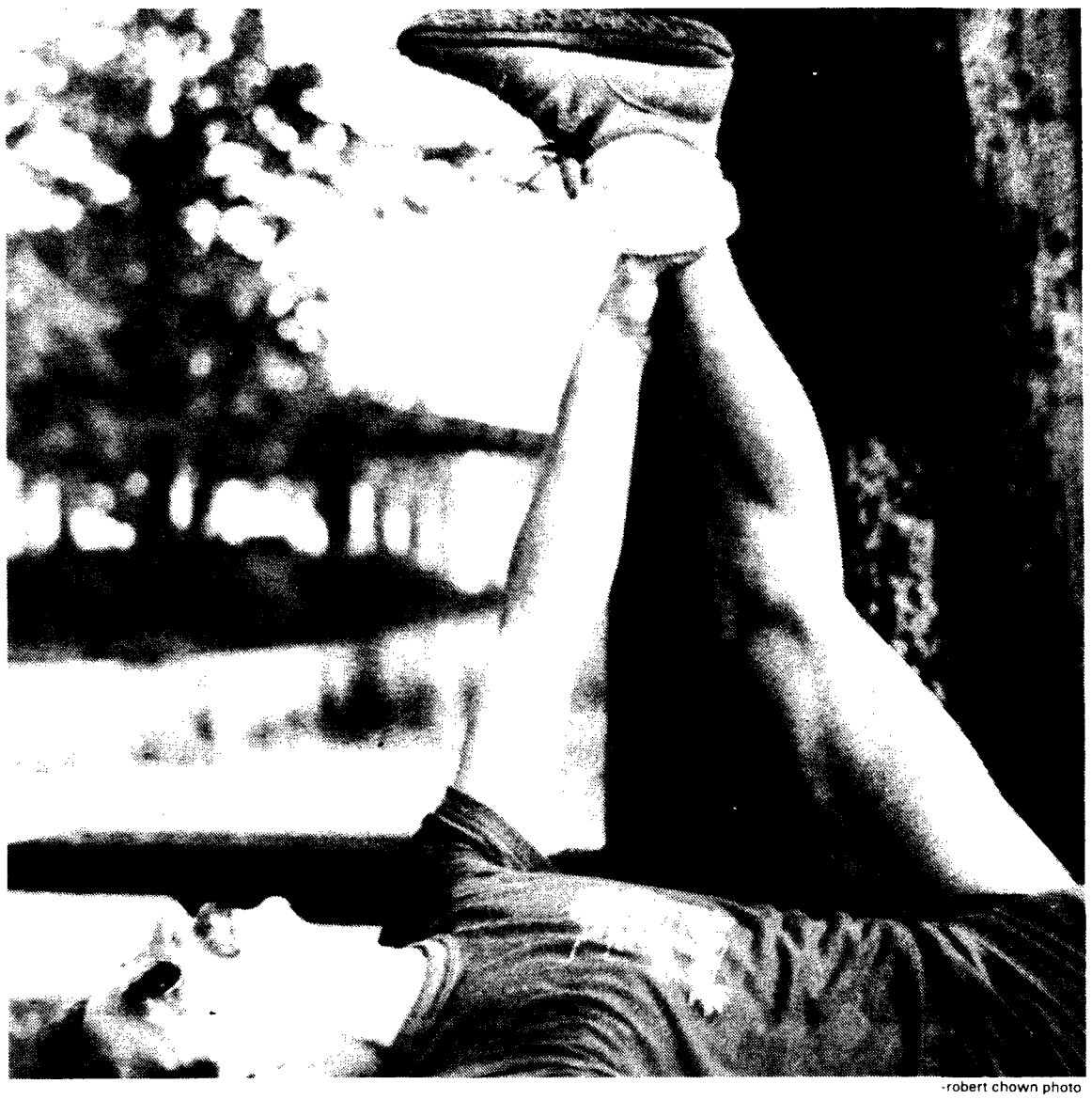
"New full-time workers have not been hired for the past three years because of the university's hiring freeze despite the new buildings which have gone up on campus," said McLaughlin.

The firm was asked by the administration to conduct tests to discover more efficent ways of doing non-academic work on campus and has been at UBC since the spring.

Bruce Gellatly, UBC vice-president administration and finance refused to reveal the cost of hiring the efficiency experts.

"We don't have the particular skill to do the tests in a proper fashion," he said.

The other campus unions could not be reached for comment.



-robert chown photo

Man shows off muscles while trying to block out the sun with his foot's shadow. But local tree is unimpressed, after all, what are trees here for but to produce shade.

Anti-apartheid group protests

By IAN WENIGER

A newly formed anti-apartheid group began their action in support of Black South Africans Friday with a protest march in front of the Royal Bank's B.C. headquarters on West Georgia.

The Friends of Winnie Mandela, named after the black South African activist and wife of jailed activist Nelson Mandela, was formed by two Vancouver women, Suzanne Hawkins and Deidre Maultsaid, on July 27.

Maultsaid told the audience of 50 people at the protest that her group would heed the call of Black South Africans to encourage through action the imposition of international economic sanctions against the apartheid regime.

