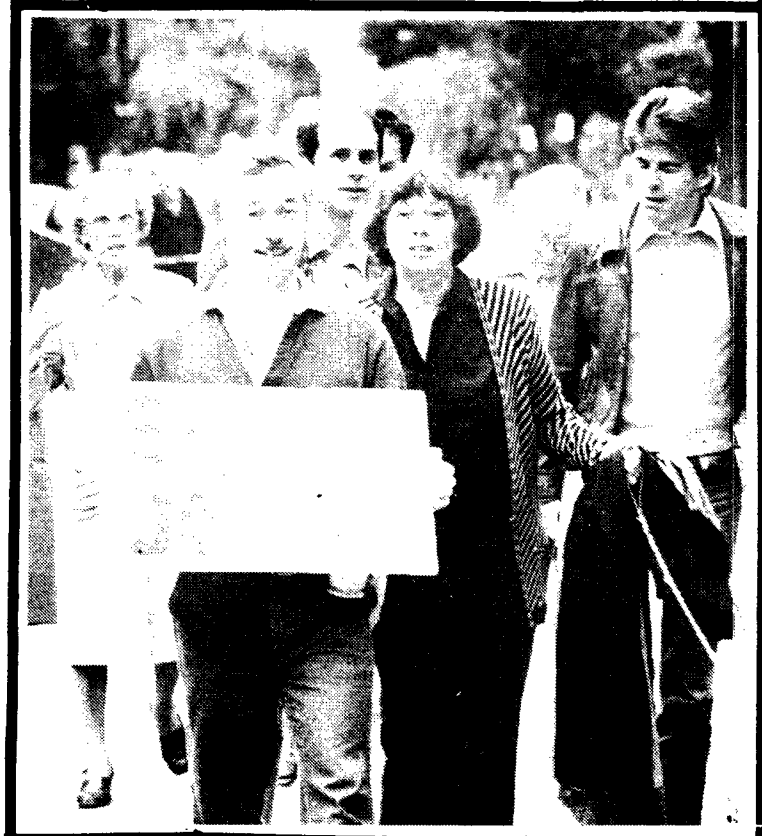
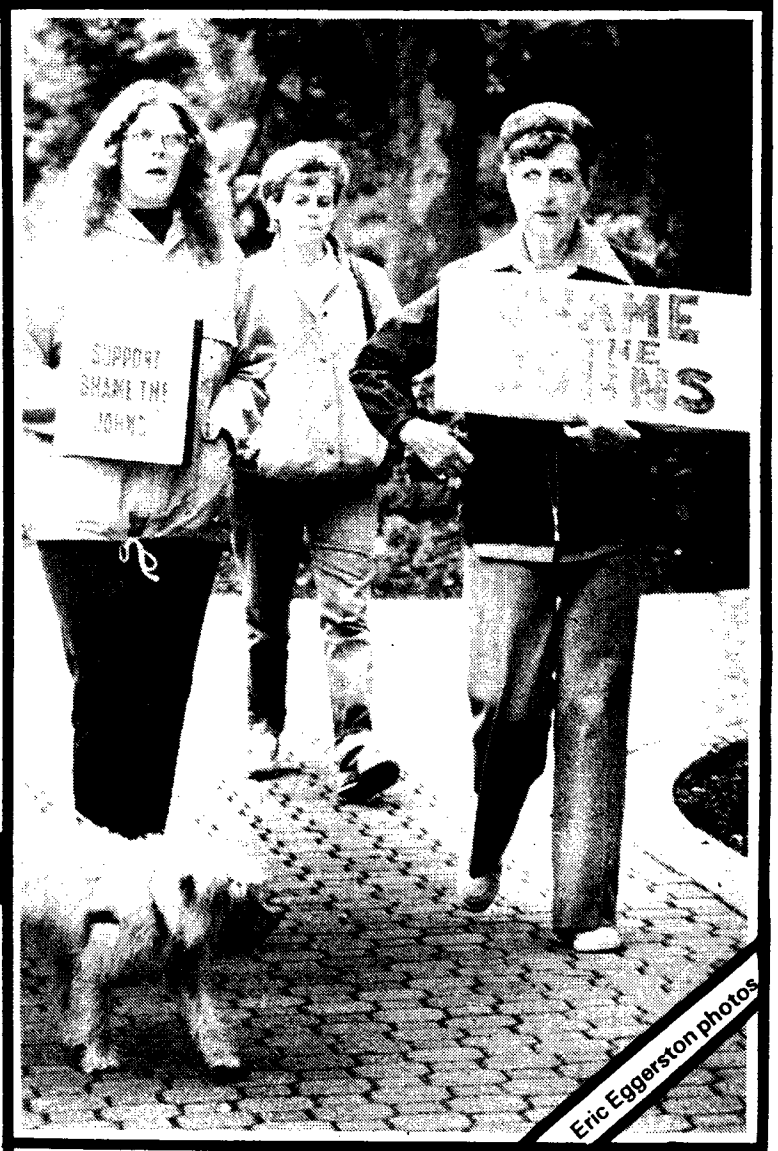
THE SUMMER UBYSSEY

Vol. III, No. 1 | June 27-July 4, 1984 | 228-2301

Vigilantes... on Davie



Residents reclaim streets



On Tuesday June 19, the hookers moved.

After years of battling with residents and the law, the prostitutes abandoned the West End. The reason: a writ filed by the B.C. attorney general's office threatening to prosecute individual prostitutes as public nuisances.

The reason the writ was filed: a vigilante group called Shame the Johns forced the provincial government to take notice of a problem West Enders had been fighting for years.

By MARK LEIREN-YOUNG

A Davie St. billboard proclaiming "Dear John, we've got your number" stands as a reminder that if the hookers return, so will Shame the Johns.

Two weeks ago, I joined the STJ on patrol. This is the story of that patrol.

It's 5:30 p.m. and there's one 16 year old girl working the corner of Comox and Jervis. She's wearing sheer black nylons, a short black mini-dress with icicle-like fringes and enough makeup for a stage play. A male friend, possibly her pimp, points out 18 sign-carrying Shame the Johns making their way towards her. The girl examines them, considers staying, thinks better of it and moves to the alley just as the STJ reach her corner.

For half an hour the STJ have been marching, occupying a street corner, waiting for the prostitutes to leave and marching on. "This used to be a really heavy business time," STJ leader Don Odegaard explains proudly. "Now we come out at this time of day mainly for p.r. for the neighbours. To let them know we're still at it."

As they walk, reports come in. "Don, there's some at Pendrell and Nicola," says one woman and they head for Pendrell. A blonde woman in her early twenties sees them coming. "They're out," she tells her friend who swears loudly. The blonde shrugs, "I guess this means we're gonna have to move to Davie." They do.

While the patrol moves friends stop to say, "Hi." Others wave their support. A hooker photographs them, then runs away. Someone driving by sees a placard that says "Do it East of Burrard" and cheers.

It's 5:35 and a large grey car pulls into the alley near Comox and Jervis. 5:36 and the 16-year-old girl in the mini-dress is gone.

The Sun reporter Rick Ouston is the man responsible for Shame the Johns. On March 5, Ouston urged Vancouver residents to "shame the men who buy our children" after reporting on the death of 15 year-old child prostitute Rochelle Gray. On March 8, fifteen West End residents responded. Now there are 350 STJ members attempting to get prostitution out of the West End.

Odegaard says the idea of citizens patrolling the streets was discussed for years, but people were always too scared of the possible consequences. "We feared for our lives... Ouston's article was the catalyst."

Ouston explains that his idea of standing on street corners and staring in car windows was aimed at stopping child prostitution. To STJ this is a secondary issue. Still, says Ouston, "It's helped to a point. There's less work for the kids." Ouston hopes the presence of STJ will make prostitution less desirable to kids who are considering it.