She said the Royal Bank and many other large Canadian firms have massive investments in South Africa, and it is their duty to "keep the responsibility to the Black citizens of South Africa and make reparations to them."

Zayed Gamiet of the South African Action Committee was pleased to see the protesters because "it is no longer enough to condemn apartheid as immoral and unjust."

"The South African government is immune to that kind of appeal. This activity is the kind of language that they understand." He stated that the efforts of anti-apartheid groups around the world were working and cited the Bank of Nova Scotia's withdrawal as the official distributor for Krugerrands (South African gold coins) in Canada as a local example.

"The purchase of Krugerrands is the purchase of South African gold in the most direct way. Once they are purchased, the money earned serves as very useful foreign exchange for South African industries. Now the sales of the Maple Leaf coin (Canadian gold coins) are for the first time in excess of the sale of Krugerrands. This is the effect we are having."

Gamiet concluded that the actions must continue to "state unequivocally what side of the struggle we are on so that the white minority will be forced to see that their apartheid comes with a price that the world is no longer prepared to pay."

National Black Coalition of Canada president Delicia Crump also spoke of the need for concrete action on the issue of apartheid. "Canada supports the policy of multiculturalism, a policy entrenched in our constitution. External Affairs minister Joe Clark has often condemned the fascist regime in South Africa but he will not support meaningful measures to bring the apartheid system down," she said.

Crump questioned the effectiveness of "constructive negotiations" with the white minority and called for the immediate recall of the Canadian ambassador to South Africa. She also committed her group to the endorsement of the proposal for action put forth by religious leader Desmond Tutu which calls for serious international pressure to be applied to the regime in Johannesburg to force reforms in their race laws.

The protesters then marched in front of the entrance to the Royal Tower and the doors of the Royal Bank branch. Protesters were encouraged to continue their support for black South Africans and were reminded of upcoming rallies including a protest at a Vancouver radio station at which Krugerrands will be sold on the air.

The Friends of Winnie Mandela can be reached at 872-8212.

B.C. students unite against gov t

by DEBBIE LO

B.C. students from Victoria, Burnaby and Vancouver are meeting today to discuss a protest against the provincial government's decision to remove visa students' Medical Service Plan coverage.

"We think it is discrimination for other students who have much to offer B.C.," said Terry Hunt, Canadian Federation of Students pacific region chair.

Hunt said students from all the institutions will collectively review their individual protest work to date and then they will "see where we want to go working together."

The provincial health ministry cut MSP funding for visa students and workers on August 1 and only officially notified Simon Fraser University administration last Thursday, said Lisa Price, an organizer for the SFU Teaching and Support Staff Union.

She said the provincial government refused to officially notify the TSSU of the government's sudden decision because it said the union "had no interest in the subject."

The TSSU has filed a petition to get a court injunction on the ministry's decision and a court date has been set for August 29.

Rory McBlaine, president of UBC International House, said he will be "participating in trying to get things off the ground," to protest the government's decision.

Phil Bennett, UBC graduate studies society president, said the decision is especially bad for students who have medical conditions, such as pregnancies, and are left without medical coverage because private firms are not willing to carry people with pre-existing conditions.

Carlos Schrezor, a UBC visa student from Argentina in metallurgical engineering, has MSP coverage which will run out September 30.

His wife is pregnant and is due in October; because of her condition she is deemed ineligible for medical coverage by all of the private companies they have contacted so far, he said.

"I have the choice of taking my family home or paying for complete coverage," he said. "None of them I have money for," said Schrezor.

The minimum one day hospital stay costs $700 if the procedure is "normal" but if there are complications the cost rises to $5000. A flight back to Argentina is a minimum of $2800 for their family, he said.

Schrezor believes the ministry's decision is "unjust completely."

He said the provincial government's policies are inconsistent when defining a B.C. resident because he is considered a resident when he pays taxes but is told he is not a citizen when applying for MSP coverage.

"I won't tell Argentinians to come here any more," said Schrezor.

He also believes he is being unfairly treated because he is helping the province doing research for the B.C. economy as part of his job.

Duncan Stewart, Alma Mater society external affairs coordinator, said the provincial government is "picking on one of the poorer segments of our society."

"At this time in B.C., there is a great deal of prejudice against foreign students," he said. "It makes it easier for the Socreds to take away the basic right to quality medical care."

Stewart said there is a public perception that foreign students do not contribute anything to the province and are a drain on B.C.'s economy.

About 4,000 students and workers have been forced to seek coverage under private plans by the ministry's decision.

Provincial health minister Jim Nielsen said they were "cleaning up" the system by changing the ministry's policy for visa students and workers.

Profs lobby for wage hike

Faculty salary negotiations for the upcoming academic year are continuing. Both faculty association president Sidney Mindess and acting vice-president academic Don Russel were quietly noncommittal on the negotiations' progress.

"We asked for a total (increase) of about five percent," said Mindess.

The increase would include increases in career progress, equity, anomaly, merit allowances, and an adjustment for faculty at the lower end of the scale, he said. "We are trying to negotiate the magnitude of the increase is any, and the manner of distribution."

At Simon Fraser University the board of governors has approved the administration's proposal for a faculty salary freeze next year. The SFU faculty association withdrew from negotiations when the administration insisted on a faculty salary freeze, Mindess said.