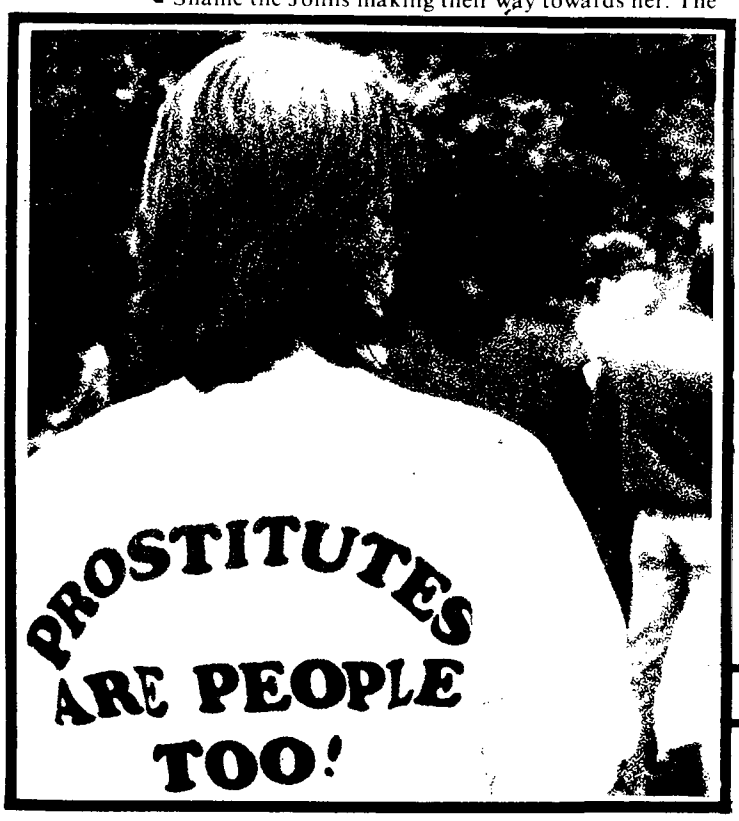
As for his feelings on STJ tactics such as writing down licence numbers and tracing the Johns, Ouston refuses to comment. "I never suggested that (tracing the Johns) and as a reporter I can't be commenting saying, I'm in favour of things or not in favour of things. But when it comes to child prostitutes and kids selling themselves on the streets, that I'll mouth off about. Then I lose my objectivity. We're talking children. We're talking dead children. And I don't think anybody can be objective about dead kids."

I'm at Odegaard's apartment. The highly publicized tactic of visiting the homes of "known Johns" has not been ruled out but is "unlikely", he says, because of the success the group has had with phone calls. The Johns' "...initial reaction is surprise and shock. A lot of them never thought we'd follow through with contacting them. Once they realize we know who they are and where they've been contacted then they readily admit that they have used our neighbourhood for their business."

So far six Johns have been phoned. All have agreed to take their business elsewhere. No doors have been knocked on. "We're not out there to ruin anyone's life," says Odegaard.

Information on pick-ups comes from STJ members watching from their apartments. A form provided to

See page 2: SHAME



Shame the Johns patrolling streets

From page 1

members asks for the date, time, address, licence number, a description of the car, driver, hooker and any unusual circumstances.

The phone rings. Odegaard answers it and I can tell from his end of the conversation what's going on. It's a John, a panicked John. The John's scared the STJ list has been made available to the attorney general. He's afraid of the writ. He's afraid of waking up tomorrow and finding his name in the paper. Odegaard tries to assure him the list is confidential, that the A.G. hasn't seen it and won't see it and that as long as John, whoever he is, stops doing business in the West End, he has nothing to worry about.

As Odegaard is talking I meet STJ member and former Concerned Residents of the West End leader Gordon Price. Price, who lives in the same building, gives me a history of prostitution in the West End. He explains how the government won't do anything and how the mayor and police say they can't.

"In some cases," says Price, "it's quite clear that the community has to take action in order to get action."

Every time West End residents played by the rules, he says, they got "screwed." He stresses that West End residents have tried 'playing by the rules' for years. The decision to shame the johns he says, "was really a last resort."

Odegaard returns. I ask if STJ have had problems with the street people. They have, but "nothing as serious yet as we were worried about. We were worried about some real heavy duty confrontations."

Odegaard says STJ have learned not to respond to the hookers. "That was our best weapon. That really upset the street people."

Then I ask him about an editorial calling the group "vigilantes." He gets indignant. "Vigilante has these connotations with the word. We take the Gandhi approach when we're out there. We've been spat at and pushed and egged and our group has been phenomenally well-disciplined. They just stand there."

It's the second patrol of the night and the STJ are cheerful, almost festive. B.C. attorney general Brian Smith has just filed his writ, the prostitutes are running scared and Odegaard has just announced the first patrol of the Halifax Shame the Johns was a success. "Thirty members" he tells his group, "*more than our first patrol.*"

There are cheers as one of them proclaims, "We're coast to coast."

They remind me of a bridge club.

I spoil a few moods as I try to gauge reaction to a Province newspaper editorial branding them "vigilantes." One of them asks me if I think they're vigilantes. I explain what my dictionary says and he becomes outraged. He huffs that if the Oxford says they're vigilantes, it's wrong.

While I'm talking, so is Odegaard. "There has been some criticism of us in the papers, and most of what you read is totally incorrect," he warns the 27 people, who range in age from early twenties to mid-sixties. "There are people out there trying to discredit us. So let us be extra cautious. Give the media nothing to get at us with... and remember, we're out to deter the customers, not to harass the prostitutes."

The group splits into three and they move in sequence, always within one block of each other. I keep far enough ahead that I'm there to see the reactions as they arrive.

On the corner of Comox and Jervis, it's not the hooker that reacts but the resident. Suddenly he stops pruning his shrubbery and starts shouting at the hooker. He threatens to "break her fucking neck" if she doesn't get off "his" sidewalk. At first she tries to argue but when a STJ shouts "Good for you" to the resident, she moves on.

> "I'm not going to do twenty dollar lays"

"That's the first time we've seen a citizen do that," says Odegaard. "You wouldn't have seen him do that two months ago. I guess because we're around and he's feeling brave."

According to their declaration, which all members must sign, "The purpose of "Shame the Johns" is to discourage customers from picking up prostitutes in the residential area of the West End... We make no moral judgement about prostitution... The focus of our action is on the customer, not the prostitute."

-peace and quiet."

This evening it is quiet, only about a dozen hookers, but STJ are not impressed. There are lulls every time a new legal action is taken. "That's why we're still out here," says Odegaard, "and we will be out here for another month, two months."

Another STJ member chimes in, "Whatever it takes."

At the mini-park on Pendrell and Nicola three little girls are talking to two beat cops. About 15 STJ members look on, either disgusted or pitying. Soon the cops leave. The girls don't. This time it's the Shame the Johns that surrender. Only two stay behind, a woman in her fifties and John Harrison. Harrison tells me the girls are probably twelve, thirteen at the oldest. He knows, he says, because that's the age he teaches at an elementary school in Burnaby.

For the first time all night I'm listening to someone who actually seems concerned about what was supposedly the catalyst for STJ — child prostitution.

He starts to talk to a blonde girl. She tells him she doesn't like Shame the Johns, she doesn't like CROWE and she doesn't like being harassed.

The woman asks why they don't leave.

A black girl responds. "I'm not going to do twenty dollar lays."

The woman asks if there isn't somewhere else they can work. The black girl tells her everywhere else is pimped.

Then the blonde girl says, "I'm not a piece of dirt, I don't like being pushed around."

A drunk stumbles up to us, "You're obstructing the street."

Harrison tells him we're standing on the sidewalk.

"You people make it bad here," the drunk yells. He tries to argue with Harrison who won't have any of it. He's too busy talking to the blonde girl so the drunk turns on me. He explains that STJ are a nuisance, that they're ruining things for everybody, that people should be allowed to do what they want. Throughout this he's gesturing wildly. I keep expecting to get hit. He sees me tense and says, "I just talk with my hands, that's all." Then he staggers off, not too far. He'll be back as soon as we leave.

"Somebody at home must love you," I hear Harrison saying. "That must be two thousand dollars worth of braces in your mouth."

The girl corrects him. "Three thousand."

Harrison and I try to find the other Shame the Johns. The woman decides to go home. We meet Odegaard and a few others. The group has disbanded for the night. I'm asking a few final questions when a car pulls up. It stops next to us and the passenger calls out, "Have you seen a little girl, about fifteen years old. Half breed Indian?" He continues describing her, says she's probably working here.

The hooker standing behind us tries to determine who he's looking for.

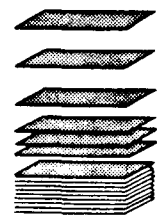
Odegaard apologizes, none of us have seen her. "By the way," he asks, "why are you looking for her?"

As he rolls up the window the passenger replies, "She's my sister."

A few days later at a stop sign at Broadway and Ontario, a blonde in her early twenties leaned over to my passenger window. She was checking to see if I wanted any company. I didn't. I wonder if the people on Broadway will either.

U.B.C. Village

RESUMES



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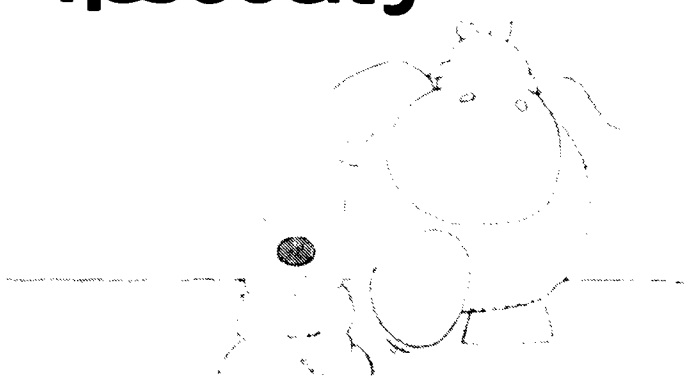

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Student loans may arrive in October

By CHRIS WONG

The provincial government's delay in sending student aid applications to universities means students may not receive loans until October.

The loan applications arrived at UBC last week, two weeks later than last year and two months later than previous years. Canadian Federation of Students spokesperson Donna Morgan said the delay effectively ends any guarantee aid applications will be processed before the winter term begins because they cannot be processed that quickly.

"That means it will be the latest year ever. Basically, people will have to scramble to find money to get by until October," Morgan said.

Morgan said the Social Credit government is responsible because they introduced the new provincial loan program in their February budget without working out the details.

Dan Worsley, UBC assistant financial awards director, said he agreed the form's lateness will slow the loan application' processing, but said he did not know by how much.

"We tell people to observe the traditional early deadline of July 1. But we emphasize it's only a hope. We will do our very best, but we can't make guarantees (applications will be processed by September) this year," Worsley said.

He said students who need applications mailed to them have little chance of submitting their forms before the early deadline.

Worsley said in previous years the awards office processed 3,800 applications by July.

Rick McCandless, education ministry institutional support services director, said the delay results from changes to the student aid program announced in the February budget.

The Social Credit budget made the student aid program all-loan by abolishing student grants. The Socreds released no details on a complementary scholarship program announced with the budget.

McCandless said he would not comment on whether the government is to blame for the student aid program delays, because students may not suffer from the delay.

"We've been introducing a new program and the form's wording changed slightly. We've worked over the last three months to put the pieces in place -- it just took longer than we thought," McCandless said.

Alma Mater Society president Margaret Copping said the application's lateness and lack of detail shows government administrators' lack of efficiency and organization.

"They're making legislation and policy faster than they can implement it," Copping said.

And she said the application's guide fails to mention the maximum loan available and the academic requirements for a loan.

A student can receive a total of $100 per week for every week of a student's program in the federally funded Canada Student Loans and a the new B.C. loan, according to Worsley.

Applicants for B.C. loans must achieve a 60 per cent average in their best 12 units during the previous year to meet academic requirements.

Guy Couples, Central Credit Union businesses loan officer, said the provincial government and the B.C. Central Credit Union reached an agreement in principle Friday for credit unions to finance the loans.

The two sides will reach an official contractual agreement this week, Couples said.

McCandless said the lack of confirmed financing for the new program prompted the delay in drafting the aid applications.

But he said the credit unions are not reluctant to handle the loans, adding that some smaller credit unions do not have the necessary lending power.

"It's quite a complex set of arrangements," he said. "The credit unions have been very good about it and very accommodating."

John Knowles photo

Students increasingly cycle to UBC as a means of dealing with the bus shutdown. No end to the shutdown is in sight.

Students try coping without buses

By NEIL LUCENTE

Either by hitching, hiking or biking, UBC students who usually bus, will have to find ways to cope with this summer's potentially long bus dispute.

Janice Tkachuk said she is using her thumb to get on campus where she works in Freddy Wood Theatre's Summer Stock production. She said she is late for rehearsals nearly every day. But tardiness is the least of her worries.

"It's frightening to be hitch-hiking because many people take advantage of bus strikes to do awful things. Hitch-hiking really scares me but I've got to do it when I can't get a ride," said Tkachuk, who sometimes gets rides from her fellow workers. "The strike is an annoying inconvenience," she said.

Brett McIlwain, Science 2, who takes a night class on campus said he sometimes pedals his bicycle 15 miles from his south Burnaby home.

"If it's raining, I usually try to share a ride with a friend but if it's nice, I ride my bike. When I do however, I sometimes feel like shit because it's such a long ride," McIlwain said.

The bus strike is only a minor inconvenience so far, McIlwain said, adding it could become a major problem if the strike lasts until September when he starts school full-time.

"Getting to school in September will be no hassle because everyone starts classes at the same time," said McIlwain. "But getting home will be a problem because everyone has different finishing times," he said.

The bus strike ruined job prospects for many students, said Simon Seshadri, coordinator of Job Link, a job placement agency sponsored by the Alma Mater Society.

"The bus strike is dramatically affecting our ability to place students in jobs," Seshadri said. "We've had at least two dozen people turn down jobs because they were dependent on buses to get to work.

"Moreover, some people can't even come in to see us for jobs. The number of people coming in has been reduced by at least half," Seshadri said.

UBC Traffic and Security is planning how to cope with the influx of cars if the strike lasts into September when UBC's student population nearly doubles, said Traffic and Security director, Al Hutchinson.

"During the summer there is no occupational need to create more parking space because we have lots of it," Hutchinson said. "But in September, we might have to make more parking space available in the demand areas."

Parking would be allowed on previously restricted roadways such as Westbrook, East Mall and Main Mall, Hutchinson said. He added Traffic and Security may make their enforcement policy more lenient by issuing fewer parking tickets.

The AMS is planning a car pool information service, said AMS president Margaret Copping. She could not say when the service will be available.

"The problem with car pool sign-up boards is that we'll only get a list of passengers with no one will to drive," Copping said.

Students' summer rag hits UBC

The Ubyssey is back. To keep UBC's community in touch with our quickly changing world, week by week, the Ubyssey staff has organized the Summer Ubyssey.

Reaction to this announcement was mixed. "The Summer Ubyssey is a wonderful thing, I hope," Alma Mater Society president Margaret Copping said.

Ubyssey news editor Neil Lucente said, "The newspaper is important to UBC because students can use it to line bird cages, to light fires and to wipe our asses."

The Summer Ubyssey will publish articles on university, community, provincial, national and international news from a student perspective. It will attempt to bring to the public's attention social issues the professional press ignores or downplays such as youth unemployment.

It will publish every Wednesday from June 27 to August 8.

The Alma Mater Society, advertising revenue, the Walter Gage fund, the Alumni fund and the federal government's career access program will fund the paper. The AMS and advertising revenue will cover most of the newspaper's $17,000 budget.

The newspaper will employ four student editors and one student advertising salesperson but contributors are required. All UBC students are welcome to contribute to the newspaper. News tips and letters are also welcome.

Grads may sue over centre transfer

By PATTI FLATHER

The Graduate Student Society, claiming UBC broke 1982 agreements transferring graduate centre control to them, is threatening to sue UBC for taking over the centre this May.

"If they keep pushing that the agreements aren't valid we'll have to take it to court," said GSS coordinator Mike Howlett.

Howlett and GSS vice president John Dafoe said they question university motives in the take over. Dafoe said a profit motive is possible. Howlett said, "The university is really attacking the principle of student autonomy."

The university took control of the centre's banquet and social facilities and froze the society's finances in May.

In a May 4 letter to the society UBC vice president academic Robert Smith said the 1982 agreement was invalid. He said the society's growing deficit and hiring of consultants to supervise unionized staff violated the agreement.

Howlett said the centre's ledgers for April and May show a $98,000 deficit in a yearly budget of $500,000 but he said the centre was breaking even.

"We inherited most of the debt. It's not our fault," he said.

Howlett said the society inherited a $78,000 debt when they assumed control of the facility in September, 1982. He said the university is responsible for that debt and the society is only responsible for the remaining $20,000 debt.

UBC vice-president of student services Neil Risebrough said the centre never lost money until the society started running the centre in May 1982 and that they are responsible for the debt. He said within months of the society's takeover the deficit reached $78,000.

Risebrough said the takeover is justified. "I think the GSS would be very unwise to get involved in a legal situation," he said.

"We gave the centre one last go starting in January," Risebrough said. He said the GSS agreed to review the centre's finances and union problems in March and if the situation did not improve one option was to bring in UBC Food Services.

"Just when we were about to do that a new society executive decided they wanted to sit back and about it a while," Risebrough said.

"They don't want to take the responsibility of previous graduate student councils. You can't just wash your hands of the way it was run before," he said.

Centre cafeteria staff were laid off with pay in lieu of notice and UBC Food Services now caters the centre.

UBC president George Pedersen appointed a four member ad hoc committee including both student board of governors members to recommend a future management structure for the centre and to recommend methods of reducing the deficit.

Pedersen specified a July 15 deadline for the report but he is in Germany until July 23.

Risebrough, a committee resource person, said he hopes both sides can reach a solution by September, but he said this will depend on the society.

The committee asked the GSS to present ideas to them but whether they do or not the report will go to Pedersen and "he has the power to make the decision," Risebrough said.