Mindess said he couldn't see the same thing happening at UBC. "We'd go through arbitration rather than walk out," he said.

Another difference between the two universities is the faculty at UBC has faced a salary freeze for the past two years, he said.

"The mood is not great. Faculty are getting upset over the freeze. The past is beginning to hurt; it's not just this year."

Economics professor Gideon Rosenbluth said faculty are losing ground.

"If we don't get anything we're worse off than ever. There should be money even if it's only career progress increments. Our actual salaries have been decreasing over the past three years."

When asked what another year of frozen salaries would mean to UBC Rosenbluth said, "The quality of faculty is always reflected by salary scale. People who have opportunities to go elsewhere go elsewhere."

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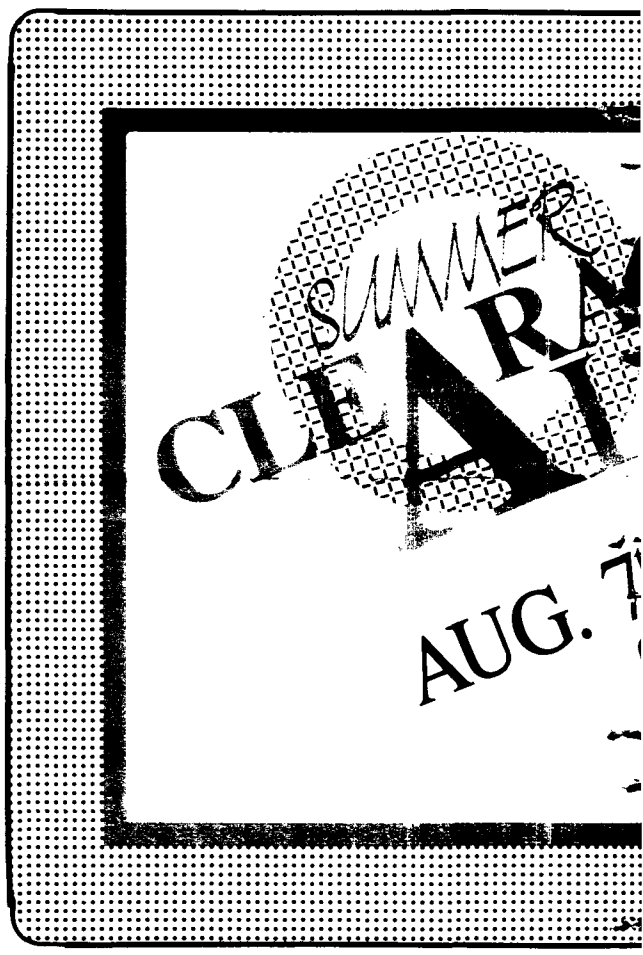

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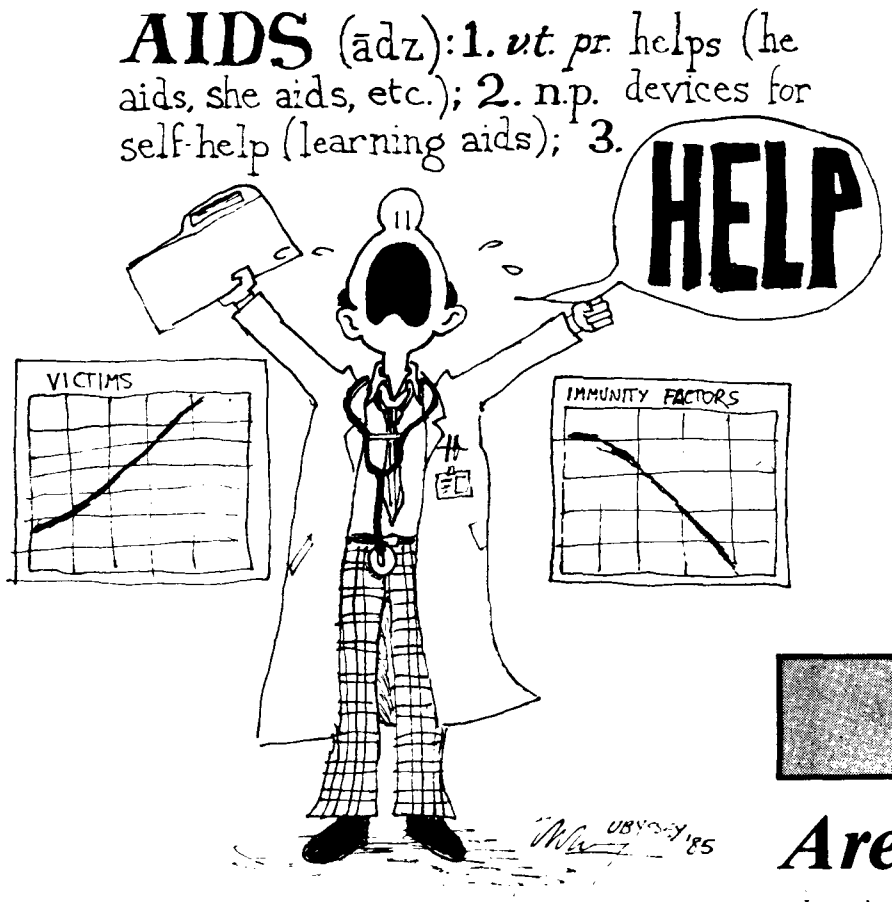

Grads need jobs

Unemployment in B.C. presently stands at between 14 and 15 per cent of the workforce. Some people believe the real rate of unemployment (including those who have given up looking for work) stands close to 20 per cent. This number includes an estimated 36,000 professional workers, including 10,000 unemployed teachers.