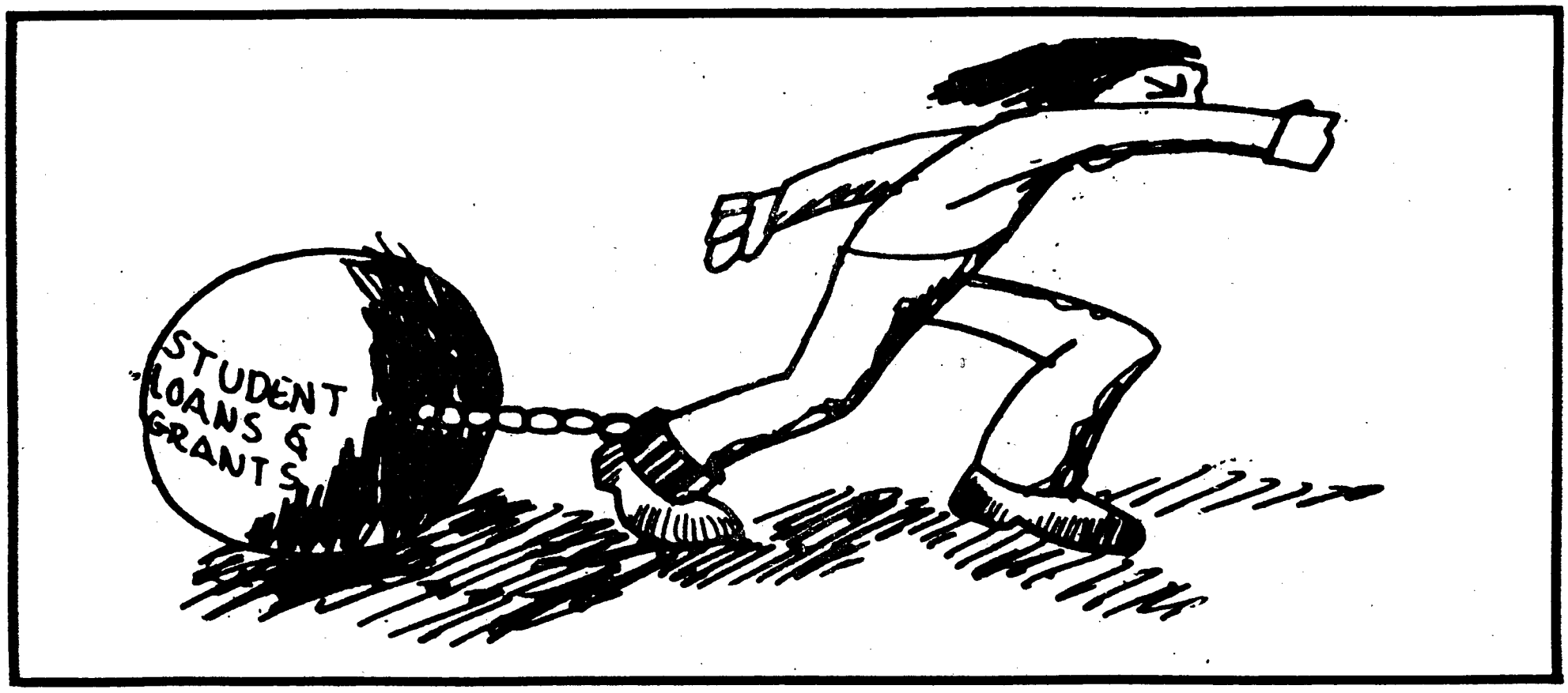
The GSS agrees the committee has the right to make recommendations to Pedersen, Dafoe said but he added, "Eventually the ad hoc committee will have to deal with the elected students of the Graduate Students Society,"

With society funds frozen, Howlett said the GSS cannot plan fall services and programs for grad students. The society is holding Friday beer gardens, and the Teaching Assistants' Union and the Campus Alliance have donated money to cover society operating costs and a legal defense fund, Howlett said.

The GSS created a legal defense fund because two former society employees - Jim Shea and Shane Goldstein -- are threatening to sue the society. Former society executive director Jim Shea resigned after his authority to fire food and beverage manager Shane Goldstein was challenged by the GSS, Howlett said.

But Risebrough said the new GSS council fired centre executive director Jim Shea in mid-April leaving no one to handle daily affairs. "We couldn't just sit back and allow damage to the centre and the university," he said.

Shea denied he resigned and would not comment further.



Student loans pushed aside by province

Student loan applications are late for the second year in a row. Last year they were two weeks later than previous years, this year the applications are a month later.

Who cares? Students care. This is just one more sign of the low esteem with which the provincial government holds the student aid program which is so crucial to many students.

For two years the program has been dismantled and altered by the provincial government until now it can hardly be recognized as the program that was in place three years ago.

In 1983 the Socreds limited access to the program by demanding students take an 80 per cent course load, live away from home, and accept no gifts from their parents if they wanted to apply.

In 1983 they limited access to the program by cutting back grants program funding by $5 million.

In 1984 they ended the grant program in their February budget and created a new loan program, but they failed to either organize this new program or obtain money to fund it.

When they eventually approached banks with the new program the banks refused to fund it and the government still has not signed an agreement with the credit unions, who have finally agreed in principle to support the program.

Because the program was not entirely worked out the government did not send applications to the university awards offices.

In the long term this means in September many students will have to wait a long time to obtain their loans and may be discouraged from attending school because the applications cannot be processed quickly.

In the short term it means many students at SFU could not go to school this summer term. SFU's analytical studies said in a report released this June that one of the major reasons SFU's enrollment dropped this summer term for the first time since 1979 is that students who began their courses May 7 did not receive their loan applications for that term until mid-June.

They were a month and a half in school before they received the applications, who knows when they will get their loans.

Although UBC's financial awards officers will not give a date, it is probable many or most UBC students will not receive their loans before October.

An education official said he is not sure this will even bother students. Maybe Rick McCandless is right, maybe students won't mind attending school without money for accomodations or food until October while attending university.

However it is quite doubtful. It is not doubtful that McCandless and the government he represents do not think it is a problem. Once again student aid has been regarded by the Social Credit government as a non-issue. It is nothing new.

Financing problems at Whistler Village is a problem for the government but the fact that students could not attend SFU this summer, will not be able to attend any university in the future or will have to live far below the poverty line at university is not a problem for the Social Credit government.

Maybe it should become one.

Intruding agency may spy on you

The bill which will create a civilian security agency - a spying agency - seems to have slipped by us all, including most of the media. With Senate left to approve Bill C-9 this week, almost certainly the bill will become law.

But you aren't worried. You're an average law-abiding Canadian citizen. Sure you run a few traffic lights, smoke a bit of funny stuff, maybe. But you're as far away from a national security threat as is imaginable. Those secret agents will be targeting foreign-based "terrorists" — you know — those people who want to overthrow our peaceful democracy and stuff like that.

But wait.

Did you go in the Walk for Peace? Some peace groups gain support from abroad, and more than 50 per cent of Canadians have the gall to say they disagree with the government's cruise missile testing policy.

What about charity for El Salvador or Nicaragua — ever given anything to Oxfam or the Nicaraguan boat project? You know those leftist commies are causing a ruckus down there. Some of them want to come to Canada, too, and if you're helping them...

Or you belong to an international trade union. Or your business trades with a Communist country. Will you be spied on? Maybe not but you won't know and neither will anyone else because the government won't tell anybody exactly what will be done, or to whom.

And how many foreign-based "national security threats" are there? If the agency can't find any, it will make some. Many Canadian-based groups such as women's and native groups want to see things changed.

The bill creating this surveillance agency is not even supported by some liberals — after hearing countless protests from wide-ranging sources, including - gasp - the Progressive Conservatives, the liberals rammed this legislation through the House of Commons using their majority.

Given all this, UBC student and activist Kevin Annett has the best advice.

"The best defense is not to be intimidated and continue being politically active and public about it."

Letters

Security agents define who is "subversive"

Imagine a country where the mere suspicion of subversive behaviour allows a secret police to open peoples' mail, bug phones, invade premises and examine medical and legal files, where this police is not accountable to any democratic body, and where the security force defines for itself who is or is not a "subversive".

The Soviet Union? No, Canada.

On June 21, Parliament passed Bill C-9 and created the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). The opposition to this secret, powerful and largely unaccountable spy agency was widespread. Churches, civil libertarians, business people, unions, attorneys-general and many ordinary Canadians spoke out against Bill C-9 and requested more public debate and reflection on the complex issue of national security. But for its own reasons, the federal government ignored these voices.

The result will be not only a grave erosion of civil rights in Canada, but a strangling of social dissent by state intimidation and fear. For example, any Canadian who is associated with any "foreign influenced activity" which the CSIS considers to be detrimental to Canada's interests may be targeted by the Service. Peace marches are foreign influenced; so are churches, labour unions, rotary clubs, political parties and business associations, to name a few. Anyone involved in these activities may now be legally bugged, surveyed and harassed, not because of any crime but on the basis of a suspicion alone.

The government has still not demonstrated what threat to Canada's security could justify this colossal attack on individual freedom.

Our democracy is under seige, by the government itself. This bill must be repealed. Let Ottawa know your opposition to the CSIS. Speak out for freedom now while you still can.

Kevin Annett
Unclassified 5

THE UBYSSEY

June 27-July 4, 1984

The summer Ubyssey is published Wednesdays throughout the summer sessions by the Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia, with additional funding from the Walter H. Gage Memorial Fund, the UBC Alumni Association, and the federal summer career access programme. Editorial opinions are those of the staff, and not necessarily those of the university administration, or of the sponsor. Member of Canadian University Press. The summer Ubyssey's editorial offiuce is SUB 241K. Editorial department, 228-2301/228-2305. Advertising 228-3977/228-3978.

"Wow! No more late nights at the printers!" yelled Mark Leiren-Young. "Great. Now we have late afternoons on a mountaintop," mused Henry Tsang. Eric Eggertson and Neil Lucente leapt up and outside to watch the sun set over at Pacific Press, while the three Bleat Street boys-Ian Weniger, Stephen Wisenthal and Chris Wong-tried to figure out why there were only two women in the masthead. John Knowles freaked right out at this and promptly drowned in a mire of line tape and peanut shells. And Robert Beynon glowed over it all as he continued to type while watching everything but his own typing. Next week, a farewell to lotusland. This week, save a postscript for Patti Flather and Charlie Fidelman, and an extra P.S. for Stephanie Smith before the last farewell.

Biased commercial news not missed

Before the newspaper strike, I read both the Vancouver Scum and the Globe and Fail every day. I mean, I'm the kind of person who spent a good hour and a half a day on keeping up with world news.

I was terrified by the idea of a newspaper stoppage. I thought I'd have withdrawal fits and flail about helplessly.

Much to my surprise and delight, I've had no such problems. Once I adjusted to not reading that many lies, life became quite pleasant. My skin lost its sickly colour and some of the worry lines visibly faded. I have all this time to read good stuff instead, or not read at all. In fact, I've even stopped watching Knowlton Nash and listening to CBC in the mornings. I broke my clock radio. I could never again waken to the sound of Bill Bennett preaching repression,oops,I mean restraint.

I strongly recommend this as a way for people to feel more rested and have more fun. You won't miss the news. You may wonder why you spent so much time on it to begin with.

P.S. This does not apply to The Ubyssey of course. No one could possibly not enjoy your intelligent, objective and concise paper.

Faith Jones
SFU fine arts

Politics guide UBC building contract

By NEIL LUCENTE

UBC's board of governors "ignored sound business economics" when they awarded a $4.86 million contract to a non-union firm to build an extension for the Gage residence, a union representative said Friday.

Although non-union Wilson Industries Limited submitted a bid $68,000 lower than the competing union company, Beta Construction Limited, the university will end up paying more to have the non-union firm build the extension, said Clive Lytle, Building Trades Council director of communications.

Lytle said the union firm could finish the project in 45 weeks while the non-union firm will take 56 weeks. The cost of financing an extra 13 weeks at the current 12 per cent interest rate will be more than $100,000, making the union bid $33,000 less than the non-union bid, he said.

"It's clear the board is toeing the Socred line because they could not have made those decisions on logical financial grounds. Those decisions were made for philosophical and political reasons," Lytle said.

Lytle said the provincial government is trying to "tie the hands of public bodies such as UBC" by forcing them to take the lower bid regardless of any options.

The unions are also angered at the university for removing a clause which guarantees union wage rates, Lytle said.

"Removal of that clause fits in with the provincial government line," he said. "The board obviously follows or was forced to follow that line. The university is inviting and encouraging construction at UBC to be non-union."

Bruce Gellatly, UBC vice-president finance and administration, said a clause guaranteeing union wage rates is usually not included in contracts.

Student board representative Dave Frank said the board was not pressured by the provincial government into granting the contract to a non-union company.

"It was a decision based on philosophy and not politics," said Frank. "The board's philosophy is that bidding is open to everyone. And when student housing is being built with student money, I'm always in favour of the lowest bid," he said.

Frank said UBC is not limiting itself to non-union construction because the SUB expansion is being built by a union firm.

Gellatly dismissed the union's argument, saying a non-union firm can do the job cheaper.

"Their (the building trades unions') estimate is probably 180 degrees out. They are assuming that we can fill the extension to capacity in March and gain revenue throughout the summer. But we've never been able to fill the residences much less an extension to capacity during summer conventions," Gellatly said. "If we were the Holiday Inn and could rent immediately, then their argument would work," he said.

Gellatly said it would be cheaper to have a longer construction period. Early completion of the project means the university must borrow $6 million to pay the union firm and must pay interest on this borrowed money throughout the summer with the extension unoccupied, Gellatly said.

"If the extension is built closer to September we could borrow less and pay much of the bill with student residence fees. That means we pay less interest on the borrowed money," he said.

Lytle said the construction unions are not likely to threaten UBC with action similar to the three week standoff with the Kerkhoff construction company last March at False Creek, but he did not rule out retailiatory measures.

"We are a collective organization and because of that, anything can happen. I'm sure we are not going to roll over, play dead and let the government walk over us," Lytle said.

Gellatly said dealing with any labour confrontations is the responsibility of the construction company and not the university.

The university construction contract has left out a bonus and penalty clause which allows the university to enforce a financial penalty on Wilson if completion of the extension is late. If a labour dispute unfolds and delays construction, the university would not have a financial safety net.

"We could get burned but we've left out that clause before," Gellatly said. "The conditional is normally not offered. When you put a penalty in the contract, you have to put a bonus in. We don't want students to have to pay more," he said.

Spy bill rushed

By PATTI FLATHER

Local groups opposing the controversial spy bill which passed in the House of Commons Thursday said the Liberal government acted undemocratically in pushing the bill through, withheld information, and made no significant changes to the flawed legislation.

"The bill is a very dangerous piece of legislation," said MP Svend Robinson (NDP-Burnaby), who led the opposition against Bill C-9. Robinson said the bill, which creates a civilian security agency, threatens the civil liberties of Canadians who have broken no law.

If the Progressive Conservatives opposed the creation of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service with more spirit, the bill would not have passed, Robinson said.

Don Stewart, Vancouver Coalition against the Canadian Security Intelligence Service spokesperson, said the government cut short committee hearings, invoked closure in the Commons debate, and stifled the objections of some liberal MPs. Stewart made a presentation to the Commons justice committee on the bill.

He said he had to yell at the committee chair to listen to him during his presentation, and that during another group's presentation the chair walked out in the middle.

Stewart said the government removed the voting rights of liberal justice committee member Warren Allmand because they knew he would vote to amend the bill. "If that isn't cynical manipulation, then I don't know what is."

Stewart said he worries that the agency, which eradicates foreign-based national security threats, will also target domestic dissidents. He said the bill will give security agents access to people's mail, medical, legal, and bank records, and will allow bugging on the basis of suspicions alone.

More than 25 witnesses critized the bill before the justice committee, including three groups from B.C., Stewart said. More than 60 organizations endorsed the witnesses.

Civil Liberties Association vice president Alister Browne, whose group also witnessed said, "The bill defines threats to the security of Canada in a very broad way."

Browne, a UBC philosophy professor, said the government failed to show a need for a security service. They would not say how many national security threats there are, the cost of the agency, or what it will do on a daily basis, he said.