Many of these teachers — and engineers and nurses and accountants and others — are recent university graduates. According to a 1984 Student Services survey, of the UBC Arts graduates of that year, 36 per cent continued their education, 53.2 per cent sought employment, and 8.8 per cent were unemployed.

On the surface, that doesn't sound too bad. But statistics can be deceiving. How many of those 36 per cent who continued studying did so only because they knew job prospects were so bad "out there"? And of the 53.2 per cent who sought employment, how many found work in their field?

The fact that organizations now exist such as the Centre for the Non-Traditional Unemployed, the Unemployed Teacher Action Centre, and the Unemployed Action Centres are cold comfort to the unemployed UBC graduate. They merely point out how bad the problem is. The solution is not more support centres, but suitable employment for the unemployed.

Letters

Are visa students "non-residents?"

I am shocked by the action of the Bennett regime severing the medical services plan of B.C. for visa students. I have lived in B.C. for the past four years with valid student and employment authorization.

I have worked hard and my research work is definitely more valuable to B.C. than the meager R.A. I get. I pay taxes to both the federal and provincial governments...increasing amounts every year. What do I get?

Last year's cutbacks have hiked up the tuition fees tremendously. I have endured that. But now...I have to pay at least $600 - 700 for a private medical insurance policy because I am now suddenly declared "non-resident."

Thank you Mr. Bennett for making my days under your godforsaken government utterly unforgettable.

Rama Prasad. V. Bommaraju
Graduate Student
Metallurgical Engineering

SAC warm and cuddly

Twice I have had the pleasure of being quoted in your summer issues. And twice you have made a small error which I feel should be corrected.

I am **not** as reported, the secretary of the student administrative council. I am secretary of the student administrative **commission**, commonly known as SAC.

For your information, and for that of your readers, I'll briefly explain SAC. SAC is the administrative body of the AMS; it is responsible for running student elections, overseeing the approximately 170 clubs on campus, coordinating the AMS SUB security team, and generally looking after the student union building.

SAC's ten members are appointed by student's council for a period of one year. "SACees" are friendly fellow students who will listen to any comments, questions, or criticisms you may have. (Not until they get back in September though).

In the meantime, I can be found around my office from time to time. Come and visit me in SUB 252; I don't mind chewing the fat with other UBC students. If that fails, call me at 228-5466. Keep the presses rolling, and remember, SAC luvs ya!!

Martin Cocking
Secretary
Student Administrative Commission

The cursed ECT

If Science or Applied Science students fail any of their academic courses, within any year of their program, they face the incontrovertible possibility of denial to continue their progressive year of study. Of course, most students from these faculties are capable of passing their "core-courses." But there is, however, one unappealing elective which, unfortunately, hinders many students' program continuum — English 100.

I use the words "unappealing" and "unfortunately" loosely. Now don't get me wrong. English 100 is an extremely useful course to prepare students in writing their theses, but when they have to continually repeat the course, its validity tends to attenuate.

It is not just English 100 that pulls many student marks down to a fail, but, rather, the dreaded ECT. That's right! The cursed exam that stops students from either continuing in their program denies them entrance into a higher academic faculty.

I am not inferring that all students fail the ECT, but those with "borderline" marks in English 100, do get, in a sense, "shafted!" So a word of advice to you English 100 students out there, do not get caught in this dilemma; and, take it from an "expert" English 100 veteran, pass it!

Richard Wong
Science 2

We want your wonderfully wise and wuvly witty words written (typed) triple spaced on a seventy space line. Love something? Hate something? Hate everything? Tell us about it. Letters may be edited for brevity and style. No racist, sexist, homophobic, or libelous stuff, or else. Deadlines are very painful and are at Friday noon.

THE UBYSSEY

August 7-13, 1985

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"Let's play twenty questions," said Adam Quastel. "Question. Adam, better make it twenty-five," said Victor Wong. "you always give such hard ones." Pat Quan wanted desperately to play but he was busy applying Husky pancakes and other petroleum products to the windshield of his high performance sportscar, while he secretly dreamed of a brown cow or even better a Datsun station wagon. "Is it sticky?" offered Debbie Lo, while she sang of trying and trying, to try. "Does it contain chunks of fruit and dextrose, sucrose and glucose?" queried Stephen Wisenthal as he composed poetic elevator graffiti. "That's two questions but they're both right." "Is it orange?" asked Elena Miller. "Is it edible?", said Betsy Goldberg. Etan Vlessing, Mike Dennis, James Young, Lise McGee, and Camille Dionne were all sure they knew what Adam was up to and when Ian Weniger asked "Does it come in a jar?" they knew they had it clinched. David Fermain was unsure, but learned that Lethbridge would be a good place to live because the fish in your hats would be most content in the irrigation capital of Canada, but he took a stab anyway. "Is it highly viscous? Oh, well it must be Marmite." For his stupidity he was punished with one last meal, the Husky Diner in Sudbury.