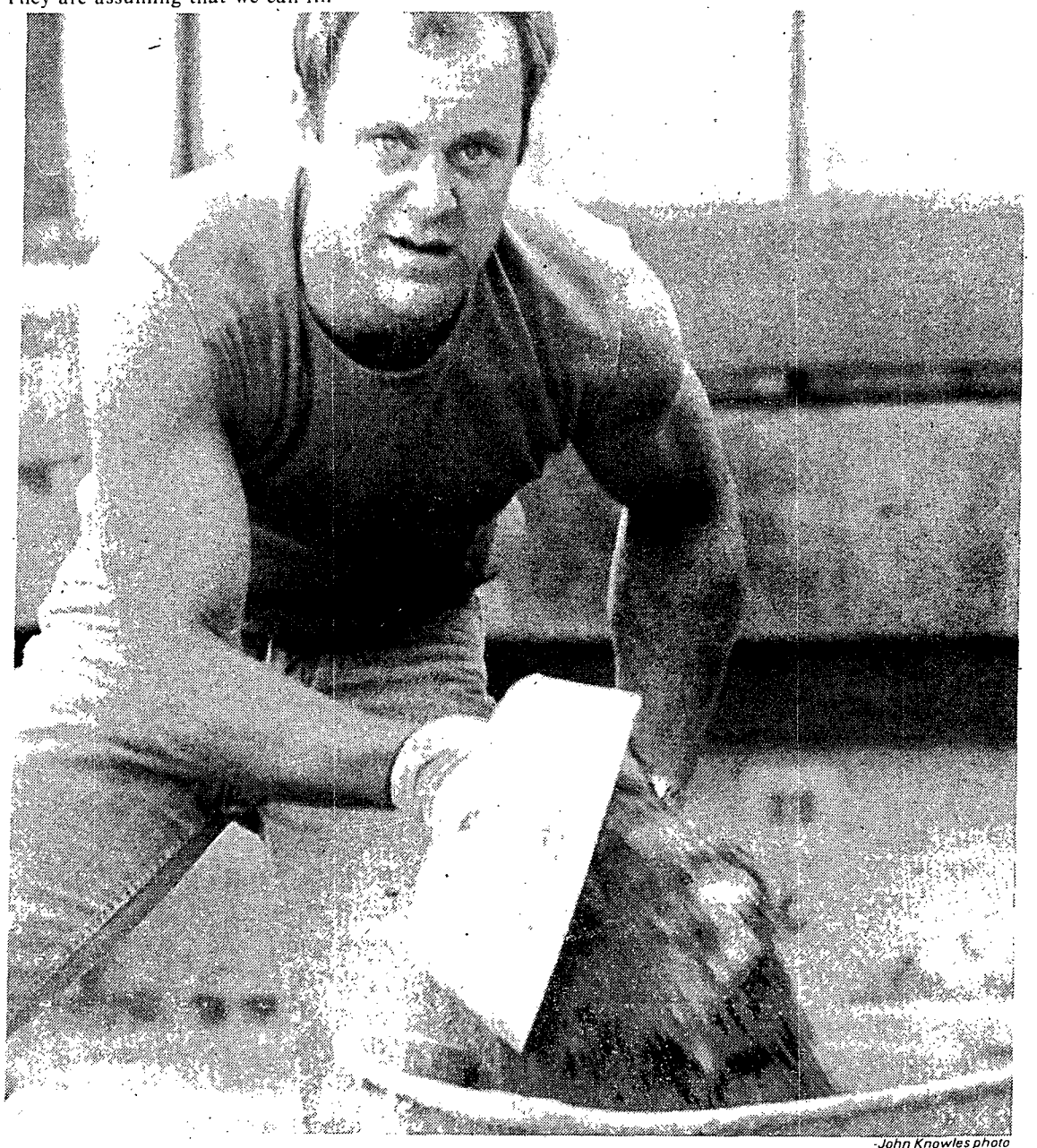
If there is not enough work for the agency, "they'll find things to do," Browne said.

Browne said if the government insists on a security service, it should be a branch of the RCMP and not a separate agency, so interservice rivalries are minimized. He said there is a danger national security threats will be magnified to enhance the agency's importance.

Executive director of the association John Russell said the group may launch a court challenge to the legislation.

UBC student Kevin Annett, unclassified 5, said he belongs to a new group which will try to educate people about the bill.

"The best defense is not to be intimidated and continue being politically active and public about it," he said. Annett said the agency will not be accountable to Parliament so the public will not know what the agency is doing.



John Knowles photo

Break in B.C. labour storms continues at UBC as construction worker employed by non-union Wilson Industries continues work on new Gage lowrise. University administration denies non-union contract will eventually cost more than union offer.

Schedule switches university bus route

The Tenth bus will no longer run to Totem Park in the evening but will end its route at the UBC bus loop in front of SUB, a B.C. Transit spokesperson said Friday.

B.C. Transit director Larry Ward said according to the proposed schedule, the Forty-First bus will take the place of the Tenth bus and will stop at Totem Park in the evening before proceeding to the UBC bus loop.

"The bus will run every half hour like the Tenth has and it will be timed to meet with the Tenth at the UBC bus loop so passengers can transfer there," Ward said. He said this change will not harm service to Totem Park residents.

Alma Mater Society president Margaret Copping, who opposed ending Tenth service to Totem Park, said if the Forty-First replaced the Tenth's service, she had no complaint.

"The question now is will the change be posted so students will use the changed system," Copping said. "This is a question of personal safety, particularly for women." Copping said women are vulnerable to assault while crossing the campus at night.

Ward said the change would be advertised in The Sun, reported in B.C. Transit's rider bulletin and listed in new bus timetables to be distributed.

The proposed timetable has not come into effect because bus drivers claim they were locked out June 15 when the new timetable was scheduled to start.

AMS Joblink employs 160 students

By ROBERT BEYNON

Since May 1 the student job placement program, Joblink, placed 160 of B.C.'s 74,000 unemployed youths in work.

Joblink coordinator Ross Pink said Friday the Alma Mater Society-sponsored organization placed half the students in full-time work and half in part-time work. Joblink also placed many students in temporary or day jobs such as lawn mowing, Pink said.

He said Joblink expects to place students in jobs throughout the summer.

The average student employed full-time makes $700 a month, Pink said. "Most of the students placed in full-time work will make enough money to cover their tuition," he said. The average tuition for a full-time students will be $1300 this year.

Joblink will not solve the youth unemployment problem but it is alleviating the problem, Pink said. "We'd like to have one full-time job at $1000 a month for every student who applies but we can't do that."

Youth unemployment can only be resolved if government, business and labour seriously attempt to solve the problem, which they are not doing now, said Pink.

"If youth unemployment is so serious that an amateur group like the AMS has to take action, the governments should rethink their programs," said AMS president Margaret Copping.

Canadian Federation of Students spokesperson Donna Morgan said she thought the Joblink program was good but did not believe it was all the AMS should do to fight youth unemployment.

"We (students) have to have an ongoing campaign to make sure the government recognizes that youth unemployment is a problem and to make sure the government deals with the problem in an acceptable way," Morgan said.

Joblink's budget has not been finalized, Pink said, adding he believed the AMS budget committee now looking at the budget will approve it with little change.

The money Joblink requested from the AMS doubled after the federal government's summer career access program withdrew funding support, claiming Joblink would duplicate Canada Employment Services, said Pink.

The budget committee has not yet approved Joblink's doubled budget of $11,000 but likely will do so at its next meeting, Copping said.

The AMS student council earlier voted to support the program.

Vista

Movies

Summer Film Series, SUB Auditorium UBC, Local Hero June 28-30 7:30 & 9:45 p.m.

Hollywood Theatre (3123 W. Broadway, 738-3211) Revenge of the Ninja 7:30 p.m.; Daniel 9:15 p.m. until July 1. Deal of the Century, 7:30; Alfred Hitchcock's North by Northwest 9:20, July 2-8.

Ridge Theatre (16th and Arbutus, 738-6311) That Sinking Feeling, a Bill Forsyth comedy, starts Friday June 29, 7:30, 9:30 p.m.

Exhibits

Jacqueline Sephton: Rich abstract watercolours titled Discovering White until July 21, Procope restaurant, 8363 Tranville St.

Gary Oliver/Robert Karpa: a photographic display featuring commercial success of fashion, still lie and advertising product work, until July 11, 333 Chesterfield Ave., North Van., 988-6844.

80/1/2/3/4 TORONTO: CONTENT CONTEXT: a group exhibition of 15 Toronto artists who present a sense of what it is like to be alive now, June 29 - July 21, Contemporary Art Gallery, 555 Hamilton St. 687-1345.

Stage

Theatresports: improvisational comedy every Friday night at 10 p.m., to August 31. Presentation House in North Van. 986-1351.

Anna Wyman Dance Theatre performs selections from the most popular pieces in its repertoire, July 1, 3 p.m. & 7 p.m., The Vancouver Museum, 1100 Chestnut St., 736-4431.

Off, Off Granville Island: Theatrespace's preposterous summer revue. Thurs. - Sun. 8:30 p.m. 681-0818.

Comedy of Errors: set to a lively jazz beat, directed by Henry Woolf. Vancouver Shakespeare Festival in Vanier Park. Tues. - Sat. 8:00 p.m. Season Tickets, 734-0194.

The Late Blumer: premier performance of Vancouver playwright John Lazarus' fantastical comedy at the Arts Club Theatre on Seymour Street. Opens July 2 at 8:30 p.m. 687-1644.

Etcetera

Vancouver Folkfest Canada Day Parade, runs from Gastown up Granville St., to Robson Square, followed by a huge celebration saluting Canada's 117th year.

Special ethnic dance performances and ethnic food booths are scheduled to help celebrate Canada Day, July 1 noon-4 p.m., Burnaby Arts Centre, Gilpin St. at Canada Way.

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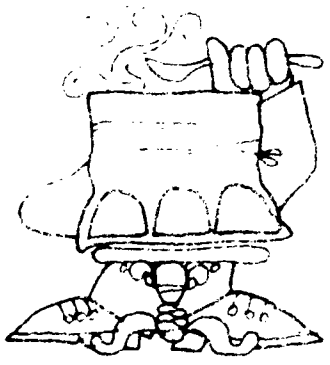

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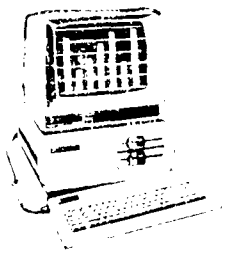


Beat Street exploits street culture

by IAN WENIGER

New York, New York
big city of dreams
But everything in New York
ain't always what it seems...

- GrandMaster Flash and the Furious Five

Beat Street is the latest film dealing with the breakdance craze. It is also the latest attempt to exploit every bit of marketable street culture for the established movie monopoly.