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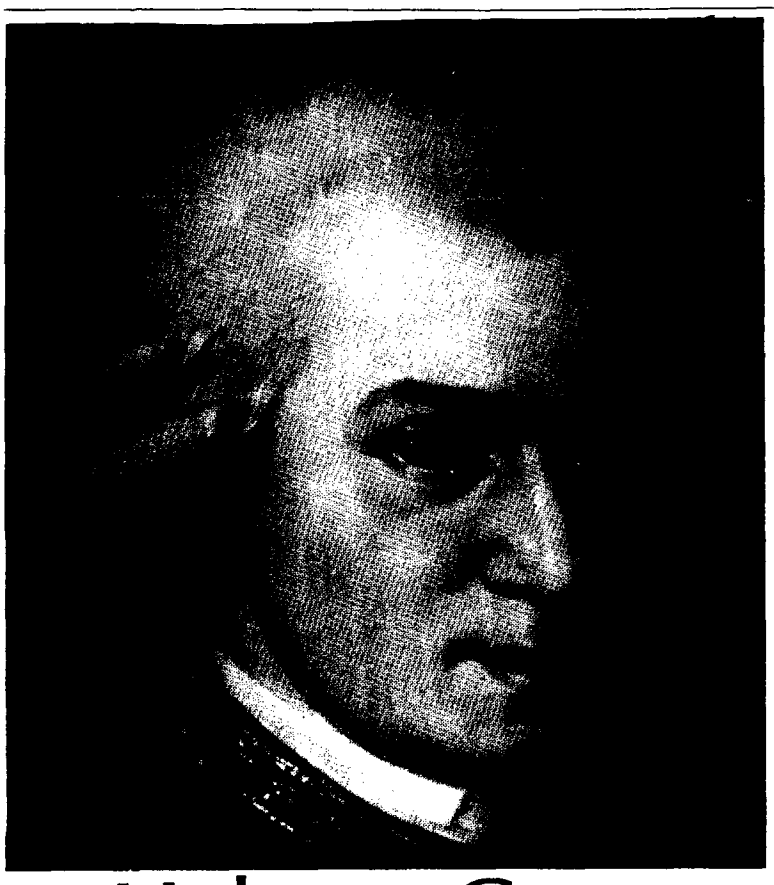


Mozart film fails

By ETAN VLESSING

The mystique that has lately grown up around the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is sure to fill the Robson Square Cinema during Pacific Cinematheque's Mozart on Film series now playing throughout August. But if the screening of Hans Conrad Fischer's The Life of Mozart (West Germany, 1967) last Friday night is an indication of what lovers of Mozart can look forward to, many who attend later screenings will be disappointed.

The Life of Mozart
directed by Hans Condrad Fischer
at Robson Square

Problems with projection, including poor sound quality, plagued this mediocre documentary about Mozart and his music. Those who came for the music left early in search of a refund, while those wishing to learn more about the origins and influences of Mozart's genius left unenlightened.

It would be unfair, of course, to compare The Life of Mozart with the more widely known Amadeus, the former being only a biographical account of the famed composer. And yet, there is no escaping the disappointing lack of story and character development in Hans Conrad Fischer's Mozart.

The Life of Mozart opens with a recreation of young Mozart's triumphant European tour of 17631766. There are no scenes of any music hall performances or royal courts. Instead, the audience must content itself with endless shots of European splendor, and only occasional cuts to Mozart's portrait.

Then, Mozart is suddenly seventeen and rebellious. No effort is made to portray Mozart as the impish fop he is reputed to have been, or even as multi-dimensional. The narrator only hints at Mozart's "natural gaiety and love of pleasure", when so much more could have been said.

During his later and more prolific years, Mozart is portrayed as either effortlessly composing works of art, or at his writing table pleading with his relatives and few friends for financial help to offset his mounting debts. The composer's constant pleas for position and favor in the musical world, and indeed his talents as a whole, go first unnoticed, and at length unpaid.

Unfortunately, we receive few glimpses in The Life of Mozart of the courtly circles in which Mozart found so little success. Absent is the realization that, although Mozart was a genius, far ahead of his rivals in musical talent, he was without the craftiness and shrewd planning so necessary to rise in the courtly world. This clash between genius and worldly wisdom, so well developed in Amadeus, is entirely lacking in The Life of Mozart.

The Life of Mozart is weakest where it should have been most strong, in the presentation of Mozart's now renowned music, poor sound quality ruined what would otherwise have been a pleasing affair.

Pacific Cinematheque's Mozart on Film series continues at the Robson Square Cinema with a selection of Mozart's major operas until the end of August. The series is presented in co-operation with the Goethe Institute.

Habeus Corpus is silly nonsense

By LISE MAGEE

Habeus Corpus. The term conjures up a variety of images (a courtroom scene fraught with dramatic tension perhaps?), but certainly nothing even vaguely resembling the play now on at Frederic Wood Theatre.