Beat Street was the original idea of Harry Belafonte, one of the first successful black actors in post-war America. Belafonte observed the recent growth of the hip-hop movement among New York's unemployed youth, a culture which encourages kids to vent their frustration and anger in non-violent and creative ways such as graffiti art, breakdancing and rap music.

Belafonte scoured the streets for the most appealing visual and aural talents. He hired the most appropriate musical consultant (producer Arthur Baker of Tommy Boy Records, New York's foremost rap label) and the best choreographer (Lestwenty-fifth anniversary Motown television show as well as the disco movie, Saturday Night Fever) to produce a slick two-hour film for mass consumption.

Any two hour production has to have a plot, so Belafonte hired Stan Lathan, a black pioneer in television production and direction, to provide the continuity between scenes featuring breakdancing, rapping and subway artists.

Kenny (Guy Davis) is an aspiring young deejay with enough sound equipment in his Bronx home to make his own records. Beat Street is the story of Kenny's rise to the top as the grand rapper of the trendiest clubs in town. His pal Ramon (Jon Chardiet) is a talented graffiti artist who dreams of new, unpainted sub-

Beat Street
Directed by Stan Lathan

way cars to beautify. He tells Kenny, "When you're mixin' sounds, when I'm bombin' (painting) trains, that's life." Never mind that Ramon has to find a job to support his lover and baby daughter - a job he finds all too easily. Tracy (Rae Dawn Chong), a college composer looking for ideas for her school show, ends up being little more than Kenny's romantic interest; she produces a performance involving at least 80 other performers. Later in Kenny's arms, she reveals that "it was nothing".

The only believeable character in the film is Kenny's little brother Lee, played by schoolboy Robert Taylor. Lee hates school and would rather tag along with Ramon to help bomb trains or hang out with his dance crew, the Beat Street Breakers. He has no romances or big plans, just a desire to dance and try a few new thrills without getting in too much trouble.

Lathan claims to have taught the trained actors such as Davis and Chong how to look unpolished and the non-acting performers like Taylor learn how to deliver their lines passably, all in an effort to give a rough, spontaneous and realistic image to the film.

But Lathan's attempt to give the people on Beat Street some depth is contradictory to the careful production hip-hop exhibits. The club scenes were stocked full of the regular crowd, the dance moves were especially worked out and edited to perfection, the performers lip-synched their acts, and the graffiti was created through consulation with one of the originators of the art, Phase II.

Even when Kenny shows off his musical gadgets for Tracy, his improvised scratching and noodling is all synched to the soundtrack, and Kenny obviously can't keep up with it. The overproduction is especially jarring in most of the dialogue between characters when no music is pulsing or wafting in the background; the actors seem to be mouthing their lines to the prefabricated script. Luckily Lathan was able to keep this sort of interaction down to two minutes a chat before moving on to the next club or subway station.

Hip-hop is a culture which has a unique style of expression, but it has a goal in common with many community groups in metropoles everywhere to keep poor ghetto kids from killing themselves and each other by providing something fun and exciting to do.

Belafonte could have done hip-hop a great service with Beat Street by making a simple documentary of the street dancers, the rappers and deejays, and the train bombers. And he could have asked the kids themselves exactly about their lives. But Belefonte has too much business sense to let the poverty-stricken reality get in the way of a good show.

Beat Street is at best a trivialization of the trash and slime in which people are forced to live in and it promotes a new set of entertainment commodities to the level of chic.

At worst, it is a death knell for a movement that gives hope to thousands of ghetto youths who have nothing to do in the inner city. The entertainment industry is swindling the members of the hip-hop movement out of an outlet they had for expressing themselves without fear of rejection or ridicule by the 'straight' world.

Yes, the music, dance and art are spectacular. But Beat Street is a clever fraud that says nothing about hip-hop except "WATCH THIS!"

The kids deserve better than this sop; save your money for the next street dancer you meet.

Art to the nth

By CHARLIE FIDELMAN

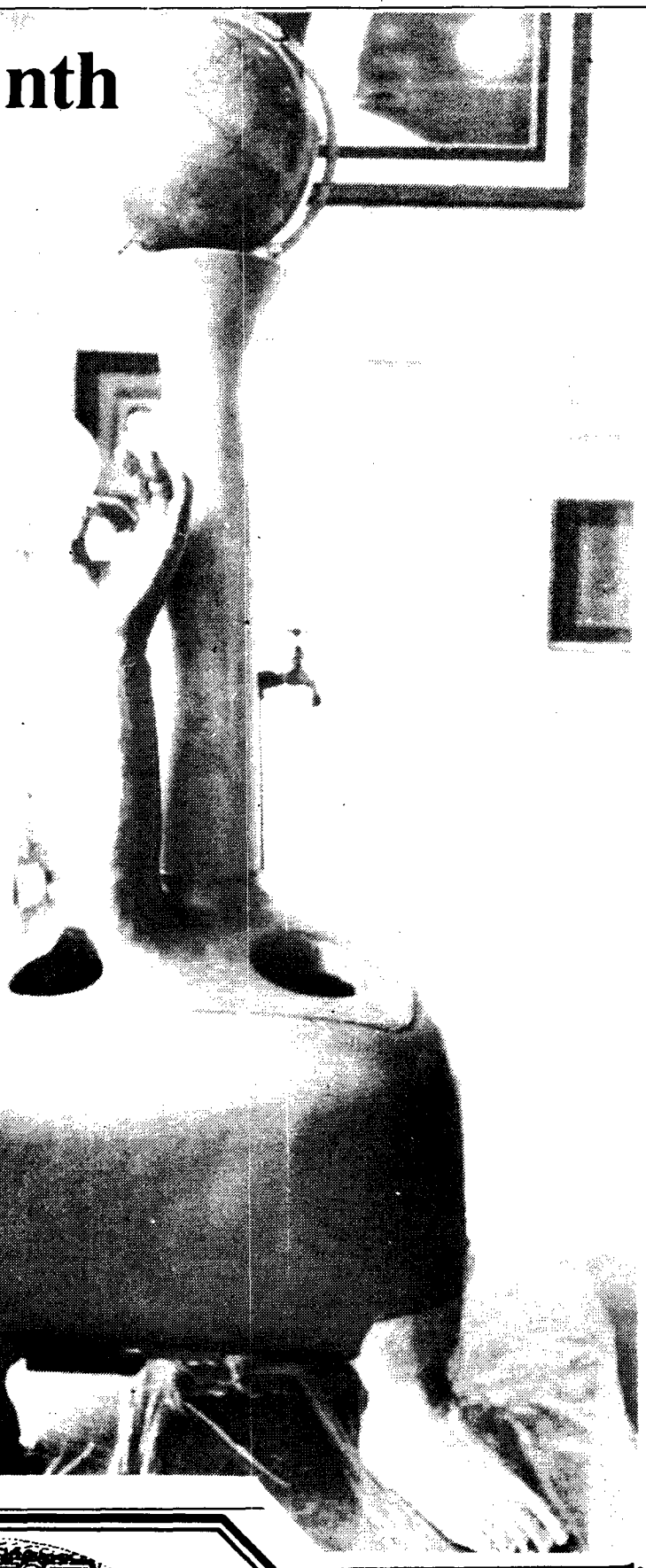
Throngs of people milled behind a large gallery window at 432 Homer St. June 16. It was opening night of E=mc², a new gallery, and 400 people showed despite the bus strike. They were rewarded with spirited beverages and a wide variety of art pieces, including a video.

More than forty artists are displaying their work in the show. "The partners, Michael Fraser and Blair Dickson are creating an alternative gallery from the commercial venues," said gallery public relations person Britt Harty. Fraser and Dickson are old friends, accomplished painters, experienced art collectors, and "they have a sense of vision," he added. "The beauty of such a show is the intense variety; Blair Dickson, the man responsible for the selection on the floor believes in art for art's sake."

But there is room for any type of art at E=mc². "You can't take it too seriously or you'll die a martyr," said artist Glen Mosely of the politics, which influence his work. His sculpture is based on the premise that the human being is a crazy animal: intelligent enough to invent almost anything but stupid enough to destroy it.

Mosely transforms this idea into a three dimensional joke. "The foundation of our society is concrete," he said, explaining why the figure has concrete feet. The head is a very dirty globe (it's a Reader's Digest world map), with a good aerial view of the earth.

Mosely is concerned with form designated by function. On the opposite side of the faucet is a hand holding a prophylactic disdainfully. "It's just a balloon preventing childbirth a very clean and useful function," he said, "but sex is still a dirty thing, and an unclean subject."



Charlie Fidelman photo

This is where the soap and water comes in. "The more we're trying to improve the world the more we are ruining it," he asserted. But Mosely's sculpture wasn't running properly -it lacked enough soap for the bubbles to froth through all four holes and gush over the blue enamel to the concrete feet.