Habeus Corpus
by Alan Bennett
at the Frederic Wood Theatre

Alan Bennett's Habeas Corpus is a Carry On style sex farce that at its best has moments of dry British wit but at its worst hovers dangerously close to Benny Hill. It has all the necessary accoutrements of a sex farce: frustrated wives, over-sexed old men, nubile young girls and young men who are hot to trot, as well as dialogue filled with innuendo and other, less subtle, references to sex. It is all rather silly.

The plot is predictable and harldy memorable. It is one of those plots where everybody runs around wanting to sleep with somebody (anybody?) other than the one they should be wanting to sleep with, or frustrated because the ony they want to sleep with wants to sleep with someone else. It does, of course, get a little more complicated than that, with the help of a pair of falsies and a few pregnancies — but not much. The only character with the good sense to stay outside of this nonsense is the cleaning woman Mrs. Swabb.

It does have its moments but this is more a tribute to the ability of the cast than to the script. Philip Spedding is remarkably strong in his lead role as Arthur Wicksteed and Carol Nesbitt (Mrs. Swabb) illicits some of the few whole-hearted laughs in the performance.

Sarah Rodgers plays the wallflower, spinster daughter, Constance, of the Wicksteed family. Her only concern is the size of her chest and that is where the falsies come in handy. Felicity Rumpers (Laura White) is the nubile young miss whose only concern is the growing size of her belly and finding a father for it before all is apparent to the others. She finds a willing mate in Dennis Wicksteed (Stefan Winfield) a hypochonriac who will supposedly, conveniently die in three months. But then it might be rather amusing to indulge in a little foolishness with his father, the rakish doctor (after all, he has seen 25,000 pairs of private parts and will at least know what goes where).

Indubitably the most entertaining part of the performance, besides Mrs. Swabb's vacuuming sound effects, is the attempted suicide of Dr. Wicksteed's patient Mr. Purdue (Michael Fera). He comes on at the end of the first Act and hangs himself from a chanelier at center stage. It isn't actually the suicide that is amusing (except for those of us with morose sensibilities) but he proceeds to do card tricks and eat a tomato during the intermission.

Habeas Corpus is intermittently amusing and certainly fast paced and well acted but one would think that, considering the wealth of good dramatic material available, that a better choice could have been made.

If you have a predilection for this kind of humour, enjoy. Otherwise it is not recommended.

DOA still powerful, political, and angry

By MIKE DENNIS

D.O.A. proved Sunday night at the York Theatre that they are still the most powerful band in Vancouver's thriving alternative music scene.

The band, which just returned from a lengthy North American tour, worked the hometown crowd into a frenzy as they tore through an hour long set of both new and old songs. Turning-in fine warm-up sets were 7 Seconds and Redemption, a local reggae outfit.

Redemption opened the evening's show, which attracted people of all ages, even whole families in some cases. Redemption's music is derivative of traditional reggae, however this band performs it in a proficient and enthusiastic manner. Look for them on the local reggae circuit.

There was at least a 45 minute wait before late arrivals 7 Seconds from Reno, Nevada, appeared.

But it was worth the wait. The young band burst forth with a level of energy rarely seen, even for hardcore punk bands. Lead singer Kevin Seconds paced frantically about the stage, while his band thrashed and bashed around him.

The band only came to a halt momentarily between songs when Kevin quickly explained the meaning of the song's lyrics, most of which were railing against drug abuse or racism. The band's exuberance and musical appeal evoked an appreciative response from the audience. D.O.A. had a hard act to follow.

But the hometown boys didn't disappoint. The good ol' D.O.A. express started off a bit slow but soon warmed up into the undeniably powerful band they are.

D.O.A., since their inception 8 years ago, have matured from a raunchy punk band to a genuine hard rocking concert act. And their audience seemed just as pleased with their newer material off their latest LP Let's Wreck the Party as they were with old hits like The Prisoner or America the Beautiful.

Lead singer Joey (Shithead) Keighly showed he is not only a talented guitarist and frontman, but also doubles as an evangelist as he donned a preacher's garb and treated the amused crowd to a sermon, D.O.A. style. All in fun, of course. The band continued to reel off hit after hit, and got a well deserved encore.

D.O.A. not only have as much punch as they've always had, but are also extremely tight musically. But it'll be a while before you can check them out for yourselves, because D.O.A. will soon be heading off to do a European tour.

Photograph displays provide insight into lifestyles

By CAMILE DIONNE

The art menu is raw in two photographic displays currently on at the Presentation House gallery in North Vancouver.

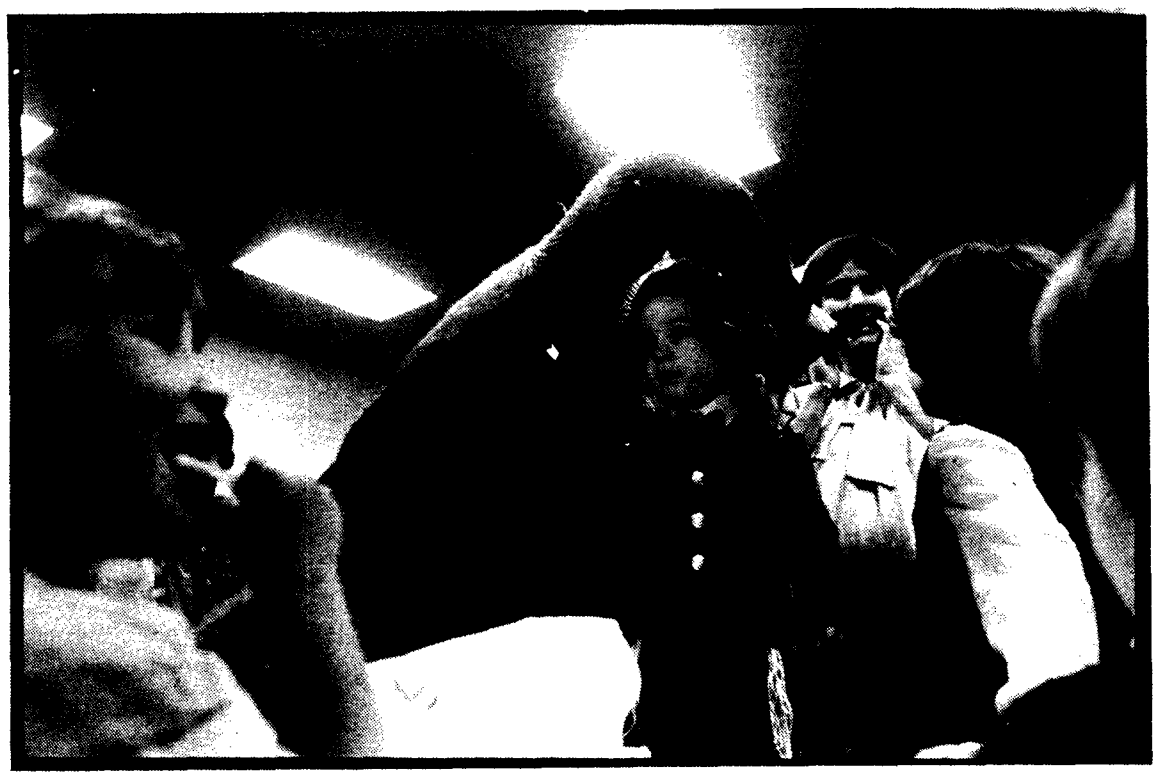
Encounters by Bill Burke is a display consisting of thirty-four large black and white photographs taken in the southern U.S. and Brazil, which show ordinary people doing ordinary things. His subjects are not good-looking or successful, but ordinary people with raw edges still showing.

Burke's images capture families and couples, friends and individuals from all levels of society — a couple in a greasy-spoon restaurant, doctors at a university hospital, a woman with her hair in rollers standing by a spring with her two children, and an older black man playing the fiddle as a child looks on in wonder.

The most striking thing about these images is that they reach out to the viewer with their eyes. Each one seems to tell its audience they have a story to tell, about a life they have lived.

Burke's art brings each viewer into contact with the humanity that we each know is out there, but sometimes intentionally forget.

The second installation called We Want Moshiach Now! by Paula Levine also uses black and white photographs as well as artifacts and a video presentation about Vancouver's Chassidic Jewish community to give a refreshing look at the ultra-orthodox Jewish way of life from a Jewish perspective.



This presentation gives an inside look at the lives and homes of some of the members of the community and looks at both the rituals and celebrations of these people.

The video is very informative and tempered my distaste for the orthodox strictness by having some of the women explaining why they have chosen this life-style. It explains the history of the Chassidic movement as well as giving a practical look at some of the difficulties of maintaining the life-style. For example the segment on how to shop for kosher food in a Vancouver supermarket was especially interesting.

The video at times lacks a polished professional quality and at times the life-style it presents can grate on the beliefs held by non-Jews, however, the sincerity of the people involved and their obvious fulfillment from the Chassidic life-style compensates for any lapses in the film and leaves the viewer with a positive impression of the life-style.

The presentation raises as many questions as it answers, but it also informs and gives the viewer a clearer understanding of the Jewish community as a whole and of the Chassidic community in particular. Together the two very different displays make an informative and challenging presentation.

Hiroshima: not the way they said it was

By JAMES YOUNG

Every so often something happens which radically alters your life: you travel somewhere, you meet someone, you read a line in a book and "nothing is the way they said it was."

For me, my visit to Hiroshima in 1981 was such an experience. I didn't go there with any particular idea in mind: the city was simply on the tour I was making of Honshu, the largest of the Japanese islands.

The day I arrived was oppressively hot and after my usual confusion with Japanese signs, I boarded a tram which went through the city, along the canals towards the minshuku, or bed-and-breakfast where I stayed.

The minshuku was only a couple of blocks from both ground zero and Peace Memorial Park, Hiroshima's largest central landmark constructed in memory of the bomb victims.

That evening, when the heat had lessened, I took a walk around the neighbourhood, where I saw the A-Bomb Dome, a skeleton of a building symbolizing the destruction the entire city had felt. I wondered why they hadn't done the same thing in Europe, leaving a few bombed acres of London or Berlin as testimony to the effects of modern war.