Mosely's piece, placed front and centre in the gallery window, pulled curious passers-by into the already crowded gallery. Once inside many other pieces attract attention. There are paintings, drawings and etchings by the likes of Bill Featherston, Martin Honisch, and Kerry Jo Kelly.

The works are crowded all over in what is termed salon style grouping. But that does not detract from the impressive diversity of the individual works.

Artist Judy Baeter thinks the gallery is a good idea: "It gives an artist the ability to be on the outside of what is in; which means that you don't have to be part of a set trend or history to be displayed in this gallery," she said. Her pen and ink self-portrait is a very complex work with parts detailing the skull and muscle tissue. "If it wasn't complicated it wouldn't be a self-portrait," she said.

Dickson and Fraser are planning an all-women's show and a children's show. These are appropriate directions for a gallery interested in art and not just its market value.

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Wait! don't touch that dial... it's only Soundproof

Neil Lucente photo

By CHRIS WONG

You're alone on a Friday night, perched in front of the idiot box — scanning the airwaves for late-night entertainment. You've decided to avoid Luv-a-fair tonight, but you're still in the mood for the soothing timbre of rock and roll.

First stop: the planet Mulligan. Filling the screen is an odd creature named Terry David. The creature who appears to have 100 teeth promises good rockin' and plays Duran Duran's hot new video. As the creature babbles on about how the video was filmed in the Pango Pango wilds and cost an amount that could feed Botswana's entire population, your dog lets out a horrific wail — the dog is suffering from Mulliganitis. Known as boredom.

After deciding the dog is on to something, you quickly turn the channel and find yourself fixated on two strange creatures. One sports Euro-disco blonde hair, a stylish earring and a slightly tense look. The other taller fellow maintains a nurdish grin that makes Woody Allen look macho. When they're not fiddling with knobs and dials or staring at monitors in their tiny control booth, the unusual twosome talk in a haphazard and rambling fashion.

Do not adjust your set. The strange transmissions projecting from the screen can be traced to a location over the Lion's Gate Bridge in the hinterlands of North Vancouver. You are experiencing a video and audio phenomenon that will take over your minds — at least for the next two hours. You are entering the Soundproof zone.

Shaw Cable's rock video show, Soundproof, has aired a year and a half and its success can be attributed to the program's off-beat hosts: Dave Toddington and Buzz E. Miller. Rather than imitating Terry David Mulligan's slick, glam-rock style or Wolfman Jack's nauseating energy, Toddington and Miller are forging their own unique broadcast style one that is loose, totally spontaneous and a hoot to watch.

"It's a video program where anything goes. We think if we enjoy ourselves, the audience will also have fun," says Miller who, when off-air, is Martin Stubbs, Shaw Cable's program director. Miller and Toddington, the station's production operator, work 10 to 15 hours a week in spare time to prepare the program that airs Fridays at 11 p.m. on Cable 10.

A third member of the Soundproof crazies is Province rock critic Tom Harrison who applies his cynical flair to record reviews and interviews of local artists. Like a judge at a figure skating competition, Harrison flashes his record rating cards before the camera. On a recent show, he demonstrated "how bad bad can be" by giving an all-time low of negative zero to Venom's classic album, At War With Satan. The heavy metal/ hard-core thrash album features a 19 and a half minute title track. "They didn't know how to end the song so they just faded it out," says Harrison.

As well as being a showcase for videos and a springboard for local talent who need exposure, Soundproof airs experimental films another host, CITR jock Bill Mullan, brings in.

Soundproof is transmitted to your home screen by a crew of four. This includes Toddington and Miller who serve as production operators, a sole camera operator (Steve, who has no last name) and another worker who prepares the tapes. Make-up artists, script-writers and go-fers need not apply.

Show full of mistakes

Music videos remain the show's focus. Soundproof features well-produced videos that are more than just advertising. (The occasional stinker gets aired.) The videos will probably never receive heavy rotation - the term given to videos that get repeated cable network exposure. This exposure generates megabucks for bands and record companies on MTV. But Soundproof videos possess an artistic flair and a sincere attempt at interpretation absent from top ten singles videos.

As with any potentially profitable art form, videos are falling victim to cliched ideas simply rehashed from previous models. The ideas are proven and used over and over to perpetuate the thriving multi-million dollar video industry. The Hollywood texture applied to money-making videos is what Soundproof tries to avoid.

From numerous videos sent in weekly from record companies and artists themselves, Toddington and Miller look for ones that attempt to enhance a song. They choose different approaches such as live clips that display the performance's raw energy, or videos that qualify as cinematographic art works by innovative use of techniques and the images conveyed.

Videos by artists such as Kate Bush, The Art of Noise and The Cramps regularly shown alongside local performers including D.O.A. and Art Bergmann. The videos are usually low-budget affairs, created with the guidance of young, obscure filmmakers. And as alternative products trying new methods that attract no commercial appeal, the videos are rarely shown on the other video programs shows which are the constant butt of Soundproof jokes.

Toddington says the video craze could burn out if mainstream video continues taking its lead from commercial radio. He adds other programs have access to the videos aired on Soundproof but refuse to consider them. "I don't believe the other video programs have the right people involved. They use burnt-out deejays and producers who are totally out of touch. They don't know their audience," says Miller.

Miller predicts the increasingly progressive audiences will tire of the squeaky clean and safe approach. He says Soundproof has grass roots contacts and can take chances to give people what they want because it airs on a public access channel. The channel's mandate is to show what other networks shy away from. And on Soundproof, everything is shown — including blunders.

The show is taped in advance, but is virtually unedited. Foul-ups including dangling microphones and fuzzy screens are left in. These mistakes combined with Toddington's and Miller's ambivalent personalities (Toddington the straight, serious character and Miller providing an insidious running commentary), would give an MTV executive the shivers.

The show's spontaneous mood makes it like improvisational theatre — the participants make up what they say on the spot which means there is not time to gloss over their speech to achieve the false perfection t.v. strives for. "Life is full of mistakes — why shoudn't t.v. be that way? We've planned things in advance before but it doesn't work. It's better to go totally cold," says Toddington.

Just as a jazz soloist can achieve surprising results playing without the aid of written music, Soundproof's attempts at improvisation works. Actions as ludicrous as saying hello to grandmother, shooting plastic darts from off-camera or discussing Pope-on-a-rope-soap all create the refreshing comic relief one expects from late-night t.v.

This slap-stick, winging it approach is gaining popularity. Shaw Cable's phone lines are inundated with calls during the show and up to 400 letters are sent in weekly. Letters come in the form of sneakers, skulls and underwear. Toddington recalls one creative fan who attached video requests to the collar of his mother's dog. Miller adds he and his cohorts are often recognized in the street by the growing numbers of Soundproofians.

Radeis junkyard comes to life

by WLODECK

Is it possible to become a mountain climber, a pop-star, or a political leader at a construction site? "Sure it is," answers the Belgian theatre Radeis - which does so by combining mime, song, imagination, and humor, in Scaffoldings.

The play features three workers and the story line develops on two planes. The first relates simply to the physical activity of the workers. The second concerns their dreams and desires which takes them far away from their labour. One worker imagines himself to be a pop-star singing on top of a stage-like scaffolding while the other two continue eating their lunch in the usual way at a construction site.

Similarily, in another scene, the same scaffolding transforms into an alpine peak which two workers climb with great difficulty.

In Scaffoldings, the construction site is not just a tiresome working place, but is filled with surprises, passions, and conflicts. Tools, the symbolic representation of surrounding technology, are far from being under the control of the workers. They wrestle with a drill press that starts up unexpectedly on its own. They try to stop a disobedient concrete mixer from whirring, or sanding machines from wandering around on their own.

The workers not only want to dominate their tools but also each other. They have great ambitions. Each imagines himself an expert. They communicate extensively but their language is gibberish. One places himself on a foot-stool, a position of authority, but another goes further by placing himself higher on the scaffolding. Fun, fun, fun!

When small-minded, alienated people exhaust topics such as professional life, classes, or money, what else can they talk about? Not surprisingly very little. There is, however, something, so we see spiteful construction workers who finally beat on each other. Oh, this is really fun! And the public likes it.

Do not be mislead by the sarcasm. A real avant-garde theatre - and Radeis is such a theatre - would not waste its time on such cheap fun. Let the immature write plays just for the sake of this. Let those who do not have much to communicate say "we are doing nothing serious." However, Radeis is not that type of company.

The play's tempo changes towards the end. The workers walk in a row as in a funeral. One is lame, the second packs a shovel, and the third carries a flag. Their faces are dignified and in spirit, they are really the same people. The lame leg was probably the result of senseless fighting - amongst workers - perhaps for a place on the scaffoldings - rather than an injury caused by an act of bravery. The public does not laugh at this.

The artist is, perhaps, somebody who in an apparently boring reality sees a drama, and is able to convey it to the public. Without a doubt, such an artistic vision is presented by the avant-garde theatre Radeis in Scaffoldings.