The next day I visited the Peace Memorial Museum, where the history of the bomb is told, illustrated by photographs and objects which underwent the blast, and supported by texts in English and Japanese. I walked through the story of "Little Boy", the first nuclear bomb to be used against a city, moving from the Manhattan Project, to the reason Hiroshima was selected as a target, to the flight of the Enola Gay, the plane which dropped the bomb. The major part of the exhibit documented the bomb's effects on human life and the story of the hibakusha, or survivors.

freestyle

For me, the exhibits attested to the power of the still photograph. There were two types which really helped me understand the nature of nuclear weapons. The first were the photographs which showed the extent of the damage to the city, in conjunction with maps as reference points. These photographs proved a single bomb could easily destroy an entire city. I tried to visualize what the same bomb would do to Vancouver, while reassuring myself that my own city was far more sprawling.

When I later learned modern bombs can have 1300 times the destructive explosive power of the Hiroshima bomb, I realized that Vancouver could also be destroyed in a matter of seconds.

The other photographs which moved me were those of the bomb survivors and the effects suffered by the human body.

Although we were required to read John Hersey's Hiroshima in Grade 10 English, I had not fully imagined the triple effects of the bomb — the blast pressure which hurled people through the air and impaled them on rubble, the heat wave which vaporized those close to ground zero, leaving others with grotesque fatal burns, and the radiation which left thousands suffering from the various symptoms of A-Bomb disease.

Here were images of charred bodies, mass graves, children who became bald as they died from radiation sickness, and people who developed keloids, painful protuberances which formed under scar tissue, requiring surgical removal.

I left the museum feeling stunned.

At the bottom of the steps a group was collecting money to aid second-generation bomb victims, not recognized by the Japanese government as authentic sufferers of the bomb's effects.

On the way back to the minshuku, I walked among the forty monuments which stand in the park, including the Children's Peace Monument, covered with garlands of folded paper (origami) cranes.

The tradition of decorating these monuments with origami cranes began when a junior high school student, Sadako Sasaki, developed "A-Bomb disease" ten years after being exposed to radiation as a small child. During her illness, Sadako began to fold cranes believing that making one thousand would bring good luck. According to one version, Sadako died before she was able to complete the prescribed number, but her classmates turned to making them in her memory, to express their desire for peace.

I spent the next few days alternating between sightseeing and reading two books on the bomb. One was Tale of Gen, an account in comic book form of the war related with the sincerity and simplicity of a young boy. Gen sees his father persecuted because he refuses to adopt a posture of militarism and to express racist views against the Koreans forced to labour in Japanese factories.

After the bomb is dropped, Gen witnesses his mother trapped under their burning house, and is unable to help her.

The other book, Masuji Ibuse's Black Rain, takes its name from the large sticky pitch-black drops which fell some hours after the explosion, contaminating people with radioactive fall-out. Ibuse details the progression of a young woman's illness, which begins when the bomb is dropped and affects her later plans for marriage. Her story is set against restorative images of life in the country. As I read it, I compared the extent of destruction of various neighbourhoods in the book with the actual place I was visiting.

I spent my time wandering around the city, trying to discover what Hiroshima had become years later. Downtown, I found the typical well-stocked department stores, and a baseball stadium, home of the Hiroshima Carp. I listened to bluegrass musicians jamming in a park, talked with the owner of a coffee shop who visited Vienna to listen to classical music and watched some teenage boys performing an Elvis imitation. In other neighbourhoods I found a lush waterfront park, and Mitsubishi's heavy industry factories.

The local graveyards were scenes of activity as residents prepared for the O-bon festival, when the spirits of dead ancestors are said to return.

I visited the shrine at the nearby island of Miyajima, said to be one of the three most beautiful places in Japan. There the red tori gate rose out of the water at high tide. Tiny deer walked around, so accustomed to tourists that I watched one eat a woman's lunch as she went down to the water to swim. Hiking around the island, I encountered a group of monkeys who had also lost their fear of people.

My images of Hiroshima are divided between the ones of utter annihilation found in the museum and those so full of life that I experienced myself. And that divided reality is Hiroshima's message to every other city in the world in an age when we now have the destructing power of more than a million Hiroshimas, yet only 7,000 strategic targets.

A message for a time when military planners go on speaking of limited nuclear war and dream of outlandish defense systems that will allow their side to win.

The museum is not about a past event, about something catalogued, classified and preserved for posterity. It is a vision of one possibility for the future, a future we are choosing now, through our choice of politicians, through our response to the problem and the priorities in our lives, through the television we watch and the toys we give our children to play with.

There are only three possible responses to the message of Hiroshima.

One is to deny the reality or relevance of the Hiroshima bomb, a process which must drain more and more psychic energy as the commercial media begin to pay attention to the problem.

Another is to accept the reality of the threat, yet do nothing: this must surely lead to heightened anxiety about the future.

The third is to accept that reality and work to change it.

There are no guarantees; it is a matter of slowing down, stopping, looking around and asking what the planet really needs. And that response will determine whether there really will be "no more Hiroshimas" or whether the photographs on the museum walls are an accurate vision of our future.

James Young is a Ubyssey writer involved with peace and disarmament issues